

**STATEMENT**

**41st UPR Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights situation in South Africa,**

**as delivered by Ms Jannicke Graatrud,**

**Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative.**

 Check against delivery

16 November 2022

President,

Norway welcomes South Africa’s ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the adoption of the National Strategic Plan on Genderbased Violence and Femicide.

[Norway remains concerned about the levels of gender-based violence and violation of the rights of LGBTIQ persons, whistleblowers and human rights defenders.]

Norway recommends that South Africa:

1) ensures adequate human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide;

2) strengthens the protection of any person who discloses information to reveal corruption, fraud or undue influence;

3) establishes and implements measures to prevent, investigate and adequately prosecute threats, attacks and discrimination against LGBTIQ persons;

4) promotes a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, including by facilitating the visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs.

Thank you.