**43RD SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**10 May 2023**

**Speaking time: 01 minute and 15 seconds**

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR STUART H. COMBERBACH**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE**

**Mr. Vice President,**

Zimbabwe welcomes the esteemed delegation of Serbia to its 4th UPR, and takes the opportunity to extend our deepest condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the unfortunate events in Belgrade.

We commend Serbia on the presentation of their national report and for the progress made to address the accepted recommendations from the 3rd UPR cycle. We welcome steps taken to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights, through the adoption of laws and legislation, judicial reform, and the establishment of human rights-related institutions such as the Council for Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendations of UN Human Rights Mechanisms.

In the spirit of constructiveness, Zimbabwe recommends the following:

1. Intensify efforts to abolish child marriage through the amendment of the Family Law.
2. Institute measures to ensure the effective protection of all victims of gender-based violence, including through the establishment of victim-friendly centres at police stations.
3. Step up efforts towards the empowerment of all women, including through access to paid employment and economic activity.

We wish the Republic of Serbia a successful review outcome.

**I thank you.**