

36th Session of the Human Rights Council

ITEM 6 - UPR Outcomes South Africa

22 September 2017

Speaker: Amock Alikuleti

Thank you Mr. President,

Firstly, RADDHO would like to welcome the delegation of South Africa to its 3rd cycle review under the UPR. Since its last UPR review, we have closely followed the engagement of the country with the UN on the DDPA, as well as its cooperation with HRC mechanisms.

The founding of RADDHO was inspired by the spirit of Madiba, which stands as a stark contrast to the current political administration of the country; contrary to the philosophy of this eminent figure who gave his life for a more free, tolerant, peaceful and socially just society.

RADDHO has remained concerned, since South Africa's 2nd cycle UPR, by the increase in violence, hate, xenophobia, racism, discrimination and intolerance against African migrants in the country as well as the pillaging of their belongings and livelihoods; primarily those from Zimbabwe, the DRC, Nigeria, Angola, Somalia and Ethiopia, among others. This is despite the fact that South Africa chaired the African Union from 2012 to 2017.

In light of the situation prevailing in the country, RADDHO calls on the Government to launch an outreach campaign for tolerance, acceptance and respect for the dignity of foreign citizens of African origin in the country.

In the field of health, South Africa's multisectoral approach to fighting HIV/AIDS merits special attention as it has provided an increased availability of antiretroviral therapy and thus contributed to the steady decline of HIV infections, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. However, SOGI rights are not adequately protected as the LGBTI community continues to be marginalised regarding access to health.

Furthermore, RADDHO encourages South Africa to fight against corruption and sexual violence, as well as the use of excessive force by security forces.

In conclusion, RADDHO invites South Africa to initiate a national dialogue to reexamine the recommendations that have not been accepted.

Thank you.