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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 26TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP (31ST OCTOBER – 11TH NOVEMBER, 2016)**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF ZIMBABWE ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED**

**BY ALEXANDER BEN-ACQUAAH, MINISTER COUNSELLOR**

I thank you, Mr. President.

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Zimbabwe and commends them for the all-inclusive approach in the preparation of their national report, as well as the formation of a National UPR Steering Committee, through which the government is conducting public awareness campaigns on human rights.

Ghana applauds the government and people of Zimbabwe for the adoption of the 2013 Constitution. We note that apart from its more expansive Declaration of Rights, the Constitution strengthened the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights by establishing new institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, the National Prosecuting Authority, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

Ghana **recommends** that the Government of Zimbabwe endeavors to fully implement the constitution and operationalize the key human rights promotion institutions that it establishes.

Ghana also **recommends** the following for the consideration of Zimbabwe:

1. Strengthen efforts to increase women’s access to health-care facilities and medical assistance in order to address the prevailing high maternal mortality rate.
2. Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrants and their Families (ICRMW), International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED), and Convention Against Torture (CAT).
3. Submit overdue reports to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) treaty bodies.
4. Issue standing invitations to all special procedure mandate holders.
5. Adopt legislation guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value and temporary special measures, such as quotas aimed at achieving de facto equality of opportunity for men and women in the labour market.
6. Ensure access to justice and adequate specialized education facilities, as well as provide public infrastructure necessary to accommodate persons with disabilities and children.

We wish Zimbabwe a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President.