**National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad during the 3rd UPR Review of Zimbabwe**

**40th UPR Session**

**26 January 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We welcome and thank the delegation of Zimbabwe for the comprehensive presentation of its 3rd UPR report.

We commend Zimbabwe’s cooperation with the UPR mechanism.

Despite challenges posed by resource constraints, climate change and unilateral sanctions, we acknowledge Zimbabwe’s efforts to promote and protect human rights including through legislative and administrative steps, aligning these with international obligations. Amending Criminal Law Act, strengthening laws against domestic violence and developing mechanisms to ensure food security are positive developments.

We appreciate the launch of Vision 2030 and follow-up Development Strategy to promote macro-economic stability and realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

We recommend Zimbabwe to:

* Continue its cooperation with Human Rights Council and its mechanisms including Special Procedures.
* Continue to take steps aimed at successful implementation of National Development Strategy.
* Seek international assistance in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on economic and agriculture sectors.

I thank you.