

32



**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**

25 APRIL 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF GERMANY

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Mr President,

South Africa wishes to warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Germany to the 16th session of the UPR Working Group. We congratulate Germany on the submission of their national report and welcome the opportunity to once again interact with Germany as part of the Universal Periodic Review process. This continued commitment to the UPR process is to be commended.

South Africa appreciates that the national report sets out Germany's vision for the promotion and protection of the human rights of its citizens. It is clear from the priorities identified that the government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law, notwithstanding the obstacles and constraints present.

Following the acceptance of the recommendation to increase its efforts to prevent racially motivated offenses and adopt required legislation as well as ensure that relevant criminal law provisions are effectively implemented, during the 1st cycle of the UPR, Germany has made some progress in the enhancement of the practical enjoyment of human rights by its nationals and those within its jurisdiction. However, this area remains of concern given the persistent racist and xenophobic attitudes the country. **South Africa recommends the Government of Germany further prioritise the prevention of such racially motivated offenses by implementing/adopting a clear definition of racial discrimination in its domestic legislation, adoption of legislative measures and that would criminalize incitement to racial hatred, and effective sanctions for hate crimes.**

Mr President,

We thank the delegation of Germany 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.