**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: 7 MAY 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their report.

During the period under review, the DRC adopted a number of legislative measures to, *inter alia*, enhance the realisation of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. Crucially, the National Human Rights Commission was operationalised.

The Government launched programmes designed to, *inter alia*, provide clean water to rural and peri-urban areas and promote youth employment. Furthermore, a national action plan was adopted for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

My delegation recommends that the DRC:

* Improves access to basic social services, especially for the most vulnerable members of the population; and
* Increase political representation of women in the national and provincial legislatures.

I thank you, Mr President.