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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF  
JAPAN**

31 OCTOBER 2012

**PALAIS DES NATIONS  
AGENDA ITEM 6**

Madame President,

The South African delegation welcomes the delegation Japan to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group, and thanks the delegation for its report. We wish to recognize the contribution of Japan to developmental efforts of countries of the Global South, including through TICAD.

Madame President,

Japan has made considerable progress in the enhancement of the practical enjoyment of human rights by its nationals and those within its jurisdiction. Areas of concern still remain, particularly in the treatment of migrants, the persistent racist and xenophobic attitudes, as well as the enhanced protection of the rights of children.

In this regard, the South African delegation recommends that Japan should implement the recommendation of the CERD to adopt specific legislation to outlaw direct and indirect racial discrimination, and guaranteeing access to effective protection and remedies through competent national courts.

Furthermore, while progress has been made in improving protection of children, concerns remain related to the possibility of removal of children from parental care, particularly given that the CRC had noted that several institutions responsible for the care and protection of children did not conform to appropriate standards. We recommend that Japan should consider adopting a national plan of action for children to address inequalities in living standards and disparities by gender, ethnic origin and disabilities.

Finally, we recommend that Japan should consider amending the Immigration Control Act to introduce a maximum period of detention pending deportation. We also recommend the establishment of a mechanism for the care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. I thank you.