

STATEMENT BY H. E. AMBASSADOR J. MANZOU ON THE
OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI: 24 JANUARY 2013

Mr President,

The Zimbabwe delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Burundi and commends them for their report outlining actions that the country has undertaken to effect the recommendations that it accepted during its first cycle review.

These actions include, inter alia, the following:

- The advanced process to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- The establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- The adoption of a revised Criminal Code aimed at making prison conditions more humane and introducing community based justice, among others;
- The implementation of measures aimed at respecting the minimum quota of 30% for the representation of women in decision making bodies – it is satisfying to note that in 2012 35% of Ministers were women; and

- The tremendous progress that has been made towards ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, following its adoption by the National Assembly.

As a post-conflict country, Burundi deserves to be highly commended for successfully putting into place these remarkable initiatives. To cap it all, it has done so in an open and constructive manner.

Zimbabwe recommends that Burundi should:

- Continue consolidating peace and strengthening a human rights-based culture; and
- Prioritise people-centred and results based socio-economic development planning in line with Vision Burundi 2025.

Finally, we wish the people of Burundi great success in all their endeavours.

Thank You.