**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN: 10 NOVEMBER 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Benin for their national report. It is noted that Benin has taken various measures aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights and complying with its international obligations.

During the period under review, Benin has adopted a number of legislative measures such as creating the Human Rights Commission and the Children’s Code. In addition, it has adopted and implemented some policy measures, including the development of the national action plans to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour and racial discrimination.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, specific measures have been taken to promote youth employment and rights to water, food, housing, health and education.

Benin has made strides towards fulfilling its international obligations, including through submitting its reports relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ICCPR.

It is recommended that Benin:

* Accelerates the promulgation of the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and human trafficking; and
* Brings its national legislation into conformity with the provisions of the international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

I thank you, Mr President.