**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: 25 JANUARY 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

During the period under review, Venezuela continued to pursue its main public policy objectives to combat inequality and reduce poverty, in spite of the negative effects of the unilateral coercive measures that have been imposed on the country.

The Government undertook the following measures, among others: subsidised public services such as transport, electricity, fuel and water; provided free healthcare and public education services; and increased budgetary allocations to social protection programmes for vulnerable persons and groups.

The country submitted periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies that monitor progress in respect of persons with disabilities, migrant workers, women, children and racial discrimination.

My delegation recommends that Venezuela strengthens ongoing programmes designed to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of vulnerable and marginalised groups in society.

I thank you, Mr President!