**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR J. MANZOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN: 0900-1230 HOURS: 30 OCTOBER** **2012**

Madam President

The Zimbabwean delegation takes delight in warmly welcoming the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and sincerely thanks them for the detailed National Report, which is a culmination of a national consultative process involving the Government and civil society organisations.

Pakistan has ratified the majority of the core international human rights treaties and is now actively focused on implementing these instruments at the national level. In this regard, the country has put in place a number of legislative and institutional mechanisms such as Parliamentary Standing Committees on Human Rights, a dedicated Ministry of Human Rights and the National Human Rights Commission.

We note and salute Pakistan’s constructive engagement and dialogue with the UN Human Rights institutions and mechanisms. In this respect, we refer to the visits to Pakistan this year by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers, at the invitation of the Government

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

* Continue to strengthen its domestic legislative, institutional and administrative machinery to fight challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, gender disparity and social inequality;
* Consolidate the gains already made in the sphere of human through awareness programmes; and
* Maintain its policy of broadening and strengthening international co-operation in the sphere of human rights.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe wishes the Government of Pakistan well in all their endeavours.

Thank you.