**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR J. MANZOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA: 1430 – 1800 HOURS: 1 NOVEMBER 2012**

Madam President

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Sri Lankan and sincerely thanks them for the detailed National Report, which is a culmination of a broad and inclusive process of consultation involving government focal points and civil society representatives. We are hopeful that the end of the internecine conflict, coupled with the Government’s reconciliation programmes, will enable the Government to intensify its efforts in the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.

Sri Lanka has domesticated core international human rights treaties to which it is a party through specific Constitutional provisions and legislation instruments. For instance, following its last review of 2008, the country crafted a five-year overarching programme, the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NHRAP).

We applaud Sri Lanka’s constructive engagement and dialogue with UN Human Rights institutions and mechanisms. In this regard, we refer to the invitation extended in 2011 to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the country.

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

* Consolidate its reconciliation efforts to ensure that peace continues to prevail in the country;
* Accelerate capacity building in order to effectively implement the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; and
* Continue to promote initiatives in defence of international solidarity in the area of human rights within the UN system.

Finally, Zimbabwe wishes the Government and people of Sri Lanka well in all their endeavours.

Thank you.