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

Thank you Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Pakistan for their report, which covers developments since the country’s previous review. It is clear that Pakistan is committed to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens.

Pakistan has introduced a wide range of legislative, legal, policy and institutional measures during the period under review to strengthen the human rights architecture. This includes the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights. The Government has launched a National Action Plan on Human Rights consisting of identified thematic areas with clearly spelt out expected outcomes, including human rights education, sensitisation, awareness raising, research, communication and legal assistance for poor victims of human rights violations.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, Pakistan has continued to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged between 5 and 16 years. In addition, its National Health Vision 2016-25 aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage in the country.

Regarding its international obligations, Pakistan has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and submitted its periodic reports to relevant Treaty Bodies.

My delegation recommends that Pakistan:

* Strengthens measures to ensure the participation of minorities in all spheres of national life; and
* Accelerates the domestication of provisions of international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

I thank you, Mr President