**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION OF THE RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI: 3 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Madam President,

Zimbabwe welcomes and thanks the delegation of Malawi for their report.

During the period under review, Malawi enacted legislation such as the Trafficking in Persons Act and the Access to Information Act. It also adopted policies and action plans, including the Gender Equality Act Implementation and Monitoring Plan (2016-2020), National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism and National Strategy on Ending Child Marriages (2018-2022).

A Constitutional Amendment in 2017 raised the age of the child from 16 to 18 years. In addition, the country has shifted from optional birth registration to universal compulsory registration.

My delegation recommends that Malawi:

* Streamlines the implementation of its laws and policies in order to ensure a qualitative change to the people’s lives; and
* Accelerate the process of institutional reforms so as to further improve the enjoyment and enforcement of human rights.

I thank you, Madam President.