

## ZIMBABWE

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW SECOND CYCLE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL MID-TERM REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL OCTOBER 2019**

ZIMBABWE UPR MID-TERM REPORT

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACDEG-African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance

ACHPR- African Charter on Human and

People’s Rights

AIPPA- Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

AIDS-Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome AMTO-Assisted Medical Treatment Order

ATIMC-Anti-Trafficking Interministerial Committee BEAM-Basic Education and Assistance Module BSA-Broadcasting Services Authority

BVR- Biometric Voter Registration CCZ- Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe

CEDPM-Committee on Environment Disaster Prevention and Management

CEDAW- Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

COI-Commission of Inquiry

CRC- International Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRPD- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CSA- Climate Smart Agriculture CSO- Civil Society Organisations DDF- District Development Fund DNA- Deoxyribonucleic Acid

DRM- Domestic Resource Mobilisation EVAWG-Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

GoZ- Government of Zimbabwe GBV-Gender Based Violence HDF- Health Development Fund

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Viruses HRC-Human Rights Council

ICDS- Inter-Censal Demography Survey

IEC- Information Education and Communication IMC- Inter-Ministerial Committee

IMT- Inter-Ministerial Taskforce IPV- Intimate Partner Violence JLOS- Justice Law and Order Sector JSC- Judicial Services Commission

MMR-Maternal Mortality Ratio

NAPLAC-National Plan of Action on Anti-trafficking NCCRS- National Climate Change Response Strategy NGO- Non-Governmental Organisations

NPA- National Prosecuting Authority

NPRC- National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

NSC- National Steering Committee

PICES-Poverty Income Expenditure Survey POLAD- Political Actors Dialogue

PUCs-Professional Updating Centres

SADC-Southern African Development Community SDG-Sustainable Development Goal

STEM-Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics

TIP-Trafficking in Persons

TSP-Transitional Stabilisation Program UPR- Universal Periodic Review

UN-United Nations

UNDP-United Nations Development Program UNFCCC-United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

VFCS- Victim Friendly Court System VOTs-Victims of Trafficking

WASH- Water Sanitation and Hygiene ZBC- Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation ZCC- Zimbabwe Council of Churches

ZDHS-Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey ZEC- Zimbabwe Electoral Commission

ZGC- Zimbabwe Gender Commission

ZHRC-Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission ZIDA- Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency

ZIDERA- Zimbabwe Democracy

and Economic Recovery Amendment

ZIMRA-Zimbabwe Revenue Authority ZITF-Zimbabwe International Trade Fair

ZLHR-Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights ZPCS-Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services ZPRS-Zimbabwe Population Registration System ZRP-Zimbabwe Republic Police

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# Background, Methodology and Report structure

1. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a United Nations (UN) Member-State driven peer review mechanism that provides the opportunity for each State to identify key human rights issues and challenges as well as periodically declare what actions it has taken to improve human rights situations and fulfil human rights obligations. Zimbabwe underwent review under the second cycle in November 2016. The Government accepted 151 recommendations in full and 6i in part. Subsequently, through the UPR National Steering Committee (NSC), the UPR National Plan of Action was revised.ii An implementation framework and database of recommendations were also developed with support from the UNDP.
2. Zimbabwe is due to present a voluntary mid-term report to the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council in 2019. This mid-term report provides actions undertaken, challenges faced, and new human rights issues in the implementation of second cycle recommendations since the last review. The NSC and its secretariat collected data and drafted the report.

# New Developments since last reviewiii

1. Since the last report submitted, Zimbabwe underwent significant political and economic changes which have been both a test and opportunity for upholding human rights principles and standards. Key changes include the resignation of the former President Robert Mugabe in November 2017; the endorsement of His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa as the new leader and his subsequent election on 30 July 2018.
2. These developments presented an opportunity for the people of Zimbabwe to foster reconciliation, national healing and integration as the country returns to the community of nations. The new Government reaffirmed its commitment to peace, dialogue and an open-door policy to resolve challenges facing the countryiv.
3. On the economic front, Zimbabwe launched the Transitional Stabilization Program October 2018 – December 2020 (TSP). The TSP is aimed at stabilising the economy, attracting investment, re-integrating the country into the global economy and laying a foundation for strong, shared and sustained growth.v It contains several key reform initiatives for promoting good governance as an essential ingredient for socio-economic development. However, challenges related to price increases, fuel and foreign currency shortages have stalled economic progress. Development Partners continue to play a complementary role in supporting targeted projects and programmes in health, humanitarian care, agriculture, capacity building, governance, water supply & sanitation, education and basic social services.vi

### Post-Election Commission of Inquiry (August-December 2018)

1. The elections conducted on 30 July 2018 were peaceful except for skirmishes which occurred on 1 August 2018, when many demonstrators took to the streets of Harare demanding the immediate release of the election results. These events, particularly those that occurred within Harare’s Central Business District, resulted in the death of six people, injury of 35, and damage to property.vii Subsequently, the

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President, appointed a Commission of Inquiry (COI or Motlanthe Commission)viii through Statutory Instrument 181 of 2018. In December 2018, the Motlanthe Commission produced a final report with findings and recommendations.

1. The recommendations included: -

* compensation for losses and damages caused (support and school fees for the children of the deceased);
* promotion of political tolerance, as well as responsible and accountable leadership and citizenry;
* Electoral reforms including the development of Information Communication Technology (ICT), to enhance the transparent and expeditious announcement of election results;
* The enforcement of law and order to prevent recurrence of the events of 1st of August 2018;
* Accountability in respect of the alleged perpetrators; and
* Nation building and reconciliation including an initiative for multi-party dialogue and cooperation.

1. Government continues to undertake legislative and administrative measures to ensure that the Commission’s recommendations are implemented. For example, in March 2019, President Emmerson Mnangagwa established an Inter-Ministerial Taskforce to lead political, electoral and legislative reforms. The taskforce terms of reference include:

* accelerating implementation of political, electoral and legislative reforms aimed at deepening the

country’s democratic processes;

* effecting ease of doing business reforms; and
* addressing issues arising from the reports by the 2018 election observer missions as well as the findings of the Motlanthe Commission.

### Stay-aways and Public Demonstrations (January 2019)

1. The Constitution guarantees the right to protest. During the week beginning 14 January 2019 Zimbabwe experienced public demonstrations which later turned violent. The demonstrations were characterized by wanton acts of violence; arson on private and state property worth millions of dollars; traffic barricades; harassment of motorists and indiscriminate looting of supermarkets and tuck-shops. This left the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) in a dilemma of balancing two equally important interests: the rights of those who genuinely took part in the demonstrations which were hijacked by looters and the rights of those citizens who looked up to the State to protect them for the looters. The State had a constitutionally enshrined duty to protect such citizens and to stop the loss of life. As a result, the GoZ deployed the army which, working under the command element of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), proportionally exercised force to clear the rioters from the street.
2. The police arrested individuals suspected of involvement and participation in public violence, looting and destruction of property and brought them to appear before various magistrates’ courts across the country. A total of 371 cases were brought before the courts between 14 January 2019 and 29 January

2019.ix 52% of the public violence cases that appeared before the courts during that period had

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unrepresented accused persons. About 37% of the cases were taken up by lawyers from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR).

* 48 adult suspects were granted bail.
* 12 juveniles were released into the custody of either their parents/guardians or social welfare officers on their appearance in court.
* 995 suspects were denied bailx.
* 146 persons went for trial. Out of those, 80 persons were convicted, and 66 persons were found not guilty and acquitted.

1. Pursuant to the public violence which took place in January 2019, the GoZ received and responded to various communications from Human Rights Council Mandate Holders and Special Rapporteurs on human rights under the African Human Rights System. (See section on cooperation with human rights mechanisms).

### National Dialogue Processes

1. The events in August 2018 and January 2019 are illustrative to the GoZ that the peace dividend can only be enjoyed through open dialogue, anchored on horizontal and vertical consultations as well as restorative ethos of justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and integration. This will insulate the country and its people from the recurrence of unfortunate incidences which leave blemishes on an otherwise peaceful nation. There are multiple opportunities for dialogue at national and sub-regional level. For example,

* The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) in January 2019, initiated a planning process for national dialogue with key stakeholders to jointly develop a framework for a comprehensive dialogue process. The NPRC outreach and planned hearings provide a foundation for dialogue on the country’s past.
* The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) held a national leaders prayer breakfast in February 2019. Churches remain committed to creating a shared space of trust for a collaborative national consensus-building process in which all Zimbabweans can shape a new national imaginationxi.
* A national Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) consisting of 21 leaders of different political parties was launched in May 2019. The leaders signed a Code of Conduct that governs their participation in the dialogue. The platform is designed to proffer solutions to the challenges that confront the nation, through peaceful, open and transparent discoursexii. Since its inception, POLAD developed an institutional framework for dialogue, formed four thematic committees and conducted 9 meetings. A road map and plan of action guide the implementation of resolutions adopted during meetings.
* The recently launched Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) provides a mechanism for social dialogue. The TNF Act was signed into law in June 2019. The Forum brings together government, business

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and labour to discuss, consult, negotiate social and economic issues and submit recommendations to Cabinet.

### Responses to Tropical Cyclone Idai

1. In March 2019, Zimbabwe was struck by Tropical Cyclone Idai which left a flood induced disaster and a trail of destruction in the greater part of the Eastern Highlands and some areas in the southern part of the country. Cyclone Idai’s unexpected destruction was overlaid on a searing drought which affected the 2018-2019 agricultural season. A total of 38 547 households were affected. By April 2019, the ascertained death toll stood at 268 with an estimated 265 missing persons and 190 injured, in addition to internal displacement, loss of homes, property and livelihoods.xiii The military and police were mobilized for search and rescue operations and airdropping of life-saving support as well as an ongoing effort to open road access to many of the affected wards that remained cut off as a result of damage of power and communication infrastructure. The aftermath of the cyclone triggered multiple response mechanisms spearheaded by the Government with support from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), development partners and individuals.
2. The GoZ launched a Tropical Cyclone Idai International Humanitarian Assistance Appeal for a total of USD$612,6 million. The Appeal covered food security and nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), emergency shelter and non-food items, health, education, protection, logistics and emergency telecommunication, environment, forestry and wildlife restoration.
3. A disaster-management system was instituted through the operation of the Cabinet Committee on Environment, Disaster Prevention and Management (CEDPM), with the support of a multi-sectoral expertise National Civil Protection Committee comprising of Government officials, UN agencies, selected Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), CSOs, Universities, the Private Sector and Churches. The most critical areas of intervention included:- intensification of searches for missing persons; restoration of road and communication infrastructure; rehabilitation of teaching and learning centres; provision of medical services; prevention of outbreaks of diseases and epidemics; provision of present and post psycho-social counselling especially to affected children, women and persons with disabilities; renovation and equipping of the national disaster management system and relocation of settlements to safer areas.
4. In April 2019, the UN and humanitarian partners launched a flash appeal requesting US$60 million to

complement the Government’s efforts to provide support for those affected by Cyclone Idai.

1. The World Bank announced, it would provide USD$75 million for the cyclone-response (early recovery interventions to be disbursed through UN agencies) to cover all affected districts with a focus on education, WASH, agriculture, transport, health and water infrastructure.
2. By 1 May 2019, the Government had directed all affected areas to switch from emergency to planning mode with food distributions conducted on a monthly schedule, prioritising the most affected areas. At

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least 1 654 internally displaced persons were sheltered and received relief assistance at seven holding centers in Chimanimani and Chipinge. 139 schools in six districts were impacted by Cyclone Idai, representing a significant risk to the learning and wellbeing of 90 847 school-aged girls and boys.xiv Efforts are underway to restore potable water supplies and livelihoods through borehole drilling and rehabilitation, canal desiltation and repair of pumping systems.xv Through the District Development Fund (DDF), funds were availed to flush boreholes, repair hand pumps and procure water transportation tanks for 10 severely affected districts.

# Implementation of Second Cycle Recommendations

### RATIFICATION, DOMESTICATION OF TREATIESxvi

1. Zimbabwe continued with efforts to ratify, domesticate and implement provisions of international human rights treaties.

* Zimbabwe ratified the Marrakesh treatyxvii which recognises the important role that Government and NGOs play in providing persons with disabilities access to alternative format materials (including published works for blind, visually impaired or print disabled persons).
* In April 2019, Zimbabwe ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)xviii which seeks to create a single market for goods, services and movement of persons in order to deepen the economic integration of the African continent.
* The SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour and the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (P029)xix were ratified in 2018. The SADC protocol seeks to *inter alia,* create a legal and policy framework for labour migration, promote gender equality in the employment and labour sector and domesticate basic human rights obligations within the SADC region. The P029

contains specific action against trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour.

* The GoZ is in the process of ratifying the UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The principles have been approved by Cabinet, pending Parliamentary processes. The Protocol is aimed preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants. It emphasizes the need to provide migrants with humane treatment, and the need for comprehensive international approaches to combating people smuggling, including socio-economic measures that address the root causes of migration.
* In June 2019, Zimbabwe transmitted an instrument of ratification for the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) to the African Union. This was after the Parliament of Zimbabwe passed a resolution approving the ACDEG in terms of Section 327 of the Constitution. The ACDEG enjoins States to promote, establish and entrench a culture of democracy, rule of law and human rights including guarantees of the rights of women, migrants, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. The Charter also obligates State parties to take necessary measures to promote constitutional transfer of power.

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1. Efforts towards domestication of international treaties include the incorporation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD and its optional protocol) into the Child Justice Bill and Persons with Disabilities Bill respectively. Further, recommendations from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women have been developed into a national action plan to ensure that they are implemented.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2013 CONSTITUTION AND ALIGNMENT OF LAWSxx

1. Under the auspices of the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce (IMT) on the Alignment of Laws with the Constitution, the GoZ continues efforts to put in place a concrete strategy to translate constitutional provisions into reality.
2. **Children and Family Laws**
3. The Children’s Act Amendment Bill sets the age of 18 as the age of sexual consent and seeks to align different interpretations in the definition of a child. The amendments to the Guardianship of Minors Act confer equal rights to both parents with regards to custody and guardianship. Consultations are currently underway on the Child Justice Bill. The Bill sets the minimum age of criminal responsibility at ten years; establishes a mechanism of dealing with children who lack criminal capacity; establishes child justice courts; enhances diversion of children in conflict with the law from the formal criminal justice system; promotes the best interests of the child and prevents child delinquency through restorative justice.
4. Consultations are underway for a comprehensive Marriages Bill that seeks to harmonise marriage laws in Zimbabwe and bring the governance of marriages under a single Act. The Marriages Bill 2017 criminalises the marriage of girls under the age of 18. The minimum age requirement extends to unregistered customary law and civil partnerships. The bill bans pledging of children in marriages and protects children in a marriage upon the dissolution of marriage whether by divorce or death.
5. Parliament held public hearings in April 2019 on the Education Act Amendment Bill which provides for, *inter alia,* the progressive realisation of the right to a basic State-funded education as enshrined in the Constitution. The Bill recognises the right to language and culture; the principle of best interests of the child in all matters; freedom from physical or psychological torture or cruel or inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment and the need to provide persons with disabilities with special facilities for their education.
6. **Justice, Law and Order**
7. As part of efforts to ensure quantitative and qualitative provision of justice by removing barriers to the rule of law, principles for the Constitutional and Supreme Court Amendment Bill were approved by Cabinet in April 2019. The Constitutional Court Amendment Bill provides for powers, practice and procedure of the Constitutional Court and its composition as prescribed in section 166 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court Amendment Bill incorporates constitutional provisions for the right to

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access justice for all persons; ensuring that every person has right of access to the courts or to some other tribunal or forum established by law for the resolution of any dispute, without any limitation; and equal protection of the law for all persons.

1. The rules regulating the procedures of all the courts were reviewed. The Constitutional Court and Magistrates Court Rules became operational in January 2018 and February 2019 respectively. The Supreme Court and Labour Court rules have been gazetted.
2. Principles for the Prisons Amendment Bill were approved in March 2019. The Bill seeks to enhance promotion and protection of the rights of inmates.
3. The Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe (CCZ)xxi in April 2019, prohibited sentencing of corporal punishment for male juveniles. The Court declared that judicial corporal punishment constitutes a serious violation of the inherent dignity of a male juvenile offender and declared section 353 of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act invalid to the extent that it contravenes Section 53 of the Constitution.
4. Principles for the Citizenship of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill were approved by Cabinet in February 2019. The Bill grants dual citizenship for citizens by birth in line with the Constitution.
5. The principles for the Police Amendment Bill were also approved by Cabinet in February 2019.
6. The Maintenance of Peace and Order Bill was gazetted on 19 April 2019. Parliament invited comments from the public on the Bill. One of the significant clauses in the Bill is the alignment to section 213 of the Constitution to ensure that the President as the Commander- in-Chief of the Defence Forces, authorises the deployment of soldiers to assist the police in maintaining law, order and suppression of civil commotion or disturbances in any police district.
7. **Media/Access to Information**
8. Efforts are underway to repeal the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). The principles for the draft Zimbabwe Media Commission, Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Information Bills were approved by Cabinet in February 2019. The Freedom of Information Bill is due to be gazetted and forwarded to Parliament. The Cyber, Data Protection and Electronic Transactions Bill seeks to mitigate security risks and cyber-crime related threats. Stakeholder consultations were conducted for the Draft Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill.
9. **Devolution**
10. The GoZ will give effect to Constitutional provisions on devolution through the Provincial and Metropolitan Councils Bill. Section 270 of the Constitution gives Provincial and Metropolitan Councils responsibility for socio-economic development of their provinces. This includes *inter alia,* co-ordinating and implementing governmental programmes; planning and implementing environmental conservation measures; promotion of tourism and monitoring the use of resources. The 2019 National Budget made

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provision for support (5% of Government revenues) to provinces based on Section 264 of the Constitution. An estimated $310 million in fiscal transfers was earmarked for support to Provincial Councils for 2019.xxii

### CREATING AND STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONSxxiii

1. An estimated $30,729 millionxxiv was allocated to institutions mandated to promote good governance and human rights through the 2019 National Budget. These include the: Zimbabwe Electoral Commission; Zimbabwe Gender Commission; Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission; Zimbabwe Media Commission; and National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, among others.
2. **National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC)**
3. The NPRC as provided for in terms of Section 251 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission Act 11 of 2017, has a mandate to *inter alia,* ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation through: complaints handling, mediation, conciliation, conflict prevention and management, non-recurrence, post-conflict reconciliation and peace building. The NPRC directly appropriates its budget from the Treasury to fund its activities and has a fully functional secretariat to support its day to day activities.
4. Through several programmes and initiatives outlined in its 5-year strategic plan, the NPRC played an important role in deepening peace, reconciliation, national healing and integration. Initiatives in the period under review include consultative outreach campaigns in the ten provinces of the country; and peace intermediary roles between political parties before, during and post harmonized elections of

2018.xxv In April 2019, the NPRC commenced community consultations with victims of the Gukurahundi disturbances which took place in the early 1980s.

1. **Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC)**
2. The ZHRC has been significantly involved in the UPR process from inception and contributed to development of the UPR National Plan Action. As part of its plan of work, the ZHRC tracks and monitors progress in implementation of recommendations and where necessary, continues to engage with line Ministries in the implementation of recommendations.
3. The ZHRC continued undertaking its Constitutionally mandated functions (monitor, assess and ensure observance of human rights and freedoms). For example, a recent monitoring visit by ZHRC noted that the standard of living of refugees at the Tongogara Refugee Camp had improved due to recommendations the Commission made in 2017.
4. **Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC)**
5. The ZGC has a fully-fledged secretariat and an independent budget funded by treasury to enable them to carry out their mandate. For example, in line with its Constitutional mandate, the ZGC in partnership with Oxfam Zimbabwe conducted a gender assessment on the impact of Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani District in May 2019. The assessment sought to identify gender protection gaps and make

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recommendations for the GoZ and humanitarian actors to adequately respond to gender inequalities, improve effectiveness and efficiency of response mechanisms.

1. **Independent Mechanism to deal with complaints against Police and Security Services**
2. Research on the draft Security Services Bill was completed. The Bill will give effect to Constitutional provisions for the establishment of an independent complaints’ mechanism.

### CO-OPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMSxxvi

1. **Mandate Holders/Communications and Appeals**
2. Zimbabwe remains committed to co-operating with human rights mechanisms and other relevant stakeholders. Currently, six Special Rapporteurs (SR) were invited for visits and two have responded with possible timelines for visits. The ACHPR Country Rapporteur made a request for a promotional visit in 2019. The SR on Rights to Freedom of Assembly and of Association visited Zimbabwe in September 2019, while the SR on the Right to Food is expected to visit Zimbabwe in November 2019.
3. In April and May 2019, the GoZ received and responded to the following Communications and Letters of Appeal from the Human Rights Council (HRC) Mandate Holders and African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteurs respectively:

* Communications by the HRC Special Procedure Mandate Holders Regarding Allegations of Violent Repression and Excessive Use of Force in the 14-16 January 2019 demonstrations;
* Letter of appeal from the ACHPR Country Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Republic of Zimbabwe regarding the allegations of violent suppression of protests, extra-judicial killings and the shutting down of the internet on 15-17 January 2019.
* ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa regarding the Situation of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in the Republic of Zimbabwe.
* Letters of Appeal from the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on reprisals in Africa with regards to allegations of Arbitrary Detention of Human Rights Defender Mr. Rashid Mahiya; arbitrary arrest and judicial harassment against Mr. Okay Machisa and Mr. Evan Mawarire.

1. Zimbabwe participated in the 64th session of the ACHPR in 2019. During the session, Zimbabwe provided further responses to the issues raised by the Special Rapporteurs. In responding to the above, the GoZ demonstrated full commitment towards co-operating with international human rights mechanisms dealing with various human rights issues.
2. **Human Rights Reporting**
3. Work is ongoing for the compilation and submission of all due reports to the respective treaty bodies through the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. For example, the CEDAW report was submitted in 2017. Zimbabwe is due to report on its 6th report in January 2020. At regional level, Zimbabwe submitted its report on the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights

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(ACHPR) and completed a draft report on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

1. Consultations are underway for the CRPD report.
2. The GoZ had completed drafts of ICCPR, IESCR and CERD. However, the information contained in the draft reports was overtaken by events. A decision was then taken to report under the Optional reporting procedure which entails updating of the Common Core Document. The drafted Common Core document awaits submission to Cabinet. Once the Common Core document is approved by Cabinet and submitted, the GoZ anticipates receipt of a list of issues for these reports.

### SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF DETERMINATIONxxvii

1. The recently enacted Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Amendment Act (ZIDERA) of 2018 is unfortunate in that Zimbabwe would rather there were no restrictive measures and sanctions in bilateral relations with the United States.xxviii The GoZ notes with concern the strengthened sanctions regime. ZIDERA remains a challenge in that it is an extra territorial law, as Zimbabwe is not legally bound by another State’s domestic laws, nor was it enacted in line with the UN framework for the imposition of sanctions on member States.
2. However, Government is currently seized with re-engagement efforts with all nations whose foreign policy has traditionally been hostile towards Zimbabwe. The GoZ adopted a robust engagement and re- engagement policy anchored on transactional economic diplomacy, through which it seeks mutually beneficial relations with all nations. For example, in June 2019, the GoZ and the European Union (EU) launched a formal political dialogue process in accordance with Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement (2000). The formal political dialogue seeks to create greater understanding between Zimbabwe and the EU. The dialogue was conducted in a frank, constructive and cordial atmosphere and paved way for enhanced cooperation between Zimbabwe and the EU. Discussions focused on areas of interest to Zimbabwe and the EU, inter alia: investment, trade and economic development; climate change and humanitarian assistance; human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law; development cooperation; and regional and international cooperation.xxix

**ELECTIONSxxx**

1. **Electoral Reforms**
2. Zimbabwe held national elections on 30 July 2018. Several legal reformsxxxi which aligned the Electoral law to the Constitution were made prior to the conduct of the elections. The legal reforms introduced a new voter registration process in which Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) technology was used for the first time in Zimbabwe.
3. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) was allocated US$153,9 million for the 2018 Harmonised Electionsxxxii to cover the BVR Exercise and various processes leading up to polling. Co-operating

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partners contributed US$8 million towards strengthening the Commission’s institutional and electoral

capacity.

1. The BVR system was introduced to address issues relating to public perceptions on ghost voters, as well as multiple registration and voting raised by some stakeholders on the status of the voters’ roll. 10 985 polling stations were established nationwide, an increase of 11% from the 2013 elections. ZEC accredited 12 968 local and foreign observers and journalists to observe the elections.
2. A total of 80 election related cases were filed in the courts of law during the electoral process. The major highlight was the Constitutional challenge to the Presidential election which was however dismissed by a full bench of the Constitutional Court.
3. **Stakeholder engagement during elections**
4. There was a multiplicity of efforts from stakeholders to ensure that the elections were conducted peacefully and in accordance with national and international best practice. For example, ZEC trained and commissioned 37 CSOs that had applied and qualified to assist in voter education. These CSOs also participated in the development of voter education materials and conducted their activities under the supervision of the Commission.
5. The ZHRC monitored, assessed, reported and made recommendations on the 2018 harmonized elections with a view to advance the observance and respect for human rights and freedoms of all citizens. The NPRC developed an integrated election strategy and convened a multi-stakeholder platform for conflict early warning and risk analysis to ensure enhanced national level preparedness and timely response. As part of its prevention and peace-building mandate, the NPRC initiated high-level confidence building measures involving traditional leaders, women’s organisations, youth groups, victim groups, political parties and the broader rule of law agencies, culminating into a national Peace Pledge initiative.
6. Through the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) collaborative platform, meetings were held with stakeholders in the electoral justice sector to share experiences on electoral laws, election monitoring and electoral justice administration ahead of the 2018 and as part of preparations for the 2023 elections.
7. **Post-election review**
8. In the post-election period, ZECxxxiii launched a Gender Equality Baseline Study (GEBS) to inform initiatives aimed at ensuring gender equality and participation of women, men, youth and persons with disabilities in electoral processes. The study showed that only 15% female candidates participated in the 2018 elections.
9. ZEC held a post-election review conference to reflect on the 2018 national elections and prepare for the 2023 elections. The review exercise took stock of the processes and procedures with a view to strengthening and improving the conduct of future elections. Some of the recommendations made by stakeholders include:- consolidating conflict early warning systems at national, provincial and

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community levels to mitigate violence; and embedding peace pledge initiatives in multi-party dialogue and multi-party liaison committees.

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAWxxxiv

1. The GoZ made efforts to decentralise services to promote access to justice. This was done by opening specialised courts; renovating and rehabilitating existing courts; conducting training of judicial officers; reviewing court procedures and strengthening co-ordination within the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Platform.
2. **Decentralization of services**
3. In provinces across the country, 11 new courts with access ramps for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were opened. The opening of the High Court Station in Mutare in May 2018 went a long way in reducing distances travelled by litigants in Manicaland and Mashonaland East provinces to access the services of the High Court. Three new courtrooms were constructed at the High Court in Bulawayo. The expansion allows for the deployment of more judges to the station and will improve the turnaround time of cases in the courts.
4. The Judicial Services Commission (JSC) streamlined corruption related offences from the normal run of cases in the courts by opening specialised courts in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Masvingo as part of a pilot project.
5. **Recruitment and deployment of Judicial Officers**
6. The JSC recruited 233 critical officers on a phased basis from July to November 2018. The recruited officers included 60 magistrates, assistant registrars, court interpreters and clerks of court. 57 of the new magistrates were deployed to various stations across the country to alleviate existing shortages of judicial officers.
7. **Human Rights Training**
8. As part of the continuing professional development of judicial officers, 122 judicial officers received human rights training. Training was also provided for officers of Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS).
9. For the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Human Rights are taught as a stand-alone subject during recruit training as well as conventional courses at Police Staff College. Professional Updating Centres (PUCs) conducted different trainings in their respective provinces. Content on Human Rights was included in all refresher and other courses.
10. In 2018, PUCs conducted trainings for all police officers in preparation for the national elections. The table below shows the total number of Police Officers/ Members who were trained in courses covering Human Rights.

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Table 1: Total number of police officers trained in human rights

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Institution** | **Number trained 2018** | **Number Trained 2019** |
| Depot (Recruitment Training) | 1 090 | - |
| Staff College | 428 | 188 |
| PUCs | 47 066 | 1 552 |
| **Total** | **48 584** | **1740** |

### PRISON CONDITIONSxxxv

1. **Decongestion of Prisons and partnerships**
2. The pre-trial diversion programme was expanded to 17 districts across the country’s 10 provinces. Efforts were made to decongest prisons through a Clemency Order gazetted in March 2018. Through the order, 3 970 (13%) of the total prison population of 19 959 were released. The GoZ has approved plans for the establishment of an open prison for female inmates.
3. The budgetary allocation for the ZPCS was increased in 2019 to ensure maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure as well as improve the quality and quantity of the daily requirements for inmates.
4. GoZ continued to partner various development and technical partners in an endeavour to improve prison conditions. Areas of partnerships included human rights training of officers, rehabilitation of inmates, enhancement of dietary and necessities for inmates as well as production improvement.
5. **Prison Inspections**
6. In accordance with the Constitution and international best practice, adhoc and regular prison inspections continued through the judiciary, Parliamentary portfolio committees and the ZHRC.

### TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)xxxvi

1. **Convictions, Sentencing and Repatriation**
2. Zimbabwe stepped up its efforts in the fight against human trafficking including securing convictions and sentencing cases of human trafficking.xxxvii It is hoped that the convictions will deter potential traffickers. There are delays in the finalisation of some of the cases because witnesses are unwilling to proceed with cases or cannot be located to testify before the Courts.
3. In 2017 the Government identified and repatriated 14 victims of trafficking (13 of the victims were repatriated from Kuwait and 1 from South Africa).
4. **Awareness Raising and Reintegration**
5. Exhibitions to raise awareness on anti-trafficking were carried out in 2017 and 2018 at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and Harare Agricultural Show. Members of the public were sensitized about human trafficking through focus group discussions. Information Education and Communication

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(IEC) materials with anti-trafficking messages were also distributed to members of the public during these exhibitions.

1. The GoZ developed and adopted the National Referral Mechanism for Vulnerable Migrants in Zimbabwe (NRM).xxxviii The NRM contains standard operating procedures for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) and seeks to assist first line officials and other stakeholders to provide services that ensure that migrants’ protection needs are recognised and addressed in situations of mixed migration flows.
2. The GoZ continued to ensure that measures were put in place for the integration of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) back into their communities. For example, a shelter for VoTs was refurbished at Harare hospital. Reintegration assistance in the form of support to start income generating projects, academic and skills acquisition was provided to 100 women. Additionally, medical and education support was provided for VoTs struggling with tuition and medical expenses.
3. **Policy and Training**
4. As part of its policy direction in 2017 the Zimbabwe Anti-Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Committee (ATIMC) decentralised to establish 5 Provincial Anti-Trafficking Taskforce teams. The ATIMC is in the process of developing an updated National Plan of Action on anti-trafficking (NAPLAC 2019-2023) to guide interventions.
5. The GoZ with support from technical partners conducted two data collection workshops for frontline responders to TIP. The workshops targeted labour inspectors, social workers and members from civil society organizations. Training on human trafficking was provided for 10 magistrates and 19 prosecutors across the country.

**MEDIAxxxix**

1. **Licences**
2. As indicated in earlier sections of the report, the GoZ is seized with media reforms focused on aligning AIPPA and BSA to the Constitution and in line with international best practices. Once these processes are complete, the immediate focus will be on licencing new television and community radio stations, while licencing of national commercial radio stations will follow thereafter.
3. **Infrastructure Upgrade**
4. The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation’s (ZBC) two standard definition studios were upgraded to high definition digital studios. In order to improve transmission of events in real time, two fly away kits including a Live U device were procured by the national broadcaster. ZBC also received 48 electronic news gathering camera sets to be used for content production.
5. The Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) completed the installation of a regulatory content monitoring system.

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1. **Digitisation**
2. Implementation of the Digitisation programme is ongoing. The Digitisation programme envisages migration from analogue to digital television. Once completed, it is expected to improve access to information throughout the country. 18 digital television transmitter sites were completed. The transmitters are ready to transmit digital services once the public is supplied with Set Top Boxes. FM Radio transmitters were installed to improve radio coverage and access to information by marginalised communities.
3. Through the Zimbabwe Digital Broadcasting Migration Project (Zimdigital), GoZ provided funding for television content production. 21 content productions have been completed under the project.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTSxl

1. SDGS
2. Zimbabwe has committed itself to implementing all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with an emphasis on SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13,16 and 17, which have all been mainstreamed into national development plans and budgets to ensure implementation. The GoZ put in place an institutional framework to guide the implementation of the SDGs. This consists of a steering committee to provide overall guidance and strategic leadership as well as a technical committee to spearhead the technical processes and provide technical backstopping support. Efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the capacity of sub-national authorities to align strategies and policies to implement SDGs and promote human rights.
3. **Economy**
4. The GoZ is committed to fully implement reforms outlined in the TSP. The TSP includes re- engagement with the international community. Government is pursuing a two-pronged approach entailing re-engagement with external creditors for purposes of resolving the external debt overhang including arrears clearance, and on the other hand, containing the domestic debt to sustainable levels.
5. As part of the widening of revenue base, in October 2018, Government introduced a 2% tax per dollar value transacted. A new Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) board, was appointed in December 2018 to spearhead the recovery of outstanding debts and other strategic interventions to improve efficiency of the Authority.
6. The GoZ undertook efforts to accelerate the ease and cost of doing business reforms to improve competitiveness. The Government will operationalise a One-Stop Shop Investment Centre through the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) to expedite the processing of investment approvals and promote commitment to property rights.
7. **Nutrition and Food Security**
8. Zimbabwe has a strong policy environment for achieving food security and nutrition. Zimbabwe is one

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of the 60 countries leading a global movement to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2025.xli The GoZ has prioritised ending hunger within its overall development agenda. Community based and child sensitive interventions include nutritional gardens, support of vulnerable households, provision of food and cash transfers for child headed families and children living with HIV and food fortification.

1. The Food and Nutrition Councilxlii undertook a National Nutrition Survey (NNS) in 2018 to assess district level nutrition status among children under five years.
2. Of all the health care facilities in Zimbabwe, 97% offer integrated management of acute malnutrition services. There has been a gradual decline in child malnutrition for all indices since 2006.xliii In 2018, there were 5 557 813 measurements of length/height for children aged 0-59 months. Of these, 122 607 (2.2%) were moderately stunted while 40 250 (0.7%) were severely stunted. The total stunting prevalence was 3 %, a decline from previous years.
3. During the same period, a total of 6 041 722 weight measurements were taken for children aged 0-59 months. Of these, 122 054 (2%) were moderately underweight. The total underweight prevalence was 2.5%, a decline from previous statistics.
4. Through the national food fortification programme, a total of 1 462 839 children (77%) aged between 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation in 2018. The above total national coverage fell short of the national target of 80% or more. Since then, the GoZ adopted mobile administration of Vitamin A supplementation to cover remotely accessed areas.
5. **Infrastructure Development and Housing**
6. The Government continues with efforts to provide housing and improve basic infrastructure. Zimbabwe still has a huge deficit of basic infrastructure. The sustained deterioration in the quality of infrastructure is related to inadequate levels of public expenditure for routine and periodic maintenance of the infrastructure networks, especially in power, water and sanitation, and transport. Given its role as an enabler of economic activity, the deterioration in basic infrastructure had a negative impact on the productive sectors of the economy and the level and quality of services. However, efforts are underway to improve the situation through the rehabilitation of water and sewerage infrastructure in several urban centres; expansion of the Kariba South Power station, Ash plant at Hwange thermal power station, expansion of the RG Mugabe International airport; and commissioning of the dualization and upgrading of the Beitbridge-Harare highway.
7. The official housing backlog stands at 1 250 000 and the target is to reduce it by 30% by 2023. The GoZ is currently rolling out the National Command Housing Delivery Programme. Between 2017 and 2018, 54 848 serviced stands were availed.
8. As part of efforts to promote transparency in the allocation of state land for urban development, a Commission of Inquiry into the Sale of State Land (in and around urban areas since 2005) was

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established in 2018. The COI has a mandate to investigate and ascertain actors who are land barons involved in irregular allocations, occupation and use of the land with a view to bring to book such actors as well as regularise irregularities concerning such allocated land. The COI can conduct visitations and hearings after summoning witnesses. The COI will report to the President in writing, the result of the inquiry and pass recommendations concerning urban state administration to urban local authorities and Government.

1. **Water and Sanitation**
2. Efforts continued to progressively realise the right to safe, clean and potable water as enshrined in the Constitution. In 2018, about 65% of households in Zimbabwe did not have access to hygienic sanitation facilities and 25% of the total population did not have access to safe drinking water. Under the second phase of the Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project (2016-2018), 12 districts in three provinces were supported. 5 600 boreholes were rehabilitated, and 12 community water pipe schemes were rehabilitated and converted to solar power.
3. **Climate Change and adaptation Measures**
4. Zimbabwe is vulnerable to climate change due to its heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and climate sensitive resources. The GoZ in partnership with stakeholders continued to prioritise national actions that build climate resilience, lower the country’s greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to sustainable development. This is in line with commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and other related international obligations.
5. Zimbabwe has actively welcomed innovations and programmes such as Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) expressed through the National Climate Policy (2017), Child Friendly Climate policy and National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) among others. The National Climate Policy is designed to mainstream climate change into national developmental and budgetary processes. The child friendly climate policy seeks to educate school children about climate change and promote climate- friendly practices, such as protection of forests and wetlands and broader use of low-emissions technologies.
6. In an effort to empower local communities to adapt, reduce greenhouse emissions and receive information that ensures environmentally friendly farming methods, the GoZ introduced CSA practices such as mulching, intercropping, conservation agriculture, crop rotation, integrated crop-livestock management, agroforestry, fisheries, aquaculture, improved grazing and improved water management into the tertiary education curriculum and agricultural extension advisory services.

**EDUCATIONxliv**

1. The amendments to the Education Act currently before Parliament seek to align legislation with Constitutional guarantees under the right to education. These include legal guarantees on state-funded basic education and freedom from physical, psychological torture, cruel or inhuman and degrading

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treatment or punishment. There are specific protections for key groups of vulnerable children: those who are economically vulnerable, children with disabilities, and those who become pregnant while at school. Provision is made for a Basic Education Fund for infrastructure and to assist vulnerable students to cover payment of fees. GoZ is obligated to monitor how the rights of pupils with disabilities are considered during teaching and learning. It is also obligatory for every registered school to provide a plan highlighting how the school advances the rights of pupils with disabilities as well as provide infrastructure suitable for use by learners with disabilities.

1. As indicated in its second cycle report, Zimbabwe continues with efforts to promote the right to education through the updated Curriculum Framework and related syllabi (2015-2022)xlv The framework includes enhanced teaching and learning of STEM subjects to build a firm base for human capital development.

**HEALTHxlvi**

1. **Policy environment**
2. Zimbabwe has made positive efforts to create an enabling policy environment for the improvement of public health. This has been done through the National Health Strategy (NHS) for Zimbabwe 2016-2020 and a robust HIV response strategy. The NHS seeks to achieve equity and quality in health, leaving no one behind. The HIV strategy includes domestic resource mobilisation through the AIDS levy to ensure sustainability. The DRM is supplemented by donor support to the health sector through the Health Development and the Global Fund, which secured over $400 million for HIV related interventions.
3. The GoZ continued to enforce the policy of not charging user fees to expecting mothers and children under the age of five years. Medicines and medical supplies were procured through the Health Development Fund (HDF). Blood and hospital level medicines were provided free of charge through the Health Level Account. Satellite clinics were established within an 8 km radius in remote areas.
4. **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)**
5. The 2017 Inter-Censal Demographic Survey (ICDS) estimated an MMR of 525 deaths per 100 000 live births. This is a decline from the 2015 survey estimates of 651 deaths per 100 000 live birthsxlvii.
6. **Neonatal mortality, Infant mortality and Under 5 mortality**
7. For the 12 months period preceding the 2017 ICDS, the infant mortality rate was estimated to be 52 deaths per 1 000 live births. Under-five mortality rate during that period was 72 deaths per 1 000 live births. There is no recent survey that measured neonatal mortality, however, the 2015 Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) found that for the 5-year period preceding survey, the neonatal mortality rate was 29 deaths per 1 000 live births, (about 4 in 10 childhood deaths took place in the first month of life).
8. **Efforts to combat HIV and AIDS**
9. In the period between 2016 and 2018, an average of 92% of pregnant and lactating women were provided with HIV PMTCT services. In the same time frame, the proportion of children born with HIV

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was 4%, 3% and 4% respectively. The total number of people who died from AIDS decined from 23 496, to 23 885 and 23 107 respectively.

**CHILDREN’S RIGHTSxlviii**

1. **Policy and partnerships**
2. As indicated earlier in the report, the GoZ is working on legislation that seeks to provide a uniform definition of a child in line with the Constitution. The Child Rights policy is awaiting approval by Cabinet.
3. The GoZ continued to work in partnership with NGOs, Children and Youth Groups, UN Agencies, FBOs, CSOs, business and private sector and traditional systems of governance to promote children’s rights. Complementary efforts included financial support towards child rights sensitive programs.
4. **Orphan and Child labour statistics**
5. According to the 2017 Poverty Income and Expenditure Survey (PICES), about 13% of children under the age of 17 are orphans. Of these, 2.1% are maternal orphans; while paternal orphans and double orphans constitute 7.5% and 2.9 % respectively. The highest proportion of orphans is in the 14-17-year age group.
6. The 2014 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey found that 210 813 (6%) of children in the 5 to 14 age group were involved in child labour. Of these, 168 760 (4.7%) were involved in economic child labour and 42 053 (0.1%) were in involved in non-economic child labour.xlix
7. **Efforts to harmful practices against children**
8. Further to legislative measures highlighted earlier sections of the report, various media and communication platforms were utilised to raise awareness on harmful practices against children. Awareness efforts included community dialogues, distribution of IEC materials, road shows and branding of public transport with messages on child marriage. The GoZ engaged religious and traditional leaders on ending the practice of child marriages.
9. In February 2019, three members of the Chiefs Council participated in high level meetings on “Transforming Traditions, Norms, Customs and Cultures to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: Joining Hands with Traditional and Cultural Leaders” held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.l After the meetings, the traditional leaders produced a communiqué on ending child marriages.
10. **Child Protection**
11. Zimbabwe is currently conducting data analysis of information collected from the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS6). The surveys provide updates and measure the current situation for women and children in Zimbabwe on components such as child protection and domestic violence.

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1. The GoZ offered child sensitive services through the Victim Friendly Court System (VFCS) in 22 regional courts around the country. The VFCS endeavours to protect vulnerable witnesses who come to court, most of whom have been sexually abused. These children take an active role in court where they testify in camera to reduce vicarious trauma through contact with alleged perpetrators.

### BIRTH REGISTRATIONli

1. **Birth Registration Outreach**
2. Zimbabwe continued with efforts to improve and decentralise birth registration services by conducting outreach mobile registration in remote communities. Free birth registration is provided up to the age of six years. Birth notification forms were provided without charge at hospitals for parents to register the births of their children.
3. Records from the Zimbabwe Population Registration System (ZPRS) indicate an increase in rates of birth registration as illustrated in the table below. In 2017, there was an increase of 815 147 registered births.

Table 2 Disaggregated data on the number and percentage of children who are registered after birth and when such registration

takes place.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of birth registrations** |
| 2016 | 688 776 |
| 2017 | 1 503 923 |

1. GoZ continued to conduct public awareness campaigns on civil registration by way of participating in events such as local annual trade fairs and agricultural shows with a view to distribute information material on civil registration to the public. However, Government noted challenges within some religious groups who do not believe in registering their members. The GoZ continued to engage with these religious groups to encourage them to register their children. Additionally, the GoZ provided trainings on registration procedures to midwives who keep birth records of mothers and children assisted.
2. As part of efforts to promote the right to an identity, the ZHRC launched a national inquiry on access to documentation in March 2019. The purpose of the inquiry is to identify and formulate recommendations for challenges faced by citizens in accessing national documents.
3. **Statelessness**
4. Zimbabwe participated in the meeting of ACHPR Draft Protocol on the Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness, where all African countries mutually agreed that the DNA of nationality of a child is traced through its parents. A child acquires Zimbabwean citizenship at birth if its parents are bona fide citizens of the country. Nationality is drawn from either parent who is a citizen of Zimbabwe.

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### WOMEN’S RIGHTSlii

1. **Economic Empowerment**
2. Efforts to promote gender equality, women’s economic empower and combat violence against women have continued in the period under review. The Revised National Gender Policy (2017) provides strategies to strengthen women’s access to economic opportunities and benefits derived from the economic development of the country. To this end, in 2019, the Women’s Development Fund received approximately $5 million to increase women’s access to economic resources, job opportunities, financial services, property and other productive assets. By February 2019, the Zimbabwe Women Microfinance Bank had disbursed $3 658 459 to 7 461 women for projects across the country.
3. **Combating Gender Based Violence (GBV)**
4. Zimbabwe annually commemorates the 16 days of activism against GBV. The commemorations provide an opportunity to raise awareness on GBV and the human rights violations against women and girls. The 2018 commemorations focused on creating zero tolerance to sexual harassment in the workplace.
5. Data collected through the Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) and other prevalence studies show that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is most prevalent among those aged 15-49 years. The statistics further show that at least 35% of girls and women in that age group have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Atleast 14% have experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime and 32% of married women in the same age group have experienced spousal emotional violence.
6. Through the Spotlight Initiative, efforts are underway to elevate Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) in the political and public discourse in Zimbabwe. The initiative provides for a GBV database.
7. The GoZ developed a National Programme for GBV Prevention and Response 2016–2020 (Zero tolerance for GBV 365) to ensure coordination of all GBV actors in Zimbabwe. The programme seeks to reduce duplication of efforts while providing greater access to services for GBV survivors on a national scale.
8. Statistics from three one stop centres established under the national programme in Gwanda, Gweru and Rusape show that 3 102 GBV cases were reported in 2017; 3 232 cases reported in 2018 and 742 cases reported in the first half of 2019.
9. The reporting of incidences of domestic and gender-based violence fluctuates due to various factors, for example reporting increases after awareness campaigns are conducted. To this end, the GoZ continues to make efforts to disseminate information and raise awareness on family laws and GBV. It is estimated that at least 8 million people were reached using GBV forums such as radio programs and exhibitions.

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1. **Statistics on Women in Decision-Making**
2. The tables below show the number and proportion of women in key decision-making positions in politics, public sector, parastatals/state enterprises and private sector.

Table 3: Women in decision-making politics, public sector, parastatals, state enterprises Source: Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development 2018

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Women** | **Men** | **Total** | **Percentage of Women (%)** |
| **Politics** | |  |  |  |  |
| Cabinet Ministers | | 6 | 14 | 20 | 30 |
| Ministers of State | | 5 | 5 | 10 | 50 |
| Parliament | Lower House | 85 | 185 | 270 | 31 |
| Upper House | 35 | 45 | 80 | 44 |
| Local Government Councillors | | 190 | 1 169 | 1 359 | 14 |
|  | |  |  |  |  |
| **Public sector** | |  |  |  |  |
| Permanent Secretaries | | 6 | 14 | 20 | 30 |
| Commissioners in the Public Service | | 4 | 3 | 7 | 57 |
| Senior Principal Directors/ Principal Directors/ Directors/ Deputy Directors | | 267 | 660 | 927 | 29 |
| Ambassadors | | 10 | 29 | 39 | 26 |
| Vice Chancellors – State Universities | | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| Principals of State-owned Teachers Colleges / Agricultural colleges/ Poly-Technical colleges | | 12 | 18 | 30 | 40 |
| Heads of Government Primary Schools | | 776 | 2 168 | 2 944 | 26 |
| Heads of Government Secondary Schools | | 416 | 1 940 | 2 356 | 18 |
|  | |  |  |  |  |
| **Parastatals/state enterprises/ owning Private Limited Companies** | |  |  |  |  |
| CEOs of Parastatals/State Enterprises | | 23 | 77 | 100 | 23 |
| Boards of Parastatals /State Enterprises | | 29 | 71 | 100 | 29 |
| Ownership of Private Limited Companies | | 729 | 4 040 | 4 769 | 15 |

Table 4: Statistics of women in the judiciary Source: Judicial Service Commission 2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Women** | **Men** | **Total** | **Percentage of Women (%)** |
| **Judiciary** |  |  |  |  |
| Supreme Court Judges | 7 | 7 | 14 | 50 |
| High Court Judges | 11 | 19 | 30 | 37 |
| Registrars | 5 | 8 | 13 | 38 |
| Magistrates | 94 | 156 | 250 | 38 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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### RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)liii

1. **Legislative and Policy measures**
2. The GoZ is striving towards the full domestication of the UNCRPD through various laws, policies and programmes. The first draft of the Persons with Disabilities Bill was submitted to Cabinet in 2018. The Bill explicitly provides for access, participation and inclusion, employment, education, health and shelter of PWDs. The Bill introduced employment incentives and a quota system to ensure that PWDs are employed in the private and public sector. The Bill also establishes a semi-autonomous Disability Commission as a watch dog for disability rights.
3. **Programmes**
4. The GoZ created a stand-alone Department responsible for disability affairs. Educational support for PWDs is provided through the Basic Education and Assistance Module (BEAM). However, there is a shortage and in some cases absence of teaching and learning materials as well as lack of sufficiently skilled personnel with the requisite knowledge of how to cater for the educational needs of learners with disabilities.
5. Sign language training was provided for ZRP, JSC and NPA officials. There has been a reduction in the backlog of cases involving persons with hearing impairments due to the provision of sign language interpreters. The JSC continues to receive assistance with psychiatric assessment of clients were a need for such has been identified in order to expedite cases involving persons living with mental disabilities.

### CONCLUSION

1. Zimbabwe remains committed to ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights through the implementation of UPR, treaty obligations and the SDGs framework. The GoZ will continue to work closely with stakeholders and development partners to ensure the realisation of human rights.

**End Notes**

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i The following recommendations were partially supported by Zimbbawe. 132.96 That the protections guaranteed by the Constitution be implemented, that a safe and enabling environment for civil society be created in law and practice and that the Government facilitate a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Ireland); 132.81 Provide access to free, quality health-care services for all children; abolish corporal punishment in all settings; and strengthen child protection systems in full compliance with international human rights obligations, including through the implementation of national child protection programmes by December 2018 (Slovenia); 132.62 Ensure that its legislation is in line with the new Constitution and the rights concerning freedom of expression and freedom of media therein, repeal the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Public Order and Security Act, and license independent broadcasters (Sweden); 132.67 Ensure that the national human rights commission is given financial autonomy as well as independence for its mandate, immunity and designation of its members, according to the Paris Principles (Costa Rica); 132.68 Guarantee the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Zimbabwe as far as the following are concerned: funding, mandate, immunity and appointment of commission members, all this in accordance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala); 132.33 Ratify the core international human rights instruments, including the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and incorporate them into its national legislation (Slovenia);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 13 & 10 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 26 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 26 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 17 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 31 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 34

ii Recommendations 131.48 Cooperate closely with civil society in the follow-up to the universal periodic review (Norway);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

iii Recommendations 131.90 Guarantee the free exercise of the right to demonstrate, recognized in section 59 of the 2013 Constitution (Spain); 131.138 Work closely with the international community in the humanitarian response to the ongoing drought and to ensure that humanitarian aid is distributed in a non-political, non-discriminatory manner (Norway);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

iv The new administration’s focus and goals include:

* Full implementation of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No. 20 Act of 2013;
* Promotion of a sound legal system;
* Supporting key structural human rights institutions;
* Full commitment to international and regional human rights instruments to which Zimbabwe is party;
* Opening of a democratic space conducive for a multi-party democratic political system and representative democracy;
* Ensuring a transparent, just, accountable and responsive regime type anchored on the observance of the rule of law, constitutionalism and the principles of separation of powers;
* Promoting and supporting Multi-Party Dialogue Platforms for all the political parties which participated in the country’s

harmonized elections of 30 July 2018;

* Escalating re-engagement of the international community to unlock bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations which stimulate investment promotion and economic development; a crucial factor in promoting peace and reconciliation;

v Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Zimbabwe Government’s Progress on Policy Reforms March 2019

vi https:/[/www.parlzim.gov.zw/component/k2/201](http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/component/k2/2019-budget-speech)9[-budget-speech](http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/component/k2/2019-budget-speech)

vii Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry, 18 December 2018, <http://kubatana.net/2018/12/18/report-commission-inquiry-1-> august-2018-post-election-violence/

viii the President appointed a team of Commissioners comprising of: His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe (Former President of the Republic of South Africa); Chief Emeka Anyaoku (Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Federal Republic of Nigeria); Rodney Dixon (QC United Kingdom); General Davis Mwamunyange (Former Chief of Tanzania People’s Defence Forces); Professor Charity Manyeruke (Faculty of Political Science, University of Zimbabwe); Professor Lovemore Madhuku (Faculty of Law, University of Zimbabwe); and Mrs. Vimbai Nyemba (Former President of the Law Society of Zimbabwe)

ix Judicial Services Commission, Comments by the Honourable Chief Justice following complaints on handling of public violence cases. https:/[/www.jsc.org.w/speeches,](http://www.jsc.org.zw/speeches) 06 February 2019

x Applications for bail are denied or granted on a case by case basis. That outcome is dependent on several factors, and the circumstances of the case must provide sufficient merit to ratify the decision by the court.

xi https://councilofchurches.co.zw/fresh-bid-to-broker-ed-chamisa-talks/

xii <http://www.theopc.gov.zw/index.php/411-political-party-leaders-must-be-exemplary>

xiii Government of Zimbabwe, Tropical Cyclone IDAI International Humanitarian Assistance Appeal April 2019

xiv Rapid Joint Education Needs Assessment: Cyclone Idai, Zimbabwe - Assessment Report, 6 May 2019 https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/rapid-joint-education-needs-assessment-cyclone-idai-zimbabwe-assessment-report-6-may

xv The Herald Newspaper, Cabinet of Zimbabwe report on cyclone Idai Disaster, 14th meeting decisions matrix, 1 May 2019

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xvi Recommendations 131.1 Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties (Pakistan);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xvii https:/[/www.parlzi.gov.zw/national-assembly-hansard/national-assembly-hansard-18-january-2018-vol-44-no-34](http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/national-assembly-hansard/national-assembly-hansard-18-january-2018-vol-44-no-34)

xviii https://au.int/en/treaties/1161

xix The measures to be taken for the prevention of forced or compulsory labour shall include:

1. educating and informing people, especially those considered to be particularly vulnerable, in order to prevent their becoming victims of forced or compulsory labour;
2. educating and informing employers, in order to prevent their becoming involved in forced or compulsory labour practices;
3. undertaking efforts to ensure that:
4. the coverage and enforcement of legislation relevant to the prevention of forced or compulsory labour, including labour law as appropriate, apply to all workers and all sectors of the economy; and
5. labour inspection services and other services responsible for the implementation of this legislation are strengthened;
6. protecting persons, particularly migrant workers, from possible abusive and fraudulent practices during the recruitment and placement process;
7. supporting due diligence by both the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to risks of forced or compulsory labour; and
8. addressing the root causes and factors that heighten the risks of forced or compulsory labour.

xx Recommendations 131.6 Speed up the process of reviewing and aligning the laws with the Constitution (Islamic Republic of Iran); 131.17 Continue taking measures to integrate international human rights laws and standards (for treaties it is a party to) into the framework of its domestic law (Maldives); 131.22 Amend all statutory and customary laws to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years and take concrete steps to implement this legislation, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Belgium); 131.91 Comply with its obligations with respect to the right to freedom of expression and information (Uruguay); 131.95 Review existing legislation in order to enhance the exercise of the freedom of assembly and of the press (Italy); 132.98 As previously recommended, amend existing rules for the security forces, including the Public Order and Security Act, to ensure that the rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of association and freedom of the press can be exercised (Germany); 131.68 Amend all statutory and customary laws as soon as possible to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years, and create and implement a comprehensive national plan of action to combat the practice of child marriage and its root causes (Ireland);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 36 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxi Judgment No CCZ 10/19 Constitutional Application No. CCZ 29/15

xxii At the time of drafting the report, $46 million dollars had been released

xxiii Recommendations 131.32 Further enhance the role of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (Tunisia); 131.33 Enhance the role of a national authority working on the promotion and respect of human rights (Egypt); 131.31 Take legislative measures to guarantee the independence of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and to ensure it is provided with the necessary powers and resources to effectively fulfil its constitutional mandate (Switzerland); 131.26 Take proper measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (France); 131.25 Ensure adequate means, both financial and material, for the Human Rights Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission to enable them to fully and effectively fulfil their mandates (Germany); 131.29 Accelerate efforts to ensure the full operationalization of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (South Africa);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxiv Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Blue Book- Specific appropriated amounts for ZMC ($2 207 000); ZGC ($2 000 000); ZEC ($14 321 000); ZACC ($6 403 000); NPRC ($2 463 000); ZHRC ($3 335 000) total $30 729 000.

xxv <http://www.nprc.org.zw/resources/reports/strategic-plan/2018-2022-nprc-strategy>

xxvi Recommendations 131.50 Submit its long-overdue reports to the relevant treaty body mechanisms (Sierra Leone); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131; 131.51 Submit overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies (Ghana);

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Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131; 131.49 Further strengthen its cooperation with human rights mechanisms, in particular the United Nations treaty bodies (Niger);Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxvii Recommendations 131.47 Continue making efforts, with the support of the international community, to ensure that unilateral coercive measures imposed on the country are lifted (Cuba); 131.46 Continue to promote dialogue with all States on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality, self-determination and the right of peoples to freely choose their own political, economic and social systems (Syrian Arab Republic);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxviii Statement on ZIDERA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade 12 August 2018 <http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/media-centre/press-statements>

xxix https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe/63686/joint-press-statement-following-launch-formal-political-dialogue-between- european-union-and\_en

xxx Recommendations 131.34 Establish a credible, independent electoral commission capable of registering eligible voters on a nationwide basis ahead of the 2018 elections (United States of America); 131.96 Take concrete and immediate legislative measures to ensure the free, informed and safe participation of citizens in the electoral process in keeping with its Constitution and the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections of the Southern African Development Community (Switzerland);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxxi Voter Registration Regulations, 2017 (Statutory Instrument 85 of 2017); Statutory Instrument 117 of 2017; Electoral

Amendment Act no 6 of 2018;

xxxii (56% of the Commission budget)

xxxiii With support from UNWOMEN

xxxiv Recommendations 131.42 Continue efforts to align training programmes for all government officials with international human rights law and incorporate more training in child rights into professional development courses (Holy See); 131.44 Continue its efforts in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in the field of the rule of law and human rights through increasing training activities (Libya); 131.87 Take further measures to improve citizens’ access to justice (Togo); 131.82 Provide training for judges and prosecutors (Timor-Leste);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxxv 131.76 Step up efforts to improve prison conditions and police cells, in order to decongest prisons (Cuba); 131.86 Expand the successful pretrial diversion programme for juvenile offenders from the existing five provinces to 10 (South Africa);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxxvi Recommendations 131.77 Continue its efforts in combating human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran); 131.80 Provide training to judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials, border guards and social workers in identifying and dealing with victims of trafficking and in anti-trafficking legislation (Israel); 131.79 Strengthen the inter-ministerial committee to combat trafficking in persons to provide effective protection to victims of trafficking, particularly women and children (Belarus);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xxxvii For example, in 2017 there were two human trafficking convictions. The first case involved three males (all Zimbabwean nationals) accused for recruiting four male victims from Mozambique and subjecting them to forced labour in a farm in Chipinge. All the accused were convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment. The second convicted case involved one person accused of five counts of human trafficking and is in custody pending sentencing by the High Court. In 2018, the courts convicted and sentenced an accused female who had been on trial since 2017. The accused was convicted of five counts of trafficking several Zimbabweans to Kuwait since 2016 and was sentenced to an effective fifty-year jail term.

xxxviii https://pmgzimbabwe.org/publication/national-referral-mechanism-vulnerable-migrants-zimbabwe

xxxix Recommendation 131.93 Continue to take measures to ensure freedom of the media and press freedom (Namibia);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xl Recommendations 131.35 Continue to develop policies aimed at promoting and protecting human rights and realizing the welfare and development of the population (Syrian Arab Republic); 131.142 Continue efforts in collecting taxes (United Republic of Tanzania). 131.98 Continue its efforts to promote sustainable economic and social development and to improve the living standards in the country (China); 131.135 Continue efforts in accordance with the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic

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Transformation for the period October 2013-December 2018, which provides for a harnessing of the maximum benefit from the national natural resources in order to strengthen food security, eliminate poverty, extend social coverage and restore the infrastructure (Russian Federation); 131.101 Undertake efforts as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to poverty, education, health, housing and water and sanitation (Bangladesh); 131.105 Enhance social protection to ensure the delivery of food assistance and address malnutrition (New Zealand); 131.111 Implement effectively the human rights to drinking water and sanitation as embodied in the Constitution (Spain);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xli https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/nutrition-key-national-development

xlii With the support of the multi-sectoral National Nutritional Survey Technical Committee https:/[/www.unicef.org/zi](http://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/zimbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-survey-report)m[babwe/reports/zimbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-survey-report](http://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/zimbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-survey-report)

xliii Zimbabwe 2018 National Nutrition Survey Report https:/[/www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/z](http://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/zimbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-)i[mbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-](http://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/reports/zimbabwe-2018-national-nutrition-) survey-report

xliv Recommendations 131.122 Promote the right to education, inter alia, through combating the challenges of access to schools (Armenia); 131.123 Eliminate all barriers to students’ access to education in all provinces (Kenya); 131.129 Further develop its education system, including through the improvement of access to education for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China); 131.131 Ensure a free and compulsory primary education by implementing the Education Act (Slovenia);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xlv <http://www.mopse.gov.zw/index.php/document-category/education-policies-documents/>

xlvi Recommendations 131.119 Continue to take further measures to enhance health-care services, especially for women and children (Myanmar); 131.117 Develop and operationalize a comprehensive strategy on preventing maternal, neonatal and child mortality (Botswana); 131.113 Continue efforts in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country (United Republic of Tanzania);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xlvii https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/zimbabwe

xlviii Recommendation 131.58 Continue to address the marginalization and exclusion of women in the economic, social and political spheres, with special attention paid to eliminating the harmful practice of child marriage (Republic of Korea); 132.81 Provide access to free, quality health-care services for all children; abolish corporal punishment in all settings; and strengthen child protection systems in full compliance with international human rights obligations, including through the implementation of national child protection programmes by December 2018 (Slovenia);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 31 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

xlix The age 15-17 age group was not included in the Child Labour report since the age group is considered part of the country’s

labour force.]

l https:/[/www.herald.o.zw/zim-un-women-chiefs-join-hands-to-end-child-marriages/](http://www.herald.co.zw/zim-un-women-chiefs-join-hands-to-end-child-marriages/)

li Recommendations 132.78 Reinforce policies to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe, regardless of their parents’ origins, are issued with birth certificates (Holy See); 132.80 Scale up efforts to ensure that all children are issued with a birth certificate (Mexico); 131.62 Increase prompt access to birth registration and public awareness for the same (Kenya); 131.61 Continue to adopt measures to increase the rate of issuance of birth certificates, especially in rural areas and in low-income households (Turkey); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 30 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 30

lii Recommendations 131.36 Strengthen further national information campaigns on rights and responsibilities (Togo); 131.83 Train judges and prosecutors on laws related to violence against women and train police forces on the protocols to assist women victims of violence (Panama); 131.53 Continue to strengthen its policies and measures for the empowerment of women (Bangladesh);

131.54 Continue to develop policies to protect women’s rights (Syrian Arab Republic); 131.52 Continue efforts to strengthen gender

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equality (Syrian Arab Republic); 131.57 Continue taking legislative action to eliminate the marginalization of women from socioeconomic and political spheres and strengthen mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence (Maldives); 131.70 Adopt measures to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls, especially the adoption of legislation, the establishment of more shelters and the training of judges, prosecutors and police officers (Israel);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131

liii 131.133 Promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Algeria); 131.134 Strengthen social inclusion measures, in particular for persons with physical disabilities (Angola);

Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131