Updated: December 31, 2016

Prepared by: Angela Walker

**International Instruments**

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| **International Instrument** | **Details** |
| **UN**  United Nations | * Founding Member: 1945 * November 12, 1974: South Africa was suspended from participating in the work of the UN because of international opposition to the policy of apartheid. * South Africa was re-admitted to the UN in 1994 following its transition into a democracy |
| **CESCR**  International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: October 3, 1994  Ratification: Yes  Date: January 12, 2015 |
| **CCPR**  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: October 3, 1994  Ratification: Yes  Date: December 10, 1998 |
| **CCPR-OP1**  Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Date: August 28, 2002 (accession) |
| **CCPR-OP2-DP**  Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Date: August 28, 2002 (accession) |
| **CERD**  International Covenant on All Forms of Racial Discrimination | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: October 3, 1994  Ratification: Yes  Date: December 10, 1998 |
| **CEDAW**  Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: January 29, 1993  Ratification: Yes  Date: June 16, 1995 |
| **CEDAW-OP**  Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women | Date: October 18, 2005 (accession) |
| **CAT**  Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: January 29, 1993  Ratification: Yes  Date: December 10, 1998 |
| **CAT-OP**  Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: September 20, 2006  Ratification:  Date: |
| **CRC**  Convention on the Rights of the Child | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: January 29, 1993  Ratification: Yes  Date: June 16, 1995 |
| **CRC-OP-AC**  Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: February 8, 2002  Ratification: Yes  Date: September 24, 2009 |
| **CRC-OP-SC**  Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography | Date: June 30, 2003 (accession) |
| **CMW**  International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | Not yet signed but identified as a priority. |
| **CRPD**  Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | Signature (Yes/No): Yes  Date: March 30, 2007  Ratification: Yes  Date: November 30, 2007 |
| **UPR – First Cycle**  Universal Periodic Review  <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ZASession1.aspx> | Considered April 15, 2008, report dated May 23, 2008 |
| **UPR – Second Cycle**  Universal Periodic Review  <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ZASession13.aspx> | Considered May 31, 2012, 2008, report dated July 9, 2012 |

**International Criminal Court** *Rome Statute*

* Signed July 19, 1998 and ratified on November 7, 2000

**Regional Membership**

**African Union**

* Member
* Date: June 6, 1994
* The African Union (AU) was established to accelerate the process of integration in the continent, to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded by negative aspects of globalization.
* The main objectives of the OAU were, to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to  promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify  cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial  integrity of Member States and to promote international cooperation within the  framework of the United Nations.

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

**UPR – First Cycle**

Universal Periodic Review

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ZASession1.aspx>

**UPR – Second Cycle**

Universal Periodic Review

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ZASession13.aspx>