

STATEMENT BY THE ZIMBABWE DELEGATION ON THE
OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF
BANGLADESH : 29 APRIL 2013

Mr President,

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh and thanks them for their detailed National Report outlining the activities the Government has undertaken to implement the recommendations from the country's first cycle review.

It is evident that since its last review, Bangladesh has achieved a lot in its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people. The country's Parliament passed a number of laws addressing the political, socio-economic and cultural rights of groups like women, children, ethnic minorities, workers and the socially marginalised sections of the population.

The Government adopted new policies such as the National Education Policy; the National Child Labour Elimination Policy; the National Child Rights Policy; and the National Women Development Policy. The Government also set up a Legal Aid Department in order to facilitate poor citizens' access to justice and enforcement of their rights.

In fulfilment of its international obligations, Bangladesh ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families. The country also played host to the Special Rapporteurs on water and sanitation while the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences has been invited to visit this year.

The Zimbabwean delegation wishes to recommend that Bangladesh should:

- Further accelerate its pro-people, pro-poor socio-economic development agenda under its Vision 2021 so as to empower the less privileged sections of the population; and
- Accelerate the work it has started aimed at strengthening its reporting capacity to some Treaty Bodies.

Finally, the delegation wishes the Government and people of Bangladesh great success in all their endeavours.

Thank you.