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

STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP

29 APRIL 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF BANGLADESH

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh and commends the inclusive and broad consultative process undertaken in preparation of the report.

Bangladesh, through the National Education Policy of 2010, has prioritised human rights education at all levels. Education has the highest allocation in the national budget and the National Education Policy aims to improve the quality of the country's education sector. Reforms and training programmes have also been undertaken by the judiciary, police and other law enforcement agencies.

The Government has also built more than 130 000 arsenic free water sources throughout the country and has adopted a National Sanitation Strategy to achieve universal sanitation coverage. These achievements in the field of economic, social and cultural rights are commendable against the backdrop of the structural challenges faced by Bangladesh as a Least Developing Country.

South Africa would like to present the following recommendations for the consideration:

- Firstly, continue to prioritise policies aimed at improving the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by its citizens;
- Secondly, that the necessary resources be made available to the Human Rights Commission to effectively implement its important mandate;

- Lastly, continue to generate employment opportunities and train people for self employment.

Finally Mr. President,

South Africa wishes Bangladesh well for all the follow-up processes to be undertaken.

I thank you.