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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND**

**OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**27th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of INDIA**

**04 MAY 2017**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS**

***Check against delivery***

Mr President,

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

South Africa commends the setting up of One-Stop Crisis Centres to provide victims of sexual violence with legal aid. We welcome the provision of smart card-based cashless health insurance cover to families in poverty and workers in the informal sector. We also welcome amendments to the Factories Act to remove provisions that discriminate against women, as well as the Support to Training and Employment Programme to enhance skills training and financial inclusion of women.

In order to build on the progress to date, South Africa recommends that India:

1. Enact the Prevention of Torture Bill and ratify the Convention Against Torture.

2. Ensure implementation of the Gender Budgeting Scheme in all states and union territories.

3. Expand the “Housing for All” scheme to realise the right to adequate housing for vulnerable people and eliminate homelessness by 2030.

We wish India a successful review during this Session.

I thank you.