



**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION PRESENTED DURING THE INTERACTIVE
DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS TO ADEQUATE HOUSING
AS PART OF AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, AND TO NON-DISCRIMINATION
WITHIN THAT CONTEXT**

19TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

06 MARCH 2012

Madame President,

The South African Government has noted with grave concern the references to the situation of women and their access to housing in South Africa. The Government believes that the Special Rapporteur has no right to invoke negative inferences about our country especially when she has never visited South Africa to gain first insight, experience and practical information on the country and its agenda for development.

The Special Rapporteur is totally oblivious to the fact that the plight of women, children and persons with disabilities has been prioritised by the democratic dispensation in our country since 1994. The South Africa government conscious of the fact that these vulnerable sectors in our society have been the victims of aggravated and multiple forms of discrimination prioritised the advancement of women and placed the coordination of their rights in the Office of the President. It would be interesting to know the sources of information for the Special Rapporteur which prompted her to make observations about South African women which are totally incompatible with the realities of our country.

We believe that it would do the Special Rapporteur very well if she was to seek an opportunity to visit our country and gain first hand information from the women of South Africa themselves. They will undoubtedly share their experiences with her and intimate to her how vastly their situation has improved since the advent of democracy in our country.

Finally Madame President, and for the record, South Africa has moved from the notion of right to adequate housing to a more integrated notion of sustainable human settlements, which entails ensuring the provision of other integral rights such as water and sanitation, electricity, schooling and health infrastructure among others.

I thank you.