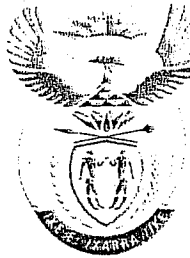


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Mr. Selang A-Hung



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

STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE 16TH SESSION OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

22 APRIL 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF BURKINA FASO

Check against delivery

Mr President,

The South African delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Burkina Faso and we welcome the opportunity to once again interact with Burkina Faso as part of the Universal Periodic Review process. This continued commitment to the UPR process is to be commended.

Since the first cycle of the UPR, Burkina Faso has undertaken a number of steps to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and to ensure the enjoyment of these rights by its citizens. Noteworthy is the strengthening of legal frameworks through the ratification of several international and continental human rights instruments. At a national level, further steps have been taken to strengthen human rights promotion and protection through the adoption of national legislation. South Africa applauds the Act instituted to bring the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles. South Africa recommends that Burkina Faso provides the National Human Rights Commission with the requisite support to ensure its effectiveness.

The national report clearly outlines the priorities of the Government to improve the human rights situation in the country. Much progress has been achieved, but Burkina Faso has continued to aim for improvements. **South Africa recommends that Burkina Faso continues to prioritize policies and programmes aimed at eradicating poverty and underemployment and ensuring the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.**

Finally Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Burkina Faso for the continued constructive engagement with the Council and wishes the Government well with the implementation of all accepted recommendations for the second cycle.

I thank you.