

Thank you Chairperson. The South African society comprises of various racial, ethnic, cultural and religious groups. The injustices of apartheid on the majority of South African and their participation in economic life needs no elaboration in the UN which adopted numerous resolutions over the four decades in a concerted effort by the international community to eliminate apartheid in South Africa. The consultation of democracy in our country required the education of social and economic inequalities especially those which are systemic in nature which emanated from our history of colonialism, apartheid and patriarchy.

It should also be mentioned that South Africa has 11 official languages which include Afrikaans, Afrikaans remains the language used in some higher education institutions as the medium of instruction and unlike minority groups in other countries, news bulletins, radio and television and all print media utilise Afrikaans as a medium of communication. Madam Chairperson, South Africa has established institutions such as the Equality Court, where everyone can raise matters which they believe deserve attention. Furthermore of addressing the imbalances of the past affirmative action policies were instituted through such statutory provisions. It should also be noted that white Afrikaaner women have also been beneficiaries of policies such as affirmative action notwithstanding their power, the South African Constitution is inclusive of all South Africans and provides for the promotion and protection of human rights of all South Africans. Following the end of apartheid in 1994, the constitution of South Africa in its bill of rights enshrines the protection of human rights of all South Africans regardless of the grouping or communities to which they belong. National legislation passed by government since the end of apartheid in 1994 and amended in 1996 after extensive negotiations confer protection on all citizens based on the constitution and human rights law. This was again highlighted during the recent periodic review of South Africa earlier this year in this very room. We are however mindful of the many challenges on the path to creating an interpluralistic society based on tolerance and dialogue. I thank you