

Statement by the Delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland on UPR of the Republic of Zambia

Swaziland welcomes the Zambian Delegation and congratulates the Honourable Minister for the eloquent delivery of his statement.

Zambia's democratic and human rights credentials are an open book and this has been recently evidenced by the transparent national elections that saw a smooth transfer of power. Such commendable political maturity is proof of the country's principled approach to democracy and human rights.

The audit of national laws including those that touch on human rights is a clear indication of the Government's desire to serve and protect the interest of its people. Furthermore, the appointment of a Technical Committee in November 2011, to help draft a national constitution that addresses the social, economic, religious, environmental and cultural concerns of all Zambians is testimony of the Government's long term plan for a human rights based approach to development. The commendable work that the Committee has done so far gives hope for Zambia's future in the field of human rights and democracy.

It is worth noting that all this has happened over and above the Normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights as best demonstrated by the Constitutional, judicial and policy measures that Zambia has undertaken since independence and as recent as their last review in 2008.

President in order for such good work to yield better results, Swaziland would like to recommend that Zambia invests more on a workable programme that would ensure the smooth coordination and implementation of their own initiatives and the different recommendations by treaty bodies. This will also help Government fulfil her pledge to deliver on electoral promises and obligations as enshrined in the constitution.

Thank you President