

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**40th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Zimbabwe**

*Geneva, 26 January 2022*

Excellency,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Zimbabwe for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* Criminalize child marriage and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators.
* Abolish corporal punishment in all settings, and strengthen child protection systems in full compliance with international human rights obligations.
* Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Slovenia remains deeply concerned over the fact that one third of Zimbabwean girls are being married under the age of 18. We are concerned also about the use of corporal punishment for disciplinary purposes upon minor male pupils or students.

At the same time Slovenia commends Zimbabwe for strengthening the law to guarantee education as a basic human right by ensuring that no pupil shall be excluded from school on the basis of non-payment of school fees.

Thank you.