**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA: 14 MAY 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Ethiopia for their report.

We commend Ethiopia for pursuing a series of civil and political reforms to enhance the protection of human rights as well as to widen the democratic space.

The Government has put in place measures designed to, *inter alia*, promote food security, social security, equitable access to healthcare and education and the empowerment of vulnerable groups.

It is noteworthy that Ethiopia has made great strides in the area of political representation of women by electing the first female Head of State and achieving gender parity at Cabinet level through the appointments of women to 50% of the Ministerial posts.

My delegation recommends that Ethiopia:

* Strengthens existing measures designed to reduce poverty and enhance inclusive social development; and
* Accelerate the process to domesticate provisions of the international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

I thank you, Mr President.