**40th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Zimbabwe**

**26 January 2022**

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Cabo Verde warmly welcomes the delegation of Zimbabwe to this third cycle review and expresses our appreciation for Zimbabwe’s engagement in this process.

The delegation of Cabo Verde commends Zimbabwe for all the achievements made in the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly in the field of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

We positively note the importance Zimbabwe has been attaching to the issue of gender equality and women empowering as one of the priorities for sustainable socioeconomic transformation, though special attention should be paid as well to a specific gender equality law as well as the marginalization of women in many contests.

Though we commend Zimbabwe for improvements in law enforcement training, including those focusing on human rights, we express concern about reported alleged disappearances and torture that appeared to be aimed at suppressing protests and government dissent, and we encourage the authorities to take further steps to ensure that the Constitution is respected.

In constructive spirit, the Republic of Cabo Verde presents the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
2. Adopt a gender equality law that covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination and encompasses direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and the private spheres.

We commend Zimbabwe’s commitment to protection of human rights and wish you a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Chair