**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: 22 JANUARY 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of Vietnam for their report. During the period under review, Vietnam worked on improving the country’s legal, institutional and policy frameworks with a view to, inter alia, reducing poverty, guaranteeing food security, improving nutrition, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, protecting gender equality and rights of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, Vietnam has strengthened and broadened its human rights education and awareness programme by introducing human rights curricula in primary and secondary schools and universities.

My delegation recommends that Vietnam:

* Continues to strengthen the legal, institutional and policy frameworks in order to enhance the protection of human rights; and
* Ensure that its policies are people-centred, especially in terms of supporting vulnerable groups.

I thank you, Mr. President.