**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR J. MANZOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF JAPAN: 1430-1800 HOURS: 31 OCTOBER 2012**

Madam President

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Japan and thanks them for the detailed National Report on the activities the country is undertaking to promote and protect the human rights of its people. We note with appreciation Japan’s innovative approach to gather views of the general public on the National Report through the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is encouraging that Japan has taken practical steps to implement the recommendations it accepted at its review in the first cycle in 2008, which include the inclusion of subjects related to human rights in the training curriculum for public servants.

We commend Japan’s constructive engagement and dialogue with the UN Human Rights institutions and mechanisms. In this regard, we refer to the visits to Japan in 2010 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Migrants and the Independent Expert on the issue of Human Rights obligations related to Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

In view of the above, my delegation recommends that Japan should:

* Continue to refine its domestic legislative, institutional and administrative structures in the field of human rights.
* Share its positive experiences and best practices with other countries regarding participation of the general public in drawing up the National Report.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe wishes the government and people of Japan well in all their endeavours.

Thank you