**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 26th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Zimbabwe.

We commend Zimbabwe for holding the referendum which resulted in the adoption of a new Constitution in 2013. Full implementation of the new Constitution is important for the protection and promotion of human rights. **Australia recommends Zimbabwe accelerate implementation of the new Constitution and alignment of relevant legislation, including for the various Commissions established under the Constitution.**

We support Zimbabwe’s Human Rights Commission. **Australia recommends, as it has previously, Zimbabwe provide the necessary resources and technical capacity for this institution to function as provided for in the Constitution.**

Australia remains deeply concerned about freedom of expression and assembly**. The new Constitution** provides for such freedoms, but the draft Computer Crime and Cybercrime Bill, and the Public Order and Security Act restricts them. **Australia recommends Zimbabwe amend these legislative provisions to align with the 2013 Constitution.**

Australia remains concerned with the disappearance of Itai Dzamara and calls for an end to the harassment and detention of parliamentarians and civil society members. We note the recent increases in politically-motivated violence, and continue to call for an end to such violence.

**Australia recommends Zimbabwe establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**