

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

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

30 OCTOBER 2012

PALAIS DES NATIONS

Madame President,

We extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Zambia to the 14th session of the UPR working group. At the outset we wish to praise the commitment of the Republic of Zambia to the advancement of the African continent and commends Zambia for being the home of the liberation movements and the fight for Africa's freedom.

South Africa appreciates that a number of legislative, judicial and policy measures have been implemented since the adoption of the country's first UPR report. We commend the enactment of the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011. The committee established through the enactment of the Act has an important mandate to fulfill and my delegation would appreciate further information on the progress of the national action plan against gender-based violence. South Africa recommends that the Anti-Gender Based Violence Fund be established as provided for in the Act of 2011.

Zambia's cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures is to be applauded. The Country has hosted 3 Special Procedures since issuing an open invitation to the mandate holders. South Africa welcomes the country's continued commitment to working with the Special Procedure mandate holders in the future.

Madame President,

The national report not only sets out the achievements of the country in the promotion and protection of human rights, but also elaborates the challenges faced by the government. Zambia has also outlined key priority areas such as education, health care, agriculture development and housing, and advancements in these areas will contribute to the practical enjoyment of human rights by the Zambian population.

Finally, South Africa appeals to the international community to provide Zambia with the technical and financial assistance and capacity building as requested by the government in the national report. We wish the Republic of Zambia well in the implementation of the accepted recommendations from today's working group session.

I thank you.