



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

STATEMENT BY THE SOUTHAFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE 17TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

ISRAEL

29 OCTOBER 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

The General Assembly, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have all reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The South African Government has always supported international efforts aimed at assisting the peoples of Palestine and Israel to find lasting peace in the context of the two state solution. We therefore support the mediation efforts undertaken by the US Secretary of State, John Kerry. **South Africa recommends that the Government of Israel take urgent and immediate steps to end its occupation of all Palestinian and Arab Territories occupied since 1967. South Africa further recommends that Israel implement all Human Rights Council, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions with regard to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and other Arab Territories.**

The CERD noted that Israeli society maintained Jewish and non-Jewish sectors, while the Secretary-General underscored the discriminatory nature of the Israeli policy and practice of promoting settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In line with the CERD recommendations and

observations, **South Africa recommends that Israel prohibit policies and practices of racial segregation that disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the OPT.**

Mr. President,

We note Israel's participation in the Working Group today, but regret that they were not in a position to participate as originally scheduled and comply with the stipulated deadlines for documentation for the second cycle of the UPR. We further regret Israel's decision of May 2012 to suspend its relationship with the Human Rights Council and with this participation, welcome its re-establishment of normal relations with the Council.

I thank you