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ZIMBABWE'S STATEMENT TO THE 13TH SESSION OF THE UPR – SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you, Madam President

Zimbabwe commends the Government of South Africa for the immense progress it has achieved so far, in the promotion and protection of human rights. These achievements are not small by any measure, especially in a country where the rights of the majority had for a long time been trampled upon and where the entire nation had been polarised due to apartheid.

Zimbabwe fully commends the administrative, legislative and judicial measures adopted and being applied to advance human rights in South Africa. The accelerated implementation of existing legislation and other programmes have no doubt had a profound and positive impact on the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Zimbabwe also commends the strides that South Africa has made in the socio-economic, civil and political spheres. While some challenges remain, particularly in the spheres of education, health, employment and social cohesion, we take note of the measures that government has taken within its national priorities to

overcome these challenges. We therefore recommend that South Africa:

- Consolidates its efforts towards improving all aspects of education and health in accordance with its National Action Plan.
- Consolidates economic initiatives aimed at empowering its people especially those who were underprivileged under the apartheid system.