**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE NIGER: 3 MAY 2021**

Thank you, Madam President,

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of the Niger for their report.

During the period under review, progress was made in the Niger with regards to the rights to health, education, food security, rights of vulnerable persons, reform of judicial and penitentiary systems, and the ratification of international human rights instruments.

Several pieces of legislation were adopted to enhance the protection of human rights, including those dealing with the following: social security; protection and assistance for internally displaced persons; integration of persons with disabilities; and protection of personal data. In addition, a National Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Strategy, National Action Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour, and Policy for Protecting Children against Abuse, were adopted.

My delegation recommends that the Niger:

* Accelerates ongoing awareness campaigns to eliminate child, forced and early marriages; and
* Adapt its domestic legislation to bring it into line with international and regional human rights instruments.

I thank you, Madam President.