



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

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

29 OCTOBER 2012

**PALAIS DES NATIONS  
AGENDA ITEM 6**

Madame President,

The South African delegation congratulates Switzerland on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its membership to the United Nations. Our delegation also wishes to recognize and commend Switzerland for its contribution to the United Nations, including by hosting many international organizations.

The South African delegation has read with interest the Swiss report, and has noted progress that Switzerland continues to make in ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by its nationals and those within its jurisdiction. As candidly alluded to in the report, challenges remain, particularly in the area of racial discrimination and discrimination against women despite the progress to date, and ongoing initiatives to ensure gender equality. Our delegation is equally concerned with the treatment of non-nationals such as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as with the non-justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights.

Given the afore-going, the South African delegation **recommends that Switzerland should adopt a national action plan and legislation to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination that will be enforced uniformly in all cantons.**

The Human Rights Committee, the CAT and the CEDAW were concerned about violence against women, including domestic violence against foreign women who may be prevented from leaving abusive relationships and from seeking assistance from fear of losing their residency permits. **We recommend that Switzerland should ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, and that it reviews its legislation on residence permits with a view to avoiding the effect that the application of the law might in practice, force women to remain in abusive relationships.**