

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS & PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

**ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**Universal Periodic Review of Zambia**

**13 November 2017**

**Statement by Mauritius**

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks Hon. Given Lubinda, Minister of Justice, for the comprehensive presentation of the UPR Report of Zambia, and for its engagement with the UPR process.

Mauritius commends Zambia for its commitment to human rights as evidenced by the positive measures it has taken since its last UPR, in reviewing its domestic laws and institutions, improving good governance and accountability, promoting civil rights, eliminating discrimination, improving human rights education and training and amongst others.

My delegation welcomes the pledges made by Zambia under its seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021 to provide social protection for its citizens including the poor and the vulnerable, and to ensure they have equal rights and access to social services and economic resources with a view to eliminating poverty, reducing social exclusion and improving their productive capacities. We also note that human rights and the environment is one of the priorities in the Zambia's 7th Development Plan.

We are encouraged by the continued efforts of Zambia to improve the rights of women, including the establishment of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission and the Anti-Gender-based Violence Fund. In this regards, my delegation recommends that Zambia considers ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Woman.

We wish Zambia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.