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**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UPR OF
THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT: 5 NOVEMBER 2014**

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Mr President,

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes and thanks the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the comprehensive report on the country's activities to protect the human rights of its people.

The country should be commended for putting in place broad-based measures to safeguard economic, social and cultural rights, for instance in the areas of illiteracy eradication, social insurance payments, minimum wages for state employees, provision for housing for targeted groups such as limited-income families, single women, persons with disabilities and employment creation.

In the area of empowerment of women and respect of their rights, the Government has guaranteed the adequate representation of women in Parliament by decreeing that at least ½ of candidates on electoral lists and at least ½ of those appointed by the President are women. Other measures in this regard include financial assistance for women to embark on self-help small and medium sized projects and the establishment of telephone hotlines for reporting incidents of violence, rape and indecent assault against women.

In the area of health, health care facilities have been established in every village and population centre throughout the country to ensure easy access to medical services at the local level.

In the area of human rights education and awareness, the Government has developed school curricula with a focus on citizens' human rights and general freedoms while training has been offered to police officers.

Egypt has shown willingness to cooperate with international human rights bodies. For instance, following its first UPR in February 2010, the country welcomed the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons two months later in April.

We recommend that Egypt should extend its human rights education and awareness programme to target more public service officials such as judges, ~~pension~~^{prison} officers, etc.

I thank you