**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE STATE OF ERITREA: 28 JANUARY 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of Eritrea for their report. During the period under review, Eritrea devised a number of initiatives to enhance economic, social and cultural rights. These include, *inter alia*, transformation of agricultural practices to ensure food security and reduce poverty, introduction of an 8-year compulsory basic education policy and expansion and strengthening of health facilities to address issues of access and quality.

Eritrea acceded to the Convention against Torture and the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

My delegation makes the following recommendations:

* That Eritrea streamlines existing macro policies and programmes to make them more inclusive and sustainable; and
* Strengthen the enforcement of measures to combat FGM, early marriage and child labour.

I thank you, Mr. President.