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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 LUXEMBOURG**

**04 MAY 2023**

**(75 Seconds)**

**speaker no: 95**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

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

South Africa commends Luxembourg for the legislative processes undertaken to strengthen the country’s Code of Criminal Procedure to better combat discrimination, hate speech and violence motivated by hatred. We similarly welcome the work done to increase the number of women contesting for the country elections as a result of the imposition of financial penalties on those political parties that submit electoral lists where women make up less than 40%.

South Africa wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Take steps to guarantee the exercise of trade union rights in accordance with article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
* Intensify measures to combat racism and all forms of discrimination;
* Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that women who are victims of discrimination and gender-based violence, but are without sufficient means, have access to free legal aid; and
* Strengthen initiatives to combat poverty and inequality and ensure that such efforts are implemented using a human rights-based approach and pay due attention to groups most at risk.

I thank you