



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

CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

25 OCTOBER 2012

PALAIS DES NATIONS  
AGENDA ITEM 6

*check against delivery*

Madame President,

The South African delegation is pleased to welcome the delegation of the Republic of Korea to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group. Our delegation would like to start by congratulating the Republic of Korea for hosting the Green Fund Headquarters, and to recognize and welcome Korea's assistance in promoting African Development.

On the implementation of accepted recommendations Madame President, the South African delegation has read and listened with interest to the update. We have noted progress particularly in the promulgation of laws aimed at enhancing the practical enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in particular.

The South African delegation is concerned however, that an Anti-discrimination Act has lapsed while due for consideration. Our delegation is keen to find out if any measures have been put in place to ensure that the Anti-discrimination Act is considered and promulgated without further delays.

We are particularly concerned about discrimination against women, and the persistence of segregation in the fields of study and the labour market, as well as lack of adequate representation of women in decision-making positions among others, which according to the observations by the CEDAW, are a manifestation of patriarchal attitudes. In this regard, **we recommend that a comprehensive review of legislation be undertaken with a view to ensuring de jure and de facto equality between men and women.**

We have noted numerous concerns pertaining to the protection of children, relating to forced labour, lack of an adequate juvenile system, challenges in terms of access to education, particularly for children with disabilities and those of migrant workers, as well as in the registration of children. **We therefore recommend that the registration of children be improved with a view to ensuring that statelessness of children is prevented, and that measures be taken to ensure the full harmonization**

**of the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.**

**While we recognize progress and initiatives that have been undertaken to improve the quality of life of Koreans, adequate funding continues to be a challenge. We therefore recommend that sufficient funding be allocated to the poverty eradication strategy of the RoK.**

**Finally, we recommend that the Republic of Korea should adopt specific legislation to guarantee the exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including for public servants and students.**

**I thank you.**