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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**27 JANUARY 2020**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS**

**Review oF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

**VIRTUAL (ZOOM PLATFORM)**

 (max 1MIN 40 SEC allowed)

***Check against delivery***

( Vice)President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sao Tome and Principe, led by H.E. Ms. Ivete Lima Correia, Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Human Rights, to this UPR Session.

In order to ensure progress in promoting and protecting human rights, we respectfully **recommend** that Sao Tome and Principe;

1. ratify all outstanding international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Discrimination in Education; Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture;
2. recommended that Sao Tome and Principe enshrine the right to education for all in its Constitution, increase the years of compulsory education to 9 and the years of free education to 12, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, and make one year of pre-primary education free and compulsory, in accordance with the same Goal;
3. ensure that equal opportunities were given to women and girls in Sao Tome and Principe to address gender disparities;
4. revise penal code and all other legislation affecting children, in order to make sure that it meets the standards of the Convention of the Rights of the Child;
5. draft laws criminalizing sexual exploitation and ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(Vice) President,

My delegation is encouraged by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe clear political resolve and commitment to the effective enjoyment of human rights, as commended by The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

South Africa wishes Sao Tome and Principe a successfull review.

I thank you