**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR J. MANZOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA: 1430-1800 HOURS: 23 OCTOBER 2012**

Madam President

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Ghana and sincerely thanks them for the detailed National Report on the efforts being undertaken to implement the recommendations which the country accepted during its first cycle review in May 2008.

Ghana has made tremendous progress in the following areas, among others: The advancement of the equality and empowerment of women; the improvement in the enrolment of the girl child in school; effective justice delivery; and the protection of children’s rights.

In compliance with its international human rights obligations, Ghana has ratified major international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the country ratified in March this year. In addition, Ghana attaches great importance to the work of the Special Procedures as exemplified by the visit to Ghana in May 2011 by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. In view of the above, my delegation recommends that Ghana should consolidate its efforts in the implementation of its national priorities including in the spheres of education, health and social services.

We also recommend that more technical assistance be availed to Ghana to enable the country to effectively and timely implement the aforementioned programmes.

Finally, we commend Ghana’s clear commitment and wish the Government and the people of Ghana well.

Thank you