**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 40th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe**

**Statement by Australia**

**26 January 2022**

Thank you.

Australia welcomes Zimbabwe’s continuing approach towards the death penalty which has remained abolitionist in practice.

Australia recommends that **Zimbabwe:**

1. **Take all necessary steps to ensure free and fair Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2023, including facilitating access to identity documentation and voter registration.**
2. **Take all necessary steps to ensure civil society actors and human rights defenders can operate freely without fear of intimidation or reprisals.**
3. **Ensure that allegations of human rights abuses are promptly and transparently investigated and perpetrators held to account.**
4. **Impose an official moratorium on the death penalty with immediate effect, commute all existing death sentences to terms of imprisonment, and abolish the death penalty in national legislation.**
5. **Repeal all laws and policies discriminating against LGBTI persons and amend laws to ensure their rights and freedoms are safeguarded.**