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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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Statement by Namibia

UPR of Burundi, 15th Session of the Human Rights Council

Working Group on the UPR, 23 January 2013

Mr. President,

Namibia warmly welcomes the delegation of Burundi to the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR.

Namibia commends Burundi for its determination to transform its country, by establishing democracy and the rule of law, strengthening its institutional and legal framework, and building its economy following several years of civil war. Namibia is pleased to note that since being reviewed by the Working Group on UPR in 2008, Burundi ratified the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Namibia further commends Burundi for establishing a new Criminal Code which abolished the death penalty, criminalises torture and strengthens children's rights. Namibia is however concerned about the lack of access to justice and qualified personnel in the judicial system. My delegation is further concerned about the low representation of women in the Government.

My delegation recommends to Burundi to consider the following:

1. Strengthen efforts to increase food security for the general population, and particularly those in extreme poverty in rural areas, as well as *increase* its budget for social infrastructure and social services, including health, education, and water and sanitation.
2. Request assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen access to justice services, as well as for the training of judicial personnel
3. Strengthen efforts to ensure increased free birth registration for children, both in urban and rural areas.
4. Increase women representation in Government to the 30% guaranteed by the Constitution

I thank you Mr. President.