

**INPUT BY THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND
ADMINISTRATION, MR. MASENYANI RICHARD**

BALOYI

ON THE OCCASSION OF

**THE 4TH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

Marrakech – Kingdom of Morocco

24 October 2011

Mr President

Vice Presidents

Ministers present here

All Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, to add our congratulations on your election as President of the 4th Session of the Conference of States Parties of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

I also wish to convey South Africa's sincerest appreciation to the Kingdom and the people of Morocco, for hosting this Session, the first Conference of States Parties on the UN Convention to be held in Africa.

We also thank them for the warm hospitality extended to us. We are looking forward to your leadership President, and that of the Vice Presidents in our important deliberations over the next few days.

Corruption is a global challenge that undermines growth and development. Amongst other problems it diverts limited resources from important development programmes, thus exacerbating poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.

Combating corruption is critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore our collective responsibility and in our collective interests as States Parties to the Convention to ensure that we enhance our efforts in this regards.

The government of South Africa has identified the fight against corruption as one of its five priorities for this Financial Year, thereby domesticating the prioritisation of the fight against the scourge.

Mr President

During this Session, we will be deliberating on the implementation of the Review Mechanism adopted in Qatar in 2009. We believe that the adoption of this Review Mechanism signifies a collective resolve by State Parties to the full implementation of the Convention.

South Africa participated in the review of the Kingdom of Morocco, and there is much that we have learnt in the process.

We are also due to be reviewed, and in June this year, we commenced with the process of completing our self assessment checklist as part of the preparation for the review process. We look forward to working with Mali and Senegal, the two countries that will review South Africa.

We also participate in working groups aimed at assisting the Conference with key issues regarding the review of the implementation of the Convention, including asset recovery, prevention and technical assistance.

South Africa believes in the importance of inclusive and participatory reviews as part of promoting good governance. In 2007 and 2009, we underwent the OECD Phase 1 and Phase II self-assessments respectively, thereby reaffirming our resolve to continue tackling corruption in all its manifestations. In partnership with business and civil society, we are responding decisively to our President's call to hold ourselves to the highest standards of service, probity and integrity.

We have learnt valuable lessons from the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), in the promotion and institutionalization of good governance as a programme of the African Union.

The APRM creates an opportunity for African governments to engage with issues of governance as peers, and to share experiences.

South Africa has already been peer-reviewed in terms of the APRM and we submitted two reports as evidence that we give attention to the observations and recommendations of our peers in the AU.

Mr President

In concluding, I wish to recommit my country to cooperating with other States Parties in the global fight against corruption within the ambit of the Convention as well as through other forms of engagements.

We do it for ourselves, for our children, and for future generations.

I thank you