

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

Mr President,

The Zimbabwean delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation and sincerely thanks them for the detailed National Report on the efforts being made to implement the recommendations which the country accepted during its first cycle review.

It is clear that the Russian Federation has made commendable progress in its continuing efforts to strengthen the statutory and structural aspects of the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people. For instance, regarding the upholding of women's rights, a Co-ordination Committee on Gender Issues was set up at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to address issues of discrimination against women.

In compliance with its international human rights obligations, the Russian Federation ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The country played host to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Pillay; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; the Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations among others

In addition, the Russian Federation has continued to make annual voluntary contributions of USD2 million to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights budget since 2006.

The Zimbabwean delegation recommends that the Russian Federation should continue to vigorously pursue policies designed to enhance social security and welfare of its citizens to ensure a meaningful reduction in the number of people living on incomes below the absolute poverty threshold.

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

Thank you.