**Zambia’s Statement at the Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

***(Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID 19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development at all levels)***

**(19th January, 2023, 15:00 hrs.)**

Mr. Chair,

We thank the keynote speaker and panelists for their insightful presentations.

Mr. Chair,

It is undeniable that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a setback in realisation of the 2030 Agenda especially for developing countries and least developed countries. The pandemic has worsened existing inequalities and posed further challenges in realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by some States. There is an urgent need for strengthened global partnership to accelerate economic recovery of States severely affected by the pandemic. This will ensure that full implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not affected by the effects of the pandemic.

The importance of integrating human rights into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development are emphasised. Realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will result in enjoyment of basic human rights. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Zambia remains committed to achievement of the 2030 Agenda as evidenced from its national development blueprint, Vision 2030, which is anchored on realisation of the SDGs. Integration of the SDGs in the development agenda will ensure that basic human rights are respected and promoted in all areas of development, including economic policy planning. Zambia has therefore enacted a legislation which provides for a coordinated and integrated budgeting process that is participatory, responsive and results-oriented.

Mr. Chair,

Further, access to clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services has been increased through sustainable investment, development and maintenance of infrastructure, and promotion of sustainable sanitation practices, including personal hygiene promotion and solid waste management. However, more work still needs to be done to ensure realisation of Agenda 2030.

We reiterate the importance of international cooperation to ensure that no country is left behind. By working together, it is possible to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and fully implement Agenda 2030.

Thank you!