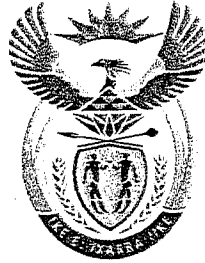


Ms Chantelle Naidoo

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

STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE 15TH SESSION OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

23 JANUARY 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF THE BAHAMAS

Check against delivery

Mr President,

South Africa warmly welcomes the delegation of the Bahamas to the 15th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

The Bahamas has displayed their commitment to the international human rights system by ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights since their review during the 1st cycle of the UPR. South Africa also commends the submission of the National Report to the CEDAW and the withdrawal of the reservation to article 16 (h) of the Convention. South Africa is encouraged by progress made in preparation for accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and would, in this regard, appreciate further information on the review of the draft legislation on disability. **South Africa recommends that the Bahamas considers ratifying the outstanding international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party too.**

The national report sets out the priorities and commitments of the Government of the Bahamas in the area of human rights, including combating discrimination through education. It is also appreciated that the national report outlines the challenges faced by the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights. **South Africa recommends that the Bahamas**

should consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles as a step to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights for all its citizens.

Mr President,

My delegation thanks the delegation of the Bahamas for their interaction with the Working Group today and wishes them well with the implementation of accepted recommendations from this UPR session.

I thank you.