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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

24 JANUARY 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF BURUNDI

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Mr President,

The South African delegation welcomes the delegation of Burundi to the Working Group session and expresses our thanks for the presentation of its national report today.

We appreciate the steps taken, both legally and institutionally, to strengthen the capacity of the Government to promote and protect the human rights of all its citizens. We commend the co-operation between the Government of Burundi and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in various areas including the development of a Strategic Plan for Justice, various capacity-building programmes, drafting a law on gender-based violence and the establishment of a National Independent Human Rights Commission. **South Africa recommends that the Government of Burundi should provide the National Human Rights Commission with the necessary resources to ensure it is fully operational and effective.**

Mr President,

The national report also sets out clearly the priority areas of Burundi, as contained in the Strategic Framework for Growth and Combating Poverty, which importantly includes a strong focus on the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. As a developing country and one in a period of post-crisis reconstruction and development, it remains important that Burundi is provided with the necessary capacity-building and technical assistance as requested in the national report. **South Africa recommends that Burundi continue to prioritise the areas contained in the Strategic Framework for Growth and Combating Poverty and that the necessary resources are allocated for its implementation.**

Finally Mr President,

South Africa wishes the Government of Burundi well in the post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes and we remain committed to continuing the strong bilateral ties which

exist between our nations. We further wish the Government of Burundi well with implementation of the accepted recommendations from this UPR session.

I thank you.