**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA: 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

Thank you Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Zambia for their report, which focuses on the efforts taken to implement the recommendations from the 2nd cycle review and some of the strategies that have been adopted to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Zambia. The adoption of the 7th National Development Plan (2017-2021) has allowed the Government to streamline its human rights development activities to make them more effective.

It is noted that Zambia has reviewed and formulated various pieces of legislation to align its domestic laws with international human rights instruments, including the Persons with Disabilities Act, Higher Education Act, Gender Equity and Equality Act and the Public Protector Act. Also of note is that the subject of human rights has been included in the school curriculum and training modules for defence and security personnel.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, an infrastructure development programme has been rolled out countrywide to build roads and bridges, hospitals, schools, water reticulation systems, among others. A National Health Strategic Plan to combat various ailments including the HIV/AIDS pandemic was developed. In order to broaden access to education, the Education for All National Policy was revised so as to open the door to additional learners.

My delegation recommends that Zambia:

* Accelerates the process of domestication of international human rights instruments to which it is a party; and
* Expands its programme to boost birth registration to cover more outlying areas.

I thank you, Mr President.