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**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

01 MAY 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF THE CAMEROON

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the delegation of Cameroon to the 16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. We congratulate Cameroon on the submission of their national report and welcome the opportunity to once again interact with Cameroon as part of the Universal Periodic Review process.

South Africa commends Cameroon for its continued efforts to increase the promotion and protection of human rights in the country through the ratification of several legal instruments at the international and regional levels.

We further commend the steps taken in the area of respect for and protection of women's rights, in particular a five-year action plan for the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as updated in October 2010 and edited in 2012. **South Africa recommends that the Government of the Cameroon further strengthen its efforts by enacting national legislation to prohibit harmful practices and strengthen its efforts to increase awareness on this issue.**

The national report also sets out the various steps being taken towards the implementation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Strategy (IMCI) whose aim is to reduce mortality due to common childhood diseases including acute respiratory infections, diarrhea diseases, malaria and malnutrition. **South Africa notes these positive steps with appreciation. South Africa encourages the Government of Cameroon to, equally, heighten its efforts to reduce maternal mortality and to ensure, amongst others, women access to reproductive health services.**

Finally Mr President,

South Africa thanks the delegation of Cameroon for the constructive interaction with the Working Group today and wishes the Government well with the implementation of the accepted recommendations emanating from the Working Group today.

I thank you.