

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

25TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

REVIEW OF GREECE

03 MAY 2016

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Greece this UPR Session and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report.

South Africa commend the people of Greece for the hospitality, solidarity and assistance extended to huge numbers of refugees and migrants, in particular women and children, who have arrived on Greece's shores, after a perilous sea crossing. We also welcome the adoption of a legislative framework to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the establishment of a National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

South Africa encourages Greece to continue these efforts while noting that the country is still mitigating the negative impact of the recent economic crisis/ a.

We recommend that Greece:

1. Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework to combat trafficking in persons, identifying victims and providing them with all necessary assistance and support;

- 2. Finalise the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children; and
- 3. Ensure full implementation of legislation aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We wish Greece a very successful review during this Session.

I thank you.