**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: 12 MAY 2021**

Thank you, Madam President,

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

During the period under review, commendable developments have taken place in Singapore, including the following: amendment of the Penal Code to strengthen protection for children and youths against sexual exploitation; increase in women’s participation in politics and public service; social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in areas such as education, employment, transport, health, adult care, accessibility and technology; and adoption of the National Approach against Trafficking in Persons (2016 – 2026) to combat trafficking and support victims.

In order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore put in place social safety nets to provide help to low-income and vulnerable citizens. Beyond the pandemic, Singapore has also taken bold steps to strengthen the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

My delegation recommends that Singapore:

* Continues its efforts to ensure greater representation of women in politics and public services, as well as on boards of listed companies and statutory entities.

I thank you, Madam President.