**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**26th Session –2 November 2016**

**STATE UNDER REVIEW: ZIMBABWE**

**(Intervention by Turkey)**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Zimbabwe and thank them for their substantive presentation.

Turkey appreciates that Zimbabwe has always been meticulous about rights, protection and implementation of the laws regarding children, women, gender equality and persons with disabilities. We believe that the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe will continue to cooperate with the relevant institutions to ensure to enhance the human rights.

Turkey is pleased to note that following its first review in 2011, Zimbabwe made improvements in its legislation in order to promote and protect human rights. In this context, we particularly welcome the adoption of the National Gender Policy, National Child Rights Policy and Zimbabwe Gender Commission Act.

Furthermore, Turkey encourages the Government of Zimbabwe to strengthen its efforts for the promotion and protection of women’s rights in various fields.

Turkey would like to **recommend** the following:

1. Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.
2. Continue to adopt measures to increase the rate of issuance of birth certificates, especially in rural areas and in low-income households.
3. Adopt measures to prevent and eliminate all abuses of sexual violence against girls and women, ensuring that perpetrators are effectively held to account, including with full coordination of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission.
4. Sign and ratify the two Optional Protocols of ICCPR, as well as the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol.
5. Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources to increase the quality of education, including to improve schools’ infrastructure.

Finally, we wish Zimbabwe all the success during its 2nd UPR.

I thank you Mr. President.