**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA: 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of South Africa for its report.

We note that, during the period under review, South Africa adopted legislative, policy and administrative measures to improve the enjoyment of human rights by the citizens.

These measures include those designed to:

* Improve the healthcare system and to provide universal access to healthcare;
* Advance women’s empowerment and gender equality; and
* Combat harmful cultural practices, such as virginity testing and female genital mutilation, particularly against women and girls.

Regarding its international obligations, South Africa issued a standing invitation to all thematic UN Special Procedures mandate holders and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

My delegation recommends that South Africa continues to strengthen the ongoing programmes aimed at tackling the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

I thank you, Mr President.