



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

**23RD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA

09 NOVEMBER 2015

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Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Australia to the 23rd Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report.

The report presented clearly indicates the country's commitment to the realization of civil and political rights. In line with paragraph 5 of the VDMA, **South Africa recommends that Australia should consider treating economic, social and cultural rights on the same footing, and with the same emphasis as civil and political rights.**

We have noted with appreciation that Australia had accepted all the recommendations made by South Africa during its first cycle review. We have also note that continued absence of an entrenched guarantee of non- discrimination in the current laws and that this has resulted in the continued discrimination against Indigenous peoples and other minorities on the basis of race. We therefore wish to reiterate our first cycle recommendations that Australia should:

1. **Withdraw its reservation on article 4 (a) of ICERD, as this reservation undermines one of the key objectives of this Convention;**
2. **Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society; and**
3. **Develop and implement policies to ensure gender equality throughout society and strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women, especially women from indigenous communities.**

Finally, Mr. President, we wish Australia success in their second review.

I thank you.

TSHOLOFELD TSHEDLE