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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**43rd SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of FRANCE**

**01 MAY 2023**

**(55 Seconds)**

**speaker no: 12**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of France to this UPR Session and wishes the country a successful review.

South Africa acknowledges France’s efforts to bolster the fight against racism. This includes those activities undertaken to augment legislation, together with the implementation of national plans and large-scale surveys in this regard.

South Africa wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Strengthen initiatives to address the structural and systemic causes of racial discrimination against minorities, including people of African descent;
* Take measures to ensure impartial investigations by bodies external to the police into all cases of racist incidents involving police officers;
* Increase efforts to ensure that Mahorais enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights fully and on an equal basis with the rest of France’s population; and
* Review the relevant laws concerned with rape and attempted rape to incorporate the concept of non-consent.

I thank you