**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR J.MANZOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA: 1430 – 1800 HOURS: 30 OCTOBER 2012**

Madam President

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Zambia and sincerely thanks them for the detailed National Report, which is reflective of the broad consultative process that drew participants from both the Government and Civil Society Organisations.

We note with appreciation Zambia’s commitment to fulfil its human rights obligations by ensuring that the rights that are contained in all the human rights instruments is a party to are put into effect through the enactment and implementation of relevant enabling legislation and programmes.

We commend Zambia’s constructive engagement and dialogue with UN Human Rights institutions and mechanisms. Following Zambia’s open invitation to Special Procedures during its last review, three Mandate Holders, who include the Independent Expert on the Question of Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, have undertaken missions to Zambia.

As a close neighbour and fellow member of SADC, Zimbabwe fully appreciates Zambia’s challenges. In light of this privileged relationship, my delegation recommends that:

* Capacity building and technical assistance for Zambia be increased to enable the country to implement its national priorities including the National Strategic Plan in the sphere of education.
* Zambia continues to consolidate the impressive gains that the country has thus far made in the promotion of Human Rights including in the sphere of health and social services.

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

Thank you.