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NCUMISA NOTUTECA



**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

29 APRIL 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation to the 16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. We thank the delegation for the updated information presented to the Working Group today.

South Africa appreciates the detailed information provided in the national report on the implementation of accepted recommendations. We commend the Russian Federation for its continued efforts to strengthen the statutory and structural underpinnings for the promotion and protection of human rights through the signing of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We further commend the steps taken in the area of respect for and protection of women's rights, in particular the special services that are being set up to prevent violence against women. **South Africa recommends that the Government of the Russian Federation fast track the drafting of a federal bill on prevention of violence in the family.**

The national report also sets out the various steps being taken towards the attainment of Economic Social and Cultural Rights. **South Africa joins the CESCR in encouraging the Government to continue to allocate resources to combating poverty; promote an adequate standard of living for all and to continue to reduce the number of persons below the subsistence level. We further recommend that the Government adopt a national strategy integrating economic, social and cultural rights to combat poverty**

Finally Mr President,

South Africa thanks the delegation of the Russian Federation 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.