



## **SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT**

### **INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE EXPERTS MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**(90SECS)**

**Mr. President,**

South Africa thanks the Experts Mechanisms for their reports including on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition.

The South African Constitution recognises the diverse and multicultural character of South Africa, and promotes the ideal of unity and a common citizenship. National identity is not comprised of dominant identities and cultures, but is built upon the foundation of all diverse cultures within a state. The protection and promotion of diverse cultures on an equal level is an important aspect of maintaining our national heritage.

In addition to the constitutional guarantee and in line with its international obligations, South Africa has established several institutions responsible for the protection and promotion of culture and language, which include the National Arts Council of South Africa; the Pan South African Language Board ("PanSALB") and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities ("CRL Commission"), which has been identified as a best practice in the African Region.

Mr President,

An Inquiry by South African Human Rights Commission found that South Africa stands as one of the few countries that has embarked on ambitious efforts aimed at redressing the problems of its indigenous peoples, including legislative, policy and judicial interventions.

It is for this reason that the Government has committed to working on communal land administration and tenure reform towards equal land redistribution to all South Africans.

I thank you