



**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW OF NIGER- 18TH JANUARY 2016**

Mr President;

Zambia welcomes the delegation of Niger and commend it for the positive achievements outlined in the report. We note that despite difficulties and impediments Niger is facing in its efforts to promote and protect human rights, it has made priorities and taken initiatives and commitments aimed at fulfilling its obligations in ensuring that, that rule of law and respect for human rights are upheld.

However, Zambia calls upon the Republic of Niger to consider:-

1. Withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
2. Domesticate the instruments it has ratified, particularly those concerning the rights of women and children; and
3. Enact laws to combat slavery.

Further, Zambia urges Niger to include the definition of discrimination in the country legislation and that, the Criminal Code should be in line with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Convention on the Rights of the child.



Lastly, Zambia notes report's content that harmful traditional practices notably, female genital mutilation (GFM) against women and children still remain a wide spread practice in some parts of Niger. In this regard, Zambia calls upon Niger to take necessary steps aimed at eliminating this harmful practice.

I thank you