**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE DURING THE 3RD CYCLE UPR OF THE PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA: 8 MAY 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes and thanks the delegation of Algeria for their report, which in the main dwells on developments that have taken place since the country’s last review.

It is noted that Algeria continues to pursue the institutional, political and socio-economic reform process launched in 2011, which culminated in the adoption of Constitutional amendments on 7 February 2016, including innovative provisions in the sphere of human rights.

The establishment of the National Human Rights Council with legal status and financial and administrative autonomy, and the Office of the National Child Protection Ombudsman have enhanced Algeria’s efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights. Furthermore, the Government has introduced human rights awareness-raising and training to judges and prosecutors, police, armed forces and prison staff.

In terms of social services, Algeria offers the following: universal access to free and non-discriminatory health care; support for the integration of children with disabilities into their family, educational and socioeconomic environments; and free education up to tertiary level as well as compulsory attendance for children between the ages of 6 and 16.

Regarding cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, Algeria in 2010 extended an invitation to seven mandate holders, with five of them having already visited the country to date, including those by the Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Education and Right to Health in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The country has also submitted its 20th and 21st reports relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and 4th periodic report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among others.

Zimbabwe recommends that Algeria:

* Strengthens ongoing schemes to reduce unemployment, particularly among the youth; and
* Consolidates measures to ensure gender parity and combat violence against women.

I thank you, Mr President.