**STATEMENT READ BY AMBASSADOR NJABULISO GWEBU AT THE TWENTY SIXTH SESSION OF UPR WORKING GROUP SESSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE- 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

Vice President , Swaziland warmly welcomes the delegation of Zimbabwe led by His Excellency, the Vice President, Mr. Emerson Mnangagwa, and thanks them for presenting a comprehensive report.

My delegation commends the Government of Zimbabwe for work done since their review in 2011, to strengthen and where necessary, create the institutions to give effect to the recommendations received. The adoption of the new Constitution in 2013, paved the way for the reinforcement of the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of Human Rights by establishing new institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC); and is a positive development.

Close to the heart of my delegation are the human rights of women and children, and in this regard, we would like to congratulate the government of Zimbabwe for outlawing child marriages and also realigning inheritance laws, especially for women. We further laud The Broad Based Women Economic Empowerment Framework which is being implemented and has resulted in an increase in women’s participation in economic sectors such as agriculture and mining.

We applaud government efforts to prioritise sustainable agriculture and to continuously ensure that Education and Health Ministries receive the highest budget allocation. Therefore, fostering sustainable development.

Chair, my delegation welcomes the efforts made by the government of Zimbabwe , despite the unavailability of sufficient resources, to protect and preserve the dignity of persons living with disabilities; by raising the profile and visibility of these persons in the media and encouraging their participation in higher learning through accelerated funding.

**Finally**, chairperson, my delegation wishes to acknowledge Zimbabwe's past co-operation with special mandate holders in the discharge of their functions, and we call on this spirit of collegiality and transparency to continue for the betterment of all.

We wish the delegation of Zimbabwe a successful UPR Review and Outcomes.

I thank you.