

10



Statement delivered by South Africa

20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of the Arab Republic of Egypt

05 November 2014

Check against delivery

Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt led by the Minister of Transitional Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the presentation of its national report.

South Africa welcomes the adoption of the 2014 Constitution which takes into account many of the recommendations posed during the 1st UPR of Egypt in 2010 and which recognizes fundamental human rights and freedoms. We also commend the high level of participation and inclusion of Egyptian women in the Presidential voting process.

We further welcome ongoing efforts as highlighted in the National Report on institutional reform, parliamentary elections, legislation enacted to fulfil the country's international obligations and the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, including the Right to Development. We also recognize the significant challenges that lie ahead in the process of Egypt's democratic transition.

South Africa remains fully engaged in supporting Egypt and we encourage Egypt to continue efforts in the advancement of human rights, democratic reform and the implementation of development programmes. We recommend the following:

- (1) To strengthen measures to combat sexual assault and violence against women and girls (note: rationale based on recent African Union Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Resoluton 288 of 20 July 2014 and the National Report.
- (2) To strengthen measures, including the adoption of necessary legislation to give effect to the rights enshrined in the ICCPR.
- (3) To effectively implement the comprehensive national strategy to combat short- and long-term unemployment, including investment in skills development.

We wish the delegation of Egypt a very successful review for the Session.

I thank you.