**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA: 7 NOVEMBER 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Ghana for their report, which focuses on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations from the country’s last review. Ghana has shown readiness to promote human rights and to continue to strengthen institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, Ghana has taken a number of specific measures to increase access to and improve the quality of social services, reduce poverty and promote overall socio-economic development. Such measures include the community-based Health and Planning Services, free compulsory universal basic education, livelihood empowerment against poverty and justice for all programmes.

In terms of its international obligations, Ghana has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

My delegation recommends the following:

* That Ghana strengthens its existing initiatives to end Early, Forced Child Marriage; and
* Introduces measures to promote full and active participation of women in public life.

I thank you, Mr President.