


## **Introduction by the Minister of Public Service and Administration**

*This Report represents South Africa's 2<sup>nd</sup> submission to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 remains the instructive and framework document guiding this process. South Africa is ready for its review by the Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review during its 13<sup>th</sup> Session on 21 May - 04 June 2012.*

*Since the last Review of South Africa by the Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review on 15 April 2008, the country has proceeded to progressively implement its national human rights programmes towards the realization of a better life for all. In this process many of the 22 recommendations generated by the Review of our 1<sup>st</sup> Report continued to receive priority attention by Government. In the context of this 4<sup>th</sup> post-apartheid Administration, Government's coordination and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of policies and programmes have significantly improved. This is evidenced by, among others, new and effective management mechanisms such as Performance and Delivery Agreements concluded between the President and Cabinet Ministers whose Departments resort in the same Implementation Forum, all of which are geared towards the implementation of key national priorities.*

*Despite the significant achievements registered by Government in the practical respect for, and the promotion and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the current challenges in the form of poverty, unemployment and inequality continue to impede: (a) our national drive to achieve social cohesion and nation building; (b) our national coordinated drive towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015; (c) the eradication of crime and substance abuse in the context of their national and transnational manifestations; and (d) promoting tolerance and embracing diversity by eradicating all the contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Other forms of social evils such as violence and discrimination against children, women and persons with disabilities; homophobia and hate crimes also continue to receive coordinated attention from Government working in partnership with its civil society.*

*We look forward to constructive and collaborative engagement with the United Nations Human Rights System with a view to sharing experiences and learning from best practices to improve our own national human rights situation.*



**Minister of Public Service and Administration**  
**Mr. Radhakrishna L Padayachie (Roy), MP**