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**STATEMENT
BY**

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OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**ON
REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK
13 NOVEMBER 2013**

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Chairperson,

South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group.

South Africa welcomes this opportunity to dialogue with the President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Ambassador Remigiusz Achilles Henczel on the Annual Report of the Council on its activities during the seventh cycle year. We also appreciate the vision and leadership role played by the Presidency in carrying out the mandate of supporting the work of the Council.

Chairperson,

South Africa is in support of the Council's mandate as a principal UN body responsible for universal respect for protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner, as enshrined in the founding UNGA resolution 60/251. We wish to recall that the Council is created as a subsidiary body of the UNGA and body of first instance in addressing all human rights and fundamental freedoms through cooperation, genuine dialogue free from politicisation, selectivity and double standards. It is this resolve that impels the Council to give balanced attention to economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, as well as the right to development. Decisions and resolutions of the Council are important and should be given time to run their course, without the same texts being duplicated in the Third Committee.

We therefore remain convinced that the spirit and vision embodied in the Proclamation of Teheran adopted during the International Conference on Human Rights, in 1968 that the full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible. The achievement of lasting progress in the implementation of human rights is dependent upon sound and effective national and international policies of economic and social development.

Chairperson,

The current financial and economic crises will have a negative effect on the work of the Council, particularly with respect to the numerous recommendations from decisions and resolutions, which needs to be implemented in an equal manner. In this context, South Africa remains convinced that the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the pillar for the work of the HRC in the fulfillment of the State's human rights obligations and improvement of the situation on the ground.

In realizing this objective, the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical for the Implementation of the UPR must be properly resourced for the purpose of assisting States to develop national capacity and expertise for the implementation of the Council's Recommendations.

DDPA and it is incumbent upon the Council to ensure that this Group discharges its mandate.

Chairperson,

South Africa welcomes the attention paid to the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) by the Council and wish to emphasise that the practical enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms hinges on the realisation of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian peoples.

Chairperson,

The recent attempts to erode the Institution-Building text of the HRC poses serious governance gaps in the work and authority of the Council. The credibility of the Council hinges on this critical institutional foundation. Equally, it is incumbent upon the Council to always promote dialogue and cooperation in conducting its mandate, hence matters with serious political ramifications should always be consulted upon by the universal membership of the General Assembly, in line op5(i) of UNGA resolution 60/251.

We share the concerns of other delegations expressed with regard to the manner in which the issues raised in HRC resolution 24/24 adopted during its 24th Session in September 2013 entitled "**Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights**", particularly with respect to the designation of the UN-Wide Senior Focal Point to "prevent, protect against and promote accountability for reprisals and intimidation". It is our firm belief that this matter still needs further reflection and deliberation by the General Assembly, including a determination on the way forward. South Africa is strongly opposed to any act of intimidation or reprisals against any individual or grouping and we believe that domestic jurisprudence should be utilized to adequately deal with matters of this nature.

In conclusion, we wish to assure you of our support and cooperation in leading the Council towards the fulfillment of its mandate.

I thank you.