



**STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA – 1ST MAY, 2013.**

Mr. President,

Zambia welcomes the Cuban delegation to the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. Zambia commends Cuba for her continued commitment to the UPR process and efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights by implementing most of the recommendations since the country's last review.

Zambia acknowledges the many measures and initiatives the country has embarked on during the last four years including the ratification of a number of international instruments in ensuring continued enjoyment of human rights for its citizens. We note in particular the rights of the child, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities which have been adequately addressed.

The achievement of some Millennium Development Goals among them the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, universal primary education, reduction of under five child mortality and the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is a reflection of Cuba's commitment and determination to strengthening the institutional human rights system.

Mr. President

While Cuba continues to explore all options available for improving the current system for protecting human rights, Zambian recommends that she continues with the reforms that the government has embarked on.

I thank you Mr. President

