**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE DURING THE 3RD CYCLE UPR OF INDIA: 4 MAY 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes and thanks the delegation of India for their report outlining the country's endeavours towards fulfilling its human rights obligations. It is noted that India is continuing with its efforts to progressively implement the accepted recommendations arising from its last review, the majority of them pertaining to socio-economic rights.

To ensure inclusive and equitable development, India has put in place a set of socio-economic policies to address the various basic needs of the people, including health, education, housing, poverty alleviation, women empowerment, food security and social security. An example of this commitment is the Stand-Up India Scheme launched in 2016 to facilitate the provision of loans to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women entrepreneurs for the setting up of greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, service or trading sectors.

India has shown commitment to instil a human rights culture in public officials as exemplified by the provision of training in human rights as well as humane methods of enforcement to security personnel such as police officers.

Regarding cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, it is noted that India has issued a standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate holders to visit the country. As a result, 10 mandate holders have visited since 2000, including the latest one by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing in 2016.

Zimbabwe recommends that India:

* Takes steps towards improving access to health, especially access to maternal health, to adequate obstetric delivery services so as to reduce maternal and child mortality; and
* Accelerates the process of consolidating existing labour laws to, inter alia, promote the right to equal opportunity for work and at work, as well as to achieve occupational safety.

I thank you, Mr President.