

STATEMENT BY THE ZIMBABWE DELEGATION ON THE
OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF
CUBA: 1 MAY 2013

Mr President,

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The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Cuba and thanks them for the detailed National Report on the activities the country has undertaken since its first cycle review.

Cuba has commendably continued to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights of its people. In this regard, reference is made to the adoption by the National Assembly of the People of the Economic and Social Policy Outline, aimed at guaranteeing sustainable development and social progress.

Cuba has laid a strong and enduring basis for the promotion and protection of human rights by ensuring a balance between civil political rights and social economic and cultural rights including the right of development.

Cuba continues to cooperate with UN human rights instruments and mechanisms as evidenced by the fact that following its last review, it ratified the International Convention for the Protection

of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, making it party to 42 human rights instruments. In addition, the country has maintained its record of submitting its reports to the various Treaty Bodies timeously.

Needless to mention that Zimbabwe appreciates Cuba's international assistance in the area of health, from which Zimbabwe continues to benefit immensely, especially in the supply of medical, personnel and training services.

The Zimbabwe delegation recommends that Cuba should:

- Further strengthen the legal and institutional framework to enable it to better promote and protect the human rights of its people;
- Expand and improve its socio-economic infrastructure and policies to enhance social justice; and
- Continue to positively engage with UN human rights instruments and mechanisms.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe wishes the Government and people of Cuba well in all their endeavours.

Thank you.