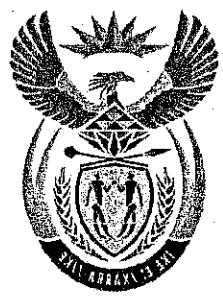


Yeatasha Nardoo



**Statement delivered by South Africa**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**  
**Review of Norway**  
**28 April 2014**

Mr President, South Africa welcomes the delegation of Norway to this UPR Session and the informative presentation of its National Report which highlights human rights implementation, best practices and challenges in the country.

My delegation expresses appreciation for the continued, consistent contribution to development projects in Africa, including South Africa which has empowered and uplifted the living standards of many of our people. These endeavours in South Africa have consolidated the sound relations between our two countries and underlined Norway's commitment to human rights and development in Africa.

South Africa further notes with appreciation the efforts made by Norway since its last review including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention Against Torture, the entry into force of the new anti-discrimination acts, improving gender equality, Norway's Action Plan to prevent discrimination against the LGBT community and the implementation of the Integration Policy for immigrants.

South Africa encourages Norway to continue at all efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights in the country and would like to pose the following comments and recommendations:

- (1) In line with South Africa's previous recommendation during the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of Norway's review which was rejected, to once again consider lifting its reservations in respect of article 10, paragraph 2 (b) and 3 of the ICCPR;
- (2) We commend the broad consultations undertaken in considering the establishment of a new National Human Rights Institution as a priority area. In this regard, my delegation stresses the importance of an Independent Human Rights Institution to support democracy by promoting, protecting and monitoring the attainment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without fear, favour or prejudice and thus recommend that such an

independent Institution be established in compliance with the United Nations Paris Principles; and

(3) On Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises, South Africa recommends that Norway take appropriate legislative or administrative measures to ensure that the activities of transnational corporations domiciled in the territory and/or under the jurisdiction of Norway do not have a negative impact on the enjoyment of rights of indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups, in territories outside Norway. In this regard while South Africa commends the work done on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility efforts which are high on Norway's agenda, we also recommend that Norway consider supporting the initiative for an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises.

I thank you