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Statement delivered by South Africa
21st Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Review of Lesotho

23 January 2015

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the delegation of Lesotho to this UPR Session and the presentation of its comprehensive national report.

We welcome national efforts on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, initiatives to address poverty reduction and economic development in line with the National Vision 2020. We further commend Lesotho for having signed and ratified most of the international and regional human rights instruments, with a legal framework aimed at guaranteeing human rights in place.

Mr President,

The general political will demonstrated by the Government of Lesotho to improve the standard of living of its people and the efforts made to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens is to be commended. We also take this opportunity to reaffirm our continued support of SADC efforts in the promotion of peace in the country.

South Africa encourages Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to continue all efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfillment of all human rights, including the Right to Development and would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) To continue efforts on the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- 2) To continue efforts in implementation of the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence Against Women; and
- 3) To fully implement the National Strategic Development Plan aimed at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, including through the enactment of the draft National Policy on Social Development.

We wish Lesotho a very successful review during this Session.

I thank you.