**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D’ IVOIRE: 7 MAY 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Cote d’ Ivoire for their report.

During the period under review, Cote d’ Ivoire developed a national plan of action to implement the recommendations that it received as well as the commitments that it made during the second cycle review.

Furthermore, a national development plan for the period 2016-2020, whose strategic pillars include strengthening the quality of institutions and good governance, accelerating the development of human capital and the promotion of social wellbeing, was adopted.

The Government has put in place measures designed to, *inter alia*, make schooling compulsory up to the age of 16, increase access to healthcare, promote gender equality and women empowerment, and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and albinism.

My delegation recommends that Cote d’ Ivoire:

* Consolidates existing measures to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment; and
* Accelerate the ongoing process to harmonise national legislation with the provisions of international human rights treaties.

I thank you, Mr President.