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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Information presented by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the South African Human Rights Commission,** reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with “A”-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

Written contribution by the South African Human Rights Commission on the report of the Special Rapporteur of the right to food on his mission to South Africa

19th Session of the Human Rights Council
(27 February – 23 March 2012)

The South African Human Rights Commission is a national human rights institution with “A” status accreditation under the Paris Principles.

The South African Human Rights Commission welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Special Rapporteurs Report on his Mission to South Africa.

The right to food is not only inextricably linked to human dignity but goes to the core of human survival. The Special Rapporteur highlighted the gross inequalities in income in South Africa and the high levels of poverty experienced by the majority of the population. The stark reality is that many people in South Africa, and in particular those who are vulnerable, such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the rural poor and women do not have sufficient food and are hungry and starving.

The South African Human Rights Commission is delighted that the Special Rapporteur has supported other United Nations treaty bodies and mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review Process, in recommending that South Africa should ratify the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This would be an important step in South Africa demonstrating at an international level its commitment to ensuring that the right to food is all enjoyed by everyone in the country.

The South African Human Rights Commission welcomes the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur which promotes a strong rights-based approach by government and the need for accountability and independent monitoring. As South Africa’s national human rights institution we will promote the recommendations at a domestic level and monitor government’s implementation thereof.
