

**STATEMENT BY THE ZIMBABWE MISSION ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CAMEROON : 1 MAY 2013**

Mr President,

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Cameroon and commends them for a comprehensive report outlining activities undertaken to implement the recommendations arising from the country's first cycle review.

It is noteworthy that Cameroon has enhanced its strategic, normative and institutional framework. In order to improve governance and the rule of law, the Government established the National Action Plan for Human Rights Promotional Protection, which, based on an inventory, identifies short and medium term priority actions as well as strategies to implement individual rights and civil liberties.

In order to strengthen its normative framework, Cameroon ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts. In addition, the country has co-operated with the Treaty Bodies it is party to by submitting its periodic reports timeously.

As a way of reinforcing human rights culture, various Government bodies responsible for human rights issues; the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms and civil society organisations have conducted activities such as seminars, workshops and awareness campaigns. The public awareness campaigns covered essential topics such as women's specific rights, children's rights and rights of the disabled.

In addition, a National Human Rights Education Programme for all levels of education was developed. Coupled with this is the inclusion of modules on human rights in the curricula of training courses for the

police, gendarmerie, prison administration and army staff as well as judicial and legal officers.

Cameroon has constructively co-operated with Special Procedures as evidenced by the visit to the country in July 2012 of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food as well as its extension of invitations to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and the Independent Expert on minority issues.

The Zimbabwe delegation recommends that Cameroon should:

- Further strengthen and expand its human rights education and awareness schemes to include a greater number of relevant organisations and citizens; and
- Further improve conditions in social sectors, particularly health and education service delivery to the less privileged.

Finally, we wish the Government and people of Cameroon great success in all their endeavours.

Thank you