**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA: 13 MAY 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Equatorial Guinea for their report.

During the period under review, Equatorial Guinea developed the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, which is mainly targeted at combating poverty.

To this end, the Government has boosted budgetary allocations to the social sector so as to strengthen human capacity and improve the quality of life. Investments in this area have gone primarily to the construction of hospitals, polyclinics, education and healthcare centres.

Equatorial Guinea ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

My delegation recommends that Equatorial Guinea:

* Expands its poverty alleviation programme to further consolidate social well-being and equity; and
* Introduce awareness raising, training and education, and prevention campaigns to combat violence against women.

I thank you, Mr President.