**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE DURING THE UPR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA: 10 MAY 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes the South African delegation and thanks them for their report, which provides an update on the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country, and also highlights progress on the implementation of the recommendations it received at the last review. South Africa's commitment to the realisation of human rights is self evident from the legislative enactments, policies and programmes that it has initiated to meet its domestic and international obligations.

South Africa has established a number of institutions to support the realisation of human rights. These include the South African Human Rights Commission, which is an overarching body responsible for promoting respect for human rights and a culture of human rights, the Commission on Gender Equality and the Public Protector.

In the area of social services, South Africa has devised the following sectoral policy measures, among others:

* In the area of housing, as at March 2016, the Government continues to provide houses to the most vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women, and persons with disabilities;
* On education, a pro-poor and pro-equity approach and increased resource allocations have resulted in an increase in access to education;
* On social security, different types of grants are provided to those who are unable to support themselves and their dependents, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities;
* On health, access has been improved to health care services, including reproductive health care and emergency medical care.

With respect to its international obligations, South Africa on 12 January 2015 ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and has also duly submitted a number of country reports in compliance with its reporting obligations.

Zimbabwe recommends that South Africa:

* Strengthens its policy and programmatic measures aimed at addressing the big challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment; and
* Consolidates its ongoing programmes to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

I thank you, Mr President.