**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE DURING THE UPR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA: 2 MAY 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes and thanks the delegation of Tunisia for their report highlighting the legal, institutional and practical initiatives undertaken by the country with a view to promoting and protecting human rights, and implementing the recommendations arising from its last review. The country should be commended for submitting a mid-term report in 2014.

In the area of social services, Tunisia has embarked on a comprehensive reform of the health sector to guarantee access to health care services and enjoyment of the best possible state of health. Regarding education, efforts are underway to universalise the school preparatory year by making it free and compulsory, as well as improving access to university level institutions and higher institutes of technology.

A number of measures have been taken to disseminate a human rights culture, including human rights training for practising judges and public prosecutors, prison staff, the police, armed services and child welfare officers.

In terms of cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, Tunisia in 2011 issued an open invitation to the Special Procedures and has since hosted 15 visits by Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups, including 10 during the past four years. During 2016, the country presented its reports to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Zimbabwe recommends that Tunisia:

* Accelerates the alignment of national legislation with a bearing on human rights to the new Constitution adopted in 2014, including that relating to the prevention and criminalisation of violence against women and children; and
* Strengthens its efforts to reduce extreme poverty, exclusion and marginalisation.

I thank you, Mr President.