**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: 24 JANUARY 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of Syria for its report.

During the period under review, Syria made great strides towards protecting the human rights of the Syrian people and fulfilling its international obligations, in spite of the negative effects of the unilateral coercive measures that have been imposed on the country.

The country continued to provide basic services such as healthcare, nutrition and education, and to subsidise certain goods and services such as bread, electricity and water.

The country created national committees to follow up on the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations from the Treaty Bodies overseeing the Treaties to which it is a party.

My delegation recommends that Syria:

* Continues to work on its plans to create a national human rights institution; and
* Strengthens social protection floors catering for the vulnerable groups in society.

I thank you, Mr President!