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Zimbabwe

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Process for the preparation of the report

1. The Republic of Zimbabwe presents its 3rd Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) National Report, which is submitted together with the Recommendations Matrix.
2. This report was coordinated by the National UPR Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Independent Commissions, UNDP sitting in an advisory capacity and other stakeholders. The Steering Committee has the responsibility to oversee and steer the business of the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations.
3. The Steering Committee oversaw the production of this report, which involved stakeholder consultations from all ten provinces of the country, notwithstanding the challenges presented by Covid-19 pandemic. The GoZ puts on record the challenges and adaptations to the stakeholder consultations under COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

A. Ratification of human rights treaties¹

4. Zimbabwe ratified several international and regional treaties as indicated in its 2019 Mid-term Report (MTR)² and the Matrix³.
5. The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness is still under consideration. A National Steering Committee on Statelessness was established and will soon conduct a national survey. The survey is now at data collection stage, pending the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. The survey results will inform Government's position on the Convention.
6. The International Treaties Act [Chapter 3:05], which establishes a uniform procedure for the consideration and approval of international treaties, was promulgated in 2020 as part of the alignment of laws to the Constitution. It is anticipated that the Act will harmonise and strengthen the effective and efficient ratification of treaties.

B. Domestication and implementation of human rights treaties⁴

Progress since the MTR includes the following

7. Education Act⁵ provides for the fundamental right to education and financial provision for Government schools. It incorporates human rights clauses with respect to gender, disability, health and equity for children.
8. The Persons with Disabilities Bill, which will incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Constitution of Zimbabwe, is undergoing internal law-making processes. Furthermore, in support of rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), Government launched the National Disability Policy⁶, which seeks to address the marginalisation and discrimination of PWDs in Zimbabwe.

C. Creating/strengthening independent institutions⁷

9. The GoZ continues to provide support to the Independent Commissions as reported in the Matrix⁸.
10. The following table shows the budget allocations for 2020 and 2021.

Table 1: Allocations to the independent commissions in ZWL\$

<i>Vote Appropriations</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Judicial Service Commission	365,770,000.00	2,601,000,000.00

<i>Vote Appropriations</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission	26,680,000.00	148,000,000.00
National Peace and Reconciliation Commission	31,200,000.00	133,000,000.00
Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission	71,550,000.00	317,000,000.00
Zimbabwe Electoral Commission	91,200,000.00	2,320,900,000.00
Zimbabwe Gender Commission	25,900,000.00	153,000,000.00
Zimbabwe Land Commission	163,100,000.00	934,000,000.00
Zimbabwe Media Commission	13,900,000.00	175,000,000.00

11. The Zimbabwe Independent Complaints Commission Bill, which establishes an independent complaints mechanism for members of the public with regard to the security services pursuant to the Constitution, is going through Parliament.

D. Implementation of constitution and alignment of laws⁹

12. Considerable progress has been made in the alignment of laws to the Constitution. When the Constitution of Zimbabwe came into effect in 2013, 206 pieces of legislation required alignment and currently 40 out of these are outstanding.¹⁰

13. Zimbabwe is committed to the implementation of all laws aligned to the Constitution. Laws which have been aligned are being effectively implemented, including those listed in the Matrix¹¹.

E. Sovereignty and self-determination¹²

14. In the MTR¹³ it was reported that Government is currently seized with re-engagement efforts with all nations whose foreign policy has traditionally been hostile towards Zimbabwe. More information is provided on these efforts in Chapter III below and in the Matrix¹⁴.

F. Civil and political rights

1. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media¹⁵

15. Progress is reported in the MTR¹⁶ and the Matrix¹⁷.

2. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly¹⁸

16. For progress made by Government to enhance the enjoyment of the freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, refer to the Matrix¹⁹.

3. Prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

17. Relevant laws have been reviewed and aligned to the Constitution. For example, the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act²⁰ criminalises acts which constitute elements of torture and cruel treatment, such as crimes involving bodily injury or harm. The Children's Act²¹ also criminalises cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment perpetrated on children.

4. Arrest and detention²²

18. For information on progress made by Government to enhance the enjoyment of the freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, refer to the Matrix²³.

5. Politically motivated violence²⁴

19. The courts have effectively dealt with politically motivated violence cases as well as violence directed at political activists, be it intra or inter party violence. Refer also to the Matrix²⁵.

6. Elections²⁶

20. The MTR²⁷ provides an update on electoral reforms since the 2nd Cycle review and conduct of the 2018 general elections.

21. After the elections, the Second Republic has made several efforts to re-engage with the international community. Amongst the issues on the re- engagement agenda, electoral legislative reforms have been topical. The European Union as well as the United Kingdom has passed recommendations for several legislative reforms to be implemented in the area of elections.

22. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force for Political, Electoral and Legislative Reforms has come up with an implementation matrix for the proposed reforms. Consultations have been undertaken towards electoral and other legal reforms with members of Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD), civil society, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Independent Institutions and the legal fraternity. Dialogue between POLAD, ZESN, Electoral Resource Centre (ERC) and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) was held to discuss a proposed ZESN Draft Bill.

23. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance was ratified in 2019 and currently domestication is underway. The POLAD Dialogue with civil society is discussing the enforcement of punitive measures for those who contravene the Electoral Code of Conduct.

24. Together with its stakeholders, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is undergoing improved communication training. Various stakeholders including the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), ZESN, POLAD are working with ZEC in carrying out peace building, promotion of peace and mediation capacity training for Parliament.

G. Economic, social and cultural rights²⁸

25. In September 2018 Government launched Vision 2030 to chart Zimbabwe's new development trajectory to achieve an Upper Middle Income Society by 2030, for an empowered and prosperous Zimbabwe. The Vision reflects the collective aspirations and determination of the people of Zimbabwe to achieve and sustain economic growth, broad based transformation, while conferring equal opportunities for all.

26. This was followed by the launch of the National Development Strategy 1: 2021-2025 (NDS1), the successor to the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP), which is aimed at realising Vision 2030. The Strategy will entrench macroeconomic stability, necessary for economic recovery and growth, and conferring new opportunities for wealth creation, innovation and enterprise development.

27. In the implementation of the NDS1, cross cutting issues such as gender, youth, people with disabilities, arts and creative industry, environment and ICT will be mainstreamed in all Thematic Working Programmes in order to ensure that the aspirations are realised within the context of the NDS1.

28. As Government implements NDS1, it will move with the theme of *"not leaving anyone or any place behind."* It is anticipated that the success of NDS1 will achieve increased enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

Right to health²⁹

29. 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.

30. The budgetary allocation to the health sector has been gradually increasing. In 2020 the Ministry of Health and Child Care was allocated ZWL\$6,644,317,000 while in 2021 it was allocated ZWL\$54,705,000,000 representing 13% of the total budget.

1. *Mortality*

31. The overall mortality rate (Crude Death Rate) in the country has not changed as the findings of the 2017 Inter-Censal Demographic Survey (ICDS) revealed a mortality rate of 10.2 deaths per 1,000 of the population. This rate is the same as that which was determined by the 2012 national census.

2. *Adult mortality*

32. The findings of the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) showed that there is also a continuation in the decline in the mortality rate among those aged 15-49 years in the country. The survey estimated a mortality rate of 6.28 deaths per 1 000 for females age 15-49 years and 6.09 deaths per 1 000 for the males in the same age category. This is a notable drop when compared to the findings of the 2014 MICS, which reported a mortality rate of 9.84 deaths per 1 000 among females age 15-49 years. The 2014 MICS estimated a mortality rate of 9.79 deaths per 1 000 males in the same category. The 2019 MICS did not collect data for use in the calculation of mortality rates for the whole 15 years and above age group hence the reporting on mortality rates for the 15-49 years age group. However, the 2017 ICDS estimated an adult mortality rate of 12.7 deaths per 1 000 among those who were 15 years and above. For maternal mortality ratio refer to the Matrix³⁰.

3. *Covid-19*

33. Zimbabwe was not been spared from the global pandemic Covid-19 and has so far experienced three waves of the pandemic. The third wave was marked by increased numbers of people being infected and dying. As of 22 September 2021, Zimbabwe had recorded 128,804 people infected, out of which 4,592 succumbed to the disease and 121,653 recovered.

34. In March 2021, Government launched a countrywide vaccination campaign. As at 22/09/2021, 2,992,348 and 2,130,553 people had received the first and second doses respectively.

4. *HIV and AIDS*

35. Government continues to strengthen its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. Further to the information provided in the Matrix³¹, Annexure Figure 1 shows the level of HIV testing in 2014 and in 2019.

Food and food security³²

1. *Access to food*

36. Government has been implementing a shock responsive social protection programme, the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme (FDMP), since 2010 (refer to the Matrix³³ for objectives of the programme). The FDMP provides food and cash assistance to people in vulnerable situations. Government has been reaching out to 735,455 households requiring 36,773mt of grain per month.

37. Targeting and selection of beneficiaries is aimed at those households which are food poor, with priority going to households headed by older persons, children, the chronically ill, persons with disabilities and females for households with high dependency.

2. *Food security*

38. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in Zimbabwe. More than 70% of the population depends on agriculture for livelihood (food and income). The Constitution

provides for the right to sufficient food and compels the State to take reasonable measures to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. The Constitution also provides for food security as one of the National Objectives. To ensure food security, Government embarked on various measures such as:

- Mechanisation – it involves the provision of farming machinery to farmers for the purposes of modernising agriculture, leading to higher productivity and production thus ensuring food security in the country.
- Command agriculture – it is the provision of agricultural inputs and also includes command livestock (targeting increased production of cattle, poultry, pigs, etc), command cropping (it is aimed at improving cereal supply), and the Presidential Well-wisher Input Scheme, which targets vulnerable households and smallholder farmers by providing them with free inputs and whose output is shown in the table below.

Table 2: Production and contribution of the Presidential scheme, Source: Ministry of Lands

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cereal Requirement</i>	<i>Production (Tonnes)</i>	<i>Contribution (%)</i>
2016/17	1,817,376	260,521	14.3
2017/18	1,735,145	215,568	11.7
2018/19	2,204,225	157,756	10.9
2019/20	2,227,782	196,849	8.8

- Climate smart agriculture – it is intended to climate-proof agriculture. A recent development was implementation of the *Pfumvudza/Intwasa* concept, which is one of the conservation agriculture options, through which the Presidential Input Support Programme targeted 1.8 million farmers and is expected to produce up to 1.8 million tonnes of grain nationally.
- Small grain production programme – small grains are more drought resistant, so to avert hunger induced by droughts, Government has come up with the small grain production programme, which is intended to lead to improvement of food and nutrition security among vulnerable rural community households and resilience building and a linear transition of farmers from being food insecure to producing marketable surplus. To date, 13 districts in the country have benefited from the programme.
- Irrigation – GoZ has also placed some of the irrigation facilities in the country under the More Food Programme. This programme seeks to increase production and achieve food security and realisation of the right to food. Annexure Fig 2 shows irrigation schemes under the More Food Programme.

39. 1,092 beneficiaries were selected, including women, a development that helps to empower and emancipate women. See Annexure Fig 3.

40. The Centre Pivots Irrigation Facility targeted to develop 3,200ha in 2021 through the installation of 80 centre pivots for 80 farmers. 2,920ha is now irrigating under 74 centre pivots.

41. Another 80 irrigation projects are under construction covering a total area of 10,203 hectares as shown in the table below.

Table 3: Irrigation projects under construction by province, Source: Ministry of Agriculture, 2020

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Area (ha) Work in progress</i>
Manicaland	14	1,179
Mashonaland Central	7	731
Mashonaland East	9	290
Mashonaland West	8	457
Matabeleland North	6	640
Matabeleland South	6	3,045

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Area (ha) Work in progress</i>
Masvingo	13	1,758
Midlands	17	2,103
Total	80	10,203

3. *Nutrition food security*

42. In the context of climatic change and other variables, the food security situation in Zimbabwe remains fragile, varying from year to year depending on the amount of rainfall received during the particular agricultural season. During drought years like 2019–2020, a large segment of the rural population had to rely on Government-run or donor-based seasonal food and non-food safety net interventions for their food and nutrition security. However, during the 2020–2021 agricultural season, the food security situation improved considerably because the country received good rains. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) rural livelihood assessment of 2021, estimated that 27% (2,942,897 people) to be food insecure with limited access to food during the peak hunger period. This is a considerable improvement when compared to the 59% (5,529,000 people) who were found to be food insecure by a similar assessment in 2020.

Nutrition

43. The dynamics in the prevalence of malnutrition tend to follow those of food security in the country. For evidence-based decisions on nutrition issues, the GoZ conducts annual surveys. The statistics cover the nutritional status of food consumed by households, with particular interest of obtaining information on the dietary intake of children under the age of 5 years and women of child bearing age. Measures which are being undertaken by Government to address this challenge include those in relation to food security (see para 40 above and the Matrix)³⁴. Annexure Fig. 4 below shows the Dietary Diversity Scores of the food consumed by households in Zimbabwe.

44. Malnutrition continues to be a major public health and socio-economic problem in Zimbabwe affecting mostly children under the age of 5 years and women of child bearing age. The country is facing a triple burden of malnutrition; under-nutrition, over-nutrition, and micro-nutrient deficiency. This is due to shortage of nutritious foods, limited crop diversification in agriculture and poor consumption patterns. Measures which are being implemented by Government to address this challenge include those in relation to food security (see para 40-43 above and the Matrix)³⁵.

Water and sanitation³⁶

1. *Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes*

45. The right to safe, clean and potable water is recognised and provided for in the Constitution. Development partners have been complementing government efforts to improve water and sanitation in the country. The GoZ has approved a gender-sensitive WASH Policy. The Policy aims to create an open defecation free Zimbabwe by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve this, the demand-led Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene has been adopted and is being implemented in 45 supported rural districts. The Covid-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of clean water sources for schools as a number of schools have been identified for the urgent provision of safe water sources. Refer also to the MTR³⁷ and the Matrix³⁸.

Table 4: Rural wash programmes – 2020

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number</i>
Borehole drilling	2,575
Borehole rehabilitation	5,574
Community managed piped water schemes	12
Water points rehabilitation	10,377

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number</i>
Construction of Blair Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines	181,646
Capacity building	11,272
Open defecation free villages	1,069

46. There are approximately 41,754 boreholes countrywide, with 55% functionality. 5,600 boreholes were rehabilitated during the reporting period while 12 community water pipe schemes were rehabilitated and converted to solar power. Government plans to drill another 44,600 boreholes in villages and schools between 2021 and 2025.

47. According to the 2019 Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 77.1% of the households have access to improved sources of drinking water up from 76.1% in 2014. Harare has the highest percentage of households with access to improved water sources at 96.6% and the lowest is Matabeleland South at 64.8%.

2. *Water resources management*

48. Government commissioned a number of dams while more dams are under construction in order to improve water security and to improve livelihoods, for example through irrigation, tourism and fisheries. Some of the dams will also support mini hydroelectricity projects³⁹.

49. There is also a National Water Harvesting Programme whose goal is to enhance water security for domestic use and cattle watering in rural communities and to enhance food security through irrigation.

Right to education⁴⁰

50. Information on the measures to promote the right to education was provided in the MTR⁴¹. More progress is reported below.

51. The Education Act was amended to provide for State funded basic education. This consists of 9 years in primary school, including 2 years of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and four years of secondary education, Form 1 to 4. The Act now mandates the State to provide teaching and learning material, infrastructure, equipment facilities and other resources, subject to the provisions of section 75 of the Constitution. Pursuant this provision, in the 2020 financial year, Government provided ZWL\$ 105,903,213 towards the payment of Grants-in-Aid of Tuition to support the most disadvantaged Primary and Secondary schools, thereby removing the burden of school fees and levies from their parents and guardians. For the year 2021, there is a provision for ZWL\$ 1.7 billion for grant-in- aid of tuition.

52. As a Social Protection measure, the Government is providing sanitary wear to female learners in support of their menstrual health needs. In the 2020 financial year, Government supported this programme with ZWL\$ 200,000,000, and increased the amount to ZWL\$ 500 million in the 2021 fiscal allocation.

53. The law has been strengthened to guarantee education as a basic human right by ensuring that no pupil shall be excluded from school on the basis of non-payment of school fees. In furtherance of inclusive education, the Education Act now provides for specific issues to be considered in overcoming all barriers to equitable access to education as well as non-discriminations on grounds of gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status. Under this inclusive education thrust, specific provisions have been incorporated for the benefit of learners with disabilities. This includes the requirement for every registered school to provide disability friendly infrastructure and relevant facilities for the benefit of learners and teachers with disabilities, monitoring and enforcement measures in place.

54. The school feeding programme is currently at Phase 2 which covers all primary school grades. The third phase will extend the programme to secondary schools. Progress has been made in the implementation of the home-grown school feeding programme through the provision of implementation guidelines⁴². In 2020, Treasury availed ZWL\$ 1 billion towards the programme and also availed the same budget for 2021.

55. Table 5 shows the distribution of primary schools that are implementing the school feeding programme. 5,483 out of a total of 6,798 primary schools had functional feeding programmes in 2020, which represents an 80.7 % coverage.

Table 5: Primary School Feeding Programme coverage by Province, Number and Percentages, 2020

<i>Province</i>	<i>Total number of primary schools</i>	<i>Number of primary schools with school feeding programmes</i>	<i>Percentage of primary schools with school feeding programmes</i>
Manicaland	1,098	893	81.3
Mashonaland Central	578	495	85.6
Mashonaland East	776	522	67.3
Mashonaland West	777	619	79.7
Masvingo	876	798	91.1
Matabeleland North	623	565	90.7
Matabeleland South	532	462	86.8
Midlands	874	691	79.1
Harare	299	176	58.9
Bulawayo	365	262	71.8
Grand Total	6,798	5,483	80.7

56. During the period under review, progress has been made through the development of the Early Learning Policy and the Draft Inclusive Education Policy which is now at the final stakeholder validation stage.

57. Inclusive access to education is systematically tracked through annual school census statistics. Compared to 2019 statistics, the number of children with disabilities attending school decreased from 85,560 to 69,522 in 2020. Notably, there was a general decrease school attendance after the prolonged closure from April to September–November 2020 due to covid-19. This highlights the need for a targeted intervention to reverse this trend, particularly for children with disabilities to enjoy increased access to school.

58. The GoZ has also developed a Practical Inclusive Education Handbook for Primary and Secondary Schools and an Inclusive Supplement to the Early Reading Initiative/Performance Lag Address Programme which have been distributed to schools. The Handbook is a tool for more disability-responsive teaching and learning⁴³.

59. Inclusive access to education is of priority concern, and is tracked through systematic monitoring of annual school statistics. Compared to 2019, the number of children with disabilities attending decreased from 85,560 to 69,522 in 2020. This decrease matches the general trend in school in overall school attendance after the prolonged closure from April to September–November 2020 due to Covid-19.

60. Table 6 and Fig 5 show that the majority of learners with disabilities are attending mainstream schools, compared to those in special schools. To address the issue of teacher competence in handling disability-related needs in the classroom, the GoZ has a Teacher Capacity Development programme that the two ministries of education are collaborating on. Under this programme, Special Needs Education is among the priority training areas.

Table 6: Number of Learners with Disabilities attending Mainstream and Special Schools by Level

<i>Year</i>	<i>Main stream schools</i>			<i>Special schools</i>			<i>Grand Total</i>		
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>
ECD									
2017	3,157	2,500	5,657	61	61	122	3,218	2,561	5,779
2018	2,826	2,306	5,132	125	90	215	2,951	2,396	5,347
2019	4,477	2,741	7,218	109	68	177	4,586	2,809	7,395
2020	2,678	2,374	5,052	85	58	143	2,763	2,432	5,195
2017	30,161	22,852	53,013	1,199	906	2,105	31,360	23,758	55,118

	Year	Main stream schools			Special schools			Grand Total		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Primary Grade 1-7	2018	23,603	17,850	41,453	1,186	865	2,051	24,789	18,715	43,504
	2019	34,045	26,734	60,779	1,090	790	1,880	35,135	27,524	62,659
	2020	26,901	21,872	48,773	979	752	1,731	27,880	22,624	50,504
Total Secondary (Form 1-6)	2017	6,245	5,213	11,458	146	98	244	6,391	5,311	11,702
	2018	6,719	5,827	12,546	290	259	549	7,009	6,086	13,095
	2019	7,977	7,301	15,278	128	100	228	8,105	7,401	15,506
	2020	6,976	6,505	13,481	183	159	342	7,159	6,664	13,823

The statistics show that there are more learners attending primary school than secondary. Efforts are underway to reduce this gap.

61. The GoZ has established facilities for learners with disabilities to receive adaptive teaching and learning support in mainstream schools, in the form of Resource Units and Special classes. Such facilities are manned by special needs education qualified teachers, with a reduced teacher: pupil ratio and appropriate technologies according to the range of disabilities among the enrolled learners. The details of such facilities are captured in the annual school census report⁴⁴.

62. In 2020 and 2021, Government allocated an annual figure of ZWL\$ 20 million towards the procurement of assistive devices and adaptive learning materials for learners with disabilities. A name-based database to track the demand and supply of assistive devices is in place for evidence-based decision making. The assistive devices and disability related supplies include wheelchairs, hearing aids, Braille equipment, software and literature, talking calculators, sign language dictionaries and related materials and sunscreen lotions for learners with albinism.

63. Government has given a policy directive to both technical and teachers' colleges to adopt 50/50 gender parity constitutional requirement when enrolling women. Pursuant to this directive, the current enrolment of women at polytechnics is 43% while at teachers' colleges it is 74%.

64. Government is also making strenuous efforts to ensure that students with disabilities are not left out and that have an equal opportunity to enroll for tertiary education. Table 7 below depicts the picture.

Table 7 2019 Summary of Disability Enrolments. Source: Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development

Type of Impairment									Total
	Visual		Auditory		Physical		Other		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Universities	97	71	8	3	102	50	25	22	378
Polytechnics	1	0	0	3	77	42	0	0	123
Teachers Colleges	18	45	6	4	49	67	15	24	228
Total	116	116	14	10	228	159	40	46	729

65. Government has also integrated engendered subjects in the curricula. This has helped to raise awareness of the gender issues amongst the students.

66. One of the universities has addressed the gender gaps in higher and tertiary education through gender mainstreaming and has 80% of its total enrolment consisting of women.

H. Administration of justice⁴⁵

67. In the MTR⁴⁶ an update on measures and progress to promote access to justice and rule of law was provided. More progress was made since then, including information which is provided in the Matrix⁴⁷.

68. In 2020, 645 employees were trained in different programmes that were lined up by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). 138 members participated in performance management training. 261 participants were drawn from JSC, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Special Anti-Corruption Unit (SACU), the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and Police Anti-corruption Unit participated in the anti-corruption training.

E-justice, new courts and new divisions

1. *Creation of virtual courts*

69. The Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges but also brought with it the opportunity for technological advancements within the justice sector. The GoZ, with the technical support from the development partners, established at least one virtual court in each of the 10 provinces of the Country. The GoZ is also working on the legislative framework for implementation of e-justice and this will allow electronic accessibility of court processes and facilitate a paperless case management system.

70. The Constitution provides for establishment of the Constitutional Court as a separate superior court of record. Pursuant to this a successful separation of the Judges of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court was done in 2021. The President appointed five judges of the Supreme Court to sit as permanent judges of the Constitutional Court together with Chief Justice and his deputy.

2. *Decentralisation of the courts*

71. The GoZ continues to decentralise courts in Zimbabwe in order to improve access to justice. Following the opening of a High Court in Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe now has High Court stations in five of the country's ten provinces. Magistrates' courts are also being established in major high-density areas⁴⁸.

72. More specialised courts were designated by the JSC, such as the Commercial and Anti-Corruption Courts.

3. *Independence of the judiciary*

73. The independence of the judiciary is protected by the Constitution (s85), which also governs the appointment of judges. In terms of the Constitution (s3), Zimbabwe is founded on values and principles that include good governance. Principles of good governance which are enunciated in the Constitution include observance of the principles of separation of powers, thus the Executive as one of the three arms of the State respects the independence accorded to the Judiciary.

74. Government recently appointed commissioners of the JSC, which is responsible for the administration of employment, discipline and conditions of service of persons employed in the judiciary and its supporting staff.

4. *Human rights training⁴⁹*

75. In the MTR⁵⁰, information was provided on the commitment of Government towards continuous training of public officials in human rights. It is intended that the training will enhance their capacity to implement human rights and respect for the rule of law.

76. Training conducted by Government with support from development and local partners includes:

- training of the Intern-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (IMC) on State Party reporting;

- trainings conducted for Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) members on child marriages;
- human rights training for the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service (ZPCS) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) conducted in partnership with the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF); and
- curriculum review and human rights training for the ZPCS in partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI). Other Government officials have also benefited from human rights training organised by RWI.

77. Police recruits are now being trained at the newly established Police Academy, which is affiliated to the Faculty of Law of the University of Zimbabwe. The training has been upgraded to diploma level and the period of training extended from the traditional six months to twelve months. The modules now include training on promotion and protection of fundamental human rights. In addition to this, there is continuous in-service training at all Provincial Updating Centres for serving members. This training also includes human rights.

78. The ZPCS is reviewing its recruit training course with a view to infusing human rights in training for recruits. To this end, the ZPCS has partnered RWI to support the review and to develop a training manual. As mentioned above, the same Institute has been involved in a number of human rights training programmes for serving officers, especially on the Mandela Rules. The LRF is also running human rights training programmes for prisons in all the provinces, whilst other partners like the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) are also assisting inmates in drafting bail and appeal papers.

5. *Combating corruption*⁵¹

79. The GoZ has launched the anti-corruption strategy whose purpose is:

- To support citizen empowerment and awareness of their rights and responsibilities;
- relevant to the fight against corruption;
- To enhance the structures for deterrence, detection, adherence and enforcement through improved compliance with anti-corruption and integrity management obligations;
- To increase public demand for transparency and accountability in public and private institutions;
- To ensure the protection of whistle-blowers and victims of corruption, thereby encouraging active participation of anti-corruption efforts by the members of the public;
- To recover assets and proceeds from corruption crimes, compensate damages inflicted on the State and corruption victims; and
- To increase the level of political parties' transparency, political will and accountability.

80. The Auditor General has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission which allows ZACC to use the Auditor General's findings at any moment to initiate investigations on any corruption suspicions.

81. More information is provided in the Matrix⁵².

I. Birth registration⁵³

82. The GoZ has in the past reported on the different measures that it has put in place to facilitate the registration of all births, including legislative measures⁵⁴.

83. The report on the ZHRC National Inquiry on Access to Documentation, including findings and recommendations was launched in 2020 and some of the recommendations are being implemented.

84. The Civil Registry in collaboration with ZIMSTAT began producing Vital Statistical reports during the year 2021. These have statistics which are useful in determining the completeness of the birth registrations across the country as registered births will be expressed as a proportion of projected number of births which would have occurred during a reporting year.

85. The Registrar General and Matabeleland Collective Trust concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the intention of mobilising citizens in three provinces to take up their constitutional citizenship rights and to provide them with ease of access to national documentation for the full participation and enjoyment of their rights as Zimbabweans.

J. Conditions of prisons and police holding cells⁵⁵

86. Progress made in the first two years since the 2nd Cycle review is captured in the MTR⁵⁶.

87. The GoZ will continue to increase budgetary support to the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service and take measures to improve the conditions of prisons. For example, in the 2020 financial year ZPCS received a budgetary allocation of ZWL\$708,415,000, which was later revised upwards to ZWL\$1,381,000,386. In the 2021 financial, year ZPCS received ZWL\$5,083,942,000.

88. In addition to direct budgetary support to the ZPCS, Government is supporting production at its 24 prison farms. In 2020, ZWL\$5,818,000 was allocated towards production enhancement (seed, chemicals and fertilisers) at the farms to ensure food sufficiency for inmates. The figure was later revised to ZWL\$50,000,000 and the 2021 figure is ZWL\$ 66,788,000. In 2021 ZPCS also received 20 tractors, 3 combine harvesters and 10 planters.

1. Monitoring places of detention

89. The Prisons Act (s44-46) provide for impartial supervision and independent inspections of detention centres. They allow for visitation of detention cells by the Vice Presidents, Ministers, Judges, Magistrates, Ministers of Religion and official visitors, who periodically visit prisons throughout the country.

90. Visiting justices may call for all books, papers and records relating to the management and discipline of the prison, visit every part of the prison and see every inmate in confinement, inspect and check the quality and quantity of inmates' food, ascertain that the standing orders and regulations are observed and inquire into any complaints or requests made by inmates.

91. For accountability purposes, and pursuant to its constitutional mandate, the ZHRC undertakes monitoring and inspection visits to all prisons and makes appropriate recommendations aimed at improving the rights of inmates. The ZHRC has made the recommendations which are under consideration by GoZ.

92. The Judiciary also makes regular prison visits to receive complaints and concerns by inmates. There is also a Committee on Prison Visits that is chaired by a High Court Judge, whose mandate is to ascertain the living conditions of inmates and also receive their complaints. The Committee is made up of High Court Judges, Prosecutors, Registrar of the High Court, Clerk of Court, a Magistrate and a representative of the Police.

2. Decongestion

93. The prison population in Zimbabwe continues to increase due to Covid-19 induced delays in court processes, with only bail applications and initial remands being prioritised. However, in a bid to decongest prisons in light of Covid-19, three amnesties were declared in 2020 and 2021, and a total of 6,127 inmates were released.

3. *Rehabilitation programmes for inmates*

94. A number of rehabilitation programmes for inmates are ongoing. These include motor mechanics, carpentry and tailoring. To this end, the ZPCS has partnered a private company which has seen inmates being involved in the assembling of motor cycles, particularly at the Harare, Mutare, Bulawayo, Gweru and Masvingo workshops.

95. As part of rehabilitating and improving the detention conditions for female inmates, GoZ established a female open prison system in June 2021.

4. *Police holding cells*

96. Basic facilities are availed to detained persons in the police holding cells. In this Covid-19 pandemic period, disinfection of cells is being carried out on regular intervals. More importantly, all persons are being tested for their Covid-19 status before detention. There are also some upgraded water and sanitation facilities for consistent water supply. The Zimbabwe Police Service have upgraded housekeeping standards in the holding cells.

K. Trafficking in persons⁵⁷

97. Further to the progress as reported in the MTR⁵⁸, there were a number of developments as indicated below and in the Matrix⁵⁹.

98. Government, with assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), came up with amendments to the Trafficking in Persons Act so as to fortify the definition of the crime of human trafficking as well as other provisions of the Palermo Protocol. An amendment bill has been drafted and is undergoing internal processes before it is introduced in Parliament.

99. In 2019, no cases of forced labour were recorded. However, 3 cases of adult labour exploitation were recorded (2 males, 1 female) whilst 3 cases of child trafficking were received. Out of these, 3 cases were prosecuted and, in July 2020, one of the arrested traffickers was jailed for a 10-year term.

L. Women's rights

100. Reference is made to the MTR⁶⁰ in which the GoZ provided an update on implementation of women's rights. Further progress is reported below.

1. *Advancement of women⁶¹*

101. In 2020, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation (SMEDCO) disbursed ZWL\$83,800,000 to 219 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), of which ZWL\$69,261,172 was disbursed to projects affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 957 jobs were sustained and 360 jobs were created. The gender composition of SME projects supported is shown in Annexure Fig 7.

102. The GoZ funds the Women's Development Fund, whose purpose is to provide loans to women's groups without collateral. In 2020, 40 projects in 6 of the 10 provinces of the country were funded⁶². ZWL\$10,050,000 was loaned to 200 women who are in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and retailing sectors.

2. *Violence against women⁶³*

103. The Domestic Violence Act criminalises acts of violence against women such as forced virginity testing, female genital mutilation and any other forms of physical or psychological violence.

104. Government carries out community-based awareness campaigns on Gender Based Violence (GBV) that focus on raising awareness on the domestic violence, popularising the Domestic Violence Act, building community activism against domestic violence, strengthening the capacity of the community to establish mechanisms for preventing and

responding to domestic violence. Sensitisation campaigns are conducted for traditional leaders to take the lead role in discussing transformative masculinity, addressing rigid gender and social norms and the negative effects of patriarchy.

3. *Participation of women in political and public life*⁶⁴

105. The MTR⁶⁵ provides statistics on women's participation in political and public life. More information is provided below.

106. Table 8 below shows the number and proportion of women in key decision-making positions in politics, public sector, State enterprises and in the judiciary.

Table 8: Women in decision-making politics and public sector

Source: Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development 2018-2021

	2018				2021			
	Women	Men	Total	% share of women	Women	Men	Total	% share of women
Political life								
GoZ Ministers	6	14	20	30	5	15	20	25
Ministers of State	5	5	10	50	6	6	12	50
Parliament	120	230	350	34	113	205	318	35.5
Local Government Councilors	190	1,169	1,359	14	274	1,684	1,958	14
Public sector								
Permanent Secretaries	6	14	20	30	8	25	33	24
Commissioners in the Public Service	4	3	7	57	2	4	6	33
Chief Directors/ Directors/ Deputy Directors	267	660	927	29	220	495	715	31
Ambassadors	10	29	39	26	11	36	47	23
Vice Chancellors – State Universities	0	11	11	0	1	11	12	8
Principals of State-owned Teachers Colleges / Agricultural colleges/ Poly-Technical colleges	12	18	30	40	7	14	21	33

Table 9: Statistics of women in the judiciary, Source: Judicial Service Commission 2020

	2018				2020			
	Women	Men	Total	% share of women	Women	Men	Total	% share of women
Judiciary								
Superior Court Judges	28	30	58	48	31	39	70	44
Magistrates	94	156	250	38	133	96	229	58

107. The Constitution extended the women's quota (60 seats) in the National Assembly beyond 2023⁶⁶.

4. *Employment*

108. When looking at the participation of women in the labour force, the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey estimated that there were overall employment and unemployment rates of 84% and 16% respectively. Amongst those who were employed, 57% were male and 43% were female. The unemployment rate for females was slightly higher than for males, with females at 17.2% and males at 15.7%. There was also a wide disparity on the Employment to Population Ratio (EPR). The EPR among the male population was 44.4% whilst for females it was 28.5%. Among people who were employed at management level in the country, the proportion of women was 33.7%. This is a notable increase when compared to the 27.9% which was found by a similar survey in 2014. More information on the occupations held by women in Zimbabwe is shown in the table below.

Table 10: % distribution of currently employed persons 15 years and above by occupation and sex, 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (2014 and 2019)

Occupation	2014			Total number	2019			Total number
	Male	Female	%		Male	Female	%	
Armed forces occupations	95.4	4.6	100	8,658	92.6	7.4	100	6,075
Managers	72.4	27.6	100	65,974	66.3	33.7	100	54,839
Professionals	49.3	50.7	100	218,156	41.6	58.4	100	236,811
Technicians and associate professionals	66.0	34.0	100	100,146	65.3	34.7	100	77,209
Clerical support workers	45.0	55.0	100	59,073	42.7	57.3	100	46,615
Service and sales workers	44.3	55.7	100	683,821	41.0	59.0	100	512,736
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	44.0	56.0	100	3,847,543	50.7	49.3	100	575,312
Craft and related trades workers	81.1	18.9	100	360,453	77.0	23.0	100	274,885
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	93.8	6.2	100	178,610	88.1	11.9	100	262,286
Elementary occupations	51.1	48.9	100	742,436	57.1	42.9	100	850,294
Total	49.3	50.7	100	6,265,869	56.6	43.4	100	2,897,064

M. **Children's rights**⁶⁷

1. *Education*

109. Information on the right of children to education is provided in paragraph 51–66 above.

2. *Child marriages*

110. In addition to information provided above on children's rights, more information is provided below and in the Matrix.

111. The Marriages Bill which harmonises all marriage laws, bans child marriages, sets the minimum age of all marriages at 18 and protects children from sexual exploitation is before Parliament.

112. Despite the best efforts of Government to end child marriages, there are a number of factors that tend to militate against progress. These include lack of cooperation by family members of the victim, especially where the perpetrator has promised to pay compensation or bride price, ignorance of the law due to the fact that community awareness campaigns have not yet reached all parts of the country, and belief systems including religion.

113. Government is making efforts to address these challenges by ensuring that all children remain in school by providing compulsory and State funded basic education, broadening

awareness raising campaigns, and expediting the processing of court cases, among other measures.

3. *Child online safety*

114. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the internet became a critical tool for children's access to learning, play, entertainment and social interaction. Consequently, they become exposed to cyber-bullying, grooming, online child sexual abuse, pornography, child trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Government has taken significant steps to ensuring that children are protected online through establishment of the Zimbabwe Child Online Protection Committee (ZICOP), the drafting of the first ever child online protection policy and the incorporation of child online protection provisions in the Cyber and Data Protection Act.⁶⁸

N. Rights of persons with disabilities⁶⁹

115. The GoZ is striving towards the full domestication of the CRPD through various laws, policies and programmes. For example, the National Disability Policy was launched in 2021 whilst the Persons with Disabilities Bill is undergoing internal law-making processes.

116. Entrepreneurs with disabilities are provided with Loans to start businesses or other income-generating projects.

117. PWDs benefit from the Harmonised Cash Transfer Programme that assists vulnerable households.

O. Media⁷⁰

118. As indicated in the MTR⁷¹, the GoZ is undertaking media reforms.

119. The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act⁷² was repealed by the Freedom of Information Act⁷³ with the view to *inter alia* allow more space for free expression and freedom of the media.

120. The Zimbabwe Media Commission Act⁷⁴ was promulgated in 2020 as part of Government's measures to address reforms in the media and alignment of laws.

121. Regulations to govern the issuance of licences to community radio and private television stations were published in 2020.

P. Financial, technical and other cooperation assistance⁷⁵

122. The GoZ continues to make efforts to mobilise resources and technical support to enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations and for social and economic development.

123. Support was also received in the same period from other multilateral and bilateral development partners. Areas of support include food and nutrition security, rule of law and access to justice for all, health, women and youth empowerment, water and sanitation and support for livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

124. For information on support for human rights refer to the Matrix⁷⁶.

Q. Cooperation with civil society organisations and other stakeholders⁷⁷

125. Government remains committed to cooperating with CSOs. This cooperation extends to consultations when preparing national reports to the human rights treaty bodies and under the UPR process. CSOs also remain an integral part of the National UPR Steering Committee and were consulted during the drafting of this report.

R. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms⁷⁸

126. Zimbabwe will continue to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms, in particular the treaty bodies, the UN Human Rights Council and UN special procedures mandate holders.

Cooperation with human rights treaty bodies

127. Zimbabwe is up to date in relation to reports under the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The first periodic report on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is ready for consideration by Cabinet.

128. Zimbabwe will submit an updated Common Core Document in 2021 and is working on a number of outstanding reports as indicated in the Matrix.

Cooperation with the special procedures

129. The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association visited Zimbabwe from 17–27 September 2019 while the Special Rapporteur on the right to food visited from 18–28 November 2019. The GoZ has put in place effective and efficient mechanisms to comply with accepted recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food.

III. New and emerging issues

Covid-19

130. As reported above in Chapter II, G, Covid-19 presented Zimbabwe with a health crisis as well as socio-economic challenges.

131. Government put in place a number of mitigatory measures, including prevention and support for the productive sector. While the productive sector, retailers and public offices were virtually closed, Government allowed those classified as essential services to operate to enable the people to access basic goods and services and to limit damage to the economy.

132. Government prioritised resource mobilisation and redirected some capital expenditures towards health-related expenditures, including water supply and sanitation programmes.

1. Social protection

133. Vulnerable people were the most exposed by the pandemic. More so, restrictions on the operation of industry and commerce and the informal sector meant that employees were also rendered vulnerable. Government set aside resources under a Cash Transfer Programme, with the Department of Social Welfare using its systems to identify beneficiaries. There was also support in cash and kind from development partners and local companies and other well-wishers.

2. Access to water

134. Government put in place measures to ensure the continuous availability of water in response to the pandemic. Some of these measures are reflected in the table below.

Table 11: Covid-19 interventions, water supply, 2020

<i>Intervention</i>	<i>Number</i>
Drilling boreholes at Covid-19 isolation centres	62
Rehabilitation of boreholes across the country's 10 provinces	2,848
Rehabilitation of piped water schemes in 7 provinces	38
Trucking water to major cities during the course of the pandemic	2,515,000l – Bulawayo 55,120,00l – Harare
Supplying hygiene kits (aquatabs, soap, water container, hand washing bucket, IEC material)	31,540
Constructing and/or installing hand washing facilities at public places	17,888

3. Right to access to national registration documentation

135. The lockdown measures curtailed the issuance of registration and national identity documents as well as passports. Only critical applications were considered during upgraded lockdown periods.

4. Access to justice

136. The Pre-Trial Diversion activities were impeded as the officers concerned were not able to report for duty due to the restrictions on movement especially during the upgraded lockdown periods. Community Service Officers were also affected, thus making it difficult to monitor offenders who were on community service. The Chief Justice issued several Practice Directives for Courts which were aimed at mitigating the effects of the upgraded lockdown on access to justice, wherein the courts and related services were required to operate, albeit below capacity and with strict adherence to WHO and Government protocols on COVID-19.⁷⁹

5. Rights of prison inmates

137. The ZPCS developed guidelines meant to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the prisons, such as limiting the number of visits from friends and relatives, testing every person for symptoms of covid-19 infection upon admission to prison, regular temperature checks and issuance of face masks. Inmates who were suspected of infection would be quarantined⁸⁰ Three amnesties were declared in 2020 and 2021 in order to reduce the prison population.

6. Right to education

138. In order to ensure continued teaching and learning the GoZ has, with support from development partners, introduced a range of alternative learning platforms for the benefit of all learners. These include radio lessons, e-learning platforms, supply of printed study materials for learners in disadvantaged communities and facilitated home and community learning activities. Several implementation challenges have been identified and addressed in this ongoing process to achieve equity and inclusion.

National and economic development

139. The Vision 2030 was launched in September 2018 to chart Zimbabwe's new development trajectory to achieve an Upper Middle Income Society by 2030, for an empowered and prosperous Zimbabwe. The Vision reflects the collective aspirations and determination of the people of Zimbabwe to achieve and sustain economic growth, broad based transformation, while conferring equal opportunities for all.

1. National Development Strategy 1

140. As mentioned above (para 26–28), the GoZ is implementing the NDS1 to promote accelerated, high, inclusive, broad based and sustainable economic growth as well as socio-

economic transformation and development as the country moves towards an upper middle-income status by 2030.

2. Devolution

141. Devolution is one of the values espoused in Vision 2030, thereby upholding the tenets enshrined in the Constitution of providing for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to competent provincial and metropolitan councils and local authorities. It seeks to make the system of governance community based and people centred by enhancing community participation in making decisions on local development issues that affect them and in the exercise of governmental powers, whilst upholding the preservation of national unity. Devolution is key in ensuring non-discriminatory and just governance as well as inclusive and transformative socio-economic development. It seeks to ensure the recognition of the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their own development and the equitable sharing of local and national resources. Devolution is also intended to enable a faster efficient and effective response to challenges of the delivery of public services, development and democracy while fostering national unity and peace.

142. Government has already commenced the mandatory transfers of not less than 5% of collected revenues to eligible sub-national tiers of Government in line with provisions of the Constitution. These disbursements have resulted in the implementation of projects with high social and economic impact and cover sectors such as water, sanitation and health (WASH), infrastructure, education services as well as roads rehabilitation.

3. Foreign exchange auction system

143. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), introduced the foreign exchange Dutch Auction System in June 2020, in order to stabilise the exchange rate, deal with the volatility in the prices of goods and services, which were rising in tandem with rising parallel exchange rate premium, discourage speculative hoarding of foreign currency and enhance transparency in exchange rate management. The auction system replaced the fixed exchange rate system.

144. In line with its objectives, the foreign exchange auction system has greatly improved transparency in the foreign currency market and has facilitated the discovery of a market-based exchange rate. Consequently, prices of goods and services have been gradually going down. The re-direction of the foreign currency demand pressure from the parallel market to the auction, coupled with improved foreign currency supply and the Bank's contractionary monetary growth stance, will assist in fostering price stability.

4. Re-engagement thrust

145. As a sign of Zimbabwe's commitment to its international obligations and to demonstrate respect for property rights, Government is ratifying all 18 outstanding Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements (BIPPAs). Six have already been ratified and another batch of six already going through the internal legal processes.

146. A law was gazetted to provide for disposal of land in lieu of compensation to persons who are in terms of the Constitution entitled to compensation for acquisition of previously compulsorily acquired agricultural land. These persons include indigenous individual persons, citizens of a BIPPA or Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) country at the time their investment in agricultural land, and private companies whose shareholding is wholly or predominantly owned by the first two categories of persons.

5. Global compensation agreement

147. Government and the former farmers' representatives engaged in extensive negotiations over the global compensation figure for improvements, including assets and land clearing costs, on the land compulsorily acquired from the former farm owners. The conclusion of the Agreement is in compliance with the Constitution and Government's respect for the rule of law. It is also a reflection of Government commitment to the successful conclusion of the land redistribution process in a dignified manner that restores the integrity and dignity of all the people of Zimbabwe who were affected by the necessary land reforms.

6. Land security of tenure

148. Government is now strictly enforcing the law against illegal occupation of land. Small scale farmers, including former farm owners who were allowed to remain on their farms or parts thereof, will be granted bankable 99-year leases as tenure security. This is in line the Constitution which provides for security of tenure for occupiers of agricultural land.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

149. As reported in the MTR⁸¹, Zimbabwe is committed to implementing all the SDGs.

1. African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

150. The GoZ with support from the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the UN system convened the 6th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 27 February 2020. The Forum was attended by more than 2,000 participants, comprising ministers and high-level representatives of the Governments of UNECA member States, intergovernmental bodies, major groups and other stakeholders, UN bodies and specialised agencies, and other international organisations.

151. The Forum was an experience sharing event particularly on a selection of the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of the SDGs that were being conducted by 17 African countries for presentation at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), as well as emerging lessons from voluntary local reviews (VLRs).

2. Progress review of SDGs

152. In execution of the commitment of SDGs, GoZ has set the implementation monitoring and reporting structures which include parliamentary oversight of performance indicators. The progress review appraised the progress made by Zimbabwe towards implementation and achievements of the 2030 Agenda. It included highlights of the milestones achieved under the **Zimbabwe** Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) and the TSP, the two national strategies under which the SDGs were initially implemented. The review highlighted key achievements recorded through the efforts of the institutional framework put in place by the Government to guide the implementation of the SDGs. The review assessed the means of implementation as well as evaluating policies and strategies of implementation. The progress report highlighted areas that need urgent attention including the gaps and challenges encountered over the first cycle of the implementation of the SDGs.

153. The review drew on a range of contributions from across different sectors in Zimbabwe, demonstrating the role that everyone has to play: government (local, provincial, district and community), civil society, the private sector, academia, communities and citizens.

3. VNR process

154. Zimbabwe participated in the 2021 VNR of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its report tracked progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and targets in a manner that respects their universal and interconnectedness and all dimensions of sustainable development taking into account national priorities. The report:

- Highlights the effects of COVID-19 on progress made in SDG implementation.
- Identifies opportunities for acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Facilitates learning from national experiences and promotes accountability to citizens.
- Provides an opportunity for Zimbabwe to share its experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with other countries.

- Identifies groups at risk on being left behind in Zimbabwe, analyses why this is so, and reports on what their situation is and how it is being addressed.

4. Infrastructure

155. Realising that modern road infrastructure is an enabler of economic growth as it facilitates the movement of agricultural, industrial and mining raw materials and products, thereby improving citizens' access to economic rights, GoZ launched an ambitious Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP 2) [2021-2023]. By 30 September 2021, GoZ had spent over ZWL 5 billion on road rehabilitation, gravelling and drainage structuring. Over 2,000 km of roads have been re-graveled while 6,628 km have been graded with 701 drainage structures constructed and repaired and 184 wash-aways reclaimed. Further, 4,795 km of road has been pothole patched. GoZ has also rehabilitated and widened 220 km of the Beitbridge to Harare Road which runs along the southern component of the North-South corridor of the SADC region.

IV. Challenges

Climate change, disaster relief and mitigation

156. The impacts of climate change and variability are becoming more evident with increased incidences of droughts, cyclones, floods, hail-storms and heat waves. Thus, Government considers improving on adaptive capacity, increasing climate knowledge and reducing over-relying on climate sensitive sectors as key to reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change. The impacts of climate change pose serious risks to the main economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and water resources. Thus, Zimbabwe, set itself an ambitious target to green the economy by 2030 and mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience into its policy frameworks. The country has also developed a Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) which provides a range of options to contribute in the climate change goal of limiting the global temperature increase.

Cyclone Idai

157. Pursuant to efforts to mitigate the effect of Cyclone Idai⁸², the World Bank through the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme (ZIRP) and the Zimbabwe Recovery and Resilience Project (ZRRP) together with the African Development Bank (AFDB) through the Post Cyclone Idai Recovery Project (PCIRP) have committed to disburse US\$28 million during 2021 towards rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and rebuilding of lost livelihoods for the areas most affected.

158. During the period under review, resources amounting to US\$6.9 million have since been disbursed under the ZIRP project towards restoration of communal irrigation schemes, livelihood projects, rehabilitation of damaged schools, community infrastructure (access roads, bridges and erosion control measures), and provision of community risk mitigation solutions. Furthermore, resources amounting to US\$0.35 million went towards procurement of information communication technology hardware for the Department of Civil Protection under the ZRRP project during the period under review.

159. Interventions by the GoZ are summarised in the table below.

Table 12: Cyclone Idai Interventions

<i>Intervention</i>	<i>Number</i>
Drilling boreholes in affected areas	20
Restoration of water supplies of affected areas	18
Rehabilitation of dams and conveyance systems affected	5

160. Affected people were provided with inputs whilst a programme is underway to restore livestock that was lost during cyclone. Government is working with development partners in two affected districts on the livestock schemes and on a programme for restoration of traditional seed through the Gene Bank of Zimbabwe in order to restore to the affected communities the traditional seed that was lost during cyclone.

Drought

161. Zimbabwe has been affected by droughts for much of the period under review. In mitigation, each year Government carries out a national crop and livestock assessment to ascertain the food situation in the country. When deficits are experienced, it activates the Grain Mobilisation Programme (GMP) to close the deficit gap through imports and movement of grain from surplus regions to those in deficit. A deliberate and well-coordinated effort to ensure that the vulnerable access subsidised grain is done through local leadership. Government's policy is that no one should starve during droughts.⁸³

Sanctions

162. Despite the robust engagement and re-engagement efforts of Government, the unilateral illegal economic sanctions which were imposed by some Western countries remain in place. These sanctions have had a negative impact on the enjoyment of socio-economic rights.

Notes

- ¹ 132.33, 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.
- ² p.11, para 19.
- ³ A12, 132.33.
- ⁴ 131.1 Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties (Pakistan); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 – Para. 131, 131.9 Sustain efforts to align the domestic legal framework with international human rights standards (Philippines); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 – Para. 131.
- ⁵ Chapter 25:04 (as amended in 2020).
- ⁶ Launched on 9 June 2021.
- ⁷ 132.68 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 26, 131.4 Strengthen the institution to enable Zimbabwe to defend its sovereignty and protect the human rights of its people (Syrian Arab Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.32 Further enhance the role of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.33 Enhance the role of a national authority working on the promotion and respect of human rights (Egypt); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.26 Take proper measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (France); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.27

Continue efforts to ensure the effective operation and full independence of the Human Rights Commission, in keeping with the Paris Principles (Djibouti); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.28 Continue efforts towards the capacity-building of the national human rights institution (Ethiopia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.23 Step up efforts towards the expansion of the mandate of and the provision of adequate resource to the national human rights institution (Philippines); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.24 As previously recommended, provide the necessary resources and technical capacity for Zimbabwe's Human Rights Commission to function as provided for in the Constitution (Australia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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, 131.30 Take all necessary measures, including to ensure the full operationalization of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, without delay, to ensure that women are not subjected to violence, including sexual violence (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.

⁸ A45/131.23-30 & 132.68-67 and A44/131.4 & 131.31-33.

⁹ 131.6 Speed up the process of reviewing and aligning the laws with the Constitution (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.7 Harmonize all laws with the Constitution of 2013 and ensure they are implemented in full accordance with human rights (Germany); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.8 Accelerate the process of alignment of its national legislation with the new Constitution and incorporate its international commitments into domestic law (Congo); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.9 Sustain efforts to align the domestic legal framework with international human rights standards (Philippines); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.10 Expedite the review and alignment of national laws with the new Constitution (Uganda); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.11 Pursue national efforts to align the national legislation with the new Constitution (Egypt); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.13 Accelerate the process undertaken to align its legislation with the new Constitution (Togo); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.16 Continue the positive work on the domestication of human rights treaties as indicated in the midterm report (Mauritius); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.2 Fully implement the 2013 Constitution and, in particular, ensure operationalization of its key institutions, including the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (Republic of Korea); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.3 Endeavour to implement fully the Constitution and operationalize the key human rights promotion institutions that it establishes (Ghana); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.5 Accelerate implementation of the new Constitution and alignment of relevant legislation, including for the various commissions established under the Constitution (Australia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.12 Accelerate the process of reviewing and aligning its domestic laws with the Constitution, particularly those pertaining to the prohibition of torture and the elimination of violence against women (Thailand); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.19 Review and align the laws of Zimbabwe to the 2013 Constitution, including in relation to section 61 on freedom of expression and freedom of the media, and ensure their implementation (Netherlands); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.14 Actively pursue the work on compliance of laws and regulations on human rights with constitutional provisions and take necessary measures to fully guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful demonstration and assembly (France); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.15 Review the legislation to ensure its full compliance with the international obligations of Zimbabwe and with the country's Constitution with regard to the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and the elimination of discrimination against women (Czechia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.18 Align domestic legislation with the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and adopt measures to ensure inclusive education and access to public buildings for people with disabilities (Israel); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.21 Fully incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its domestic legal system (South Africa); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.20 Update national legislation in line with its international commitments, especially with regard to gender equality, protection of the rights of the child and combating violence and forced marriage (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 34131.90.
- ¹⁰ According to the bill tracking mechanism which was established to monitor progress on outstanding bills, of the said 40 bills, 12 are under deliberations in Parliament, 20 are before Cabinet, and 8 are at research stages.
- ¹¹ A41/131.7.
- ¹² 131.47 Continue making efforts, with the support of the international community, to ensure that unilateral coercive measures imposed on the country are lifted (Cuba); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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.
- ¹³ P.10, para 47-48.
- ¹⁴ B21/131.46.
- ¹⁵ 131.91 Comply with its obligations with respect to the right to freedom of expression and information (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.89 Adopt measures that guarantee the rights of citizens to peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression (Chile); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.92 Continue to strengthen the implementation of laws and policies on freedom of expression and assembly (Botswana); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, Guarantee full enjoyment of the right of freedom of expression and association (Ukraine); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ¹⁶ P.14-15, para 76-80.
- ¹⁷ D43/132.62.
- ¹⁸ Guarantee the free exercise of the right to demonstrate, recognized in section 59 of the 2013 Constitution (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); 132.94 Protect civil society actors, including human rights organizations, against any harassment or persecution, including arbitrary arrest or enforced disappearance, and improve the legal framework so that it encourages and facilitates the operation of non-governmental organizations (Czechia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 33 Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 36, 132.97 Guarantee freedom of assembly and association, including through immediate alignment of national legislation, in particular the Public Order and Security Act, with international standards (Denmark); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 36, 131.94 Take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 132.99 Promote and disseminate the United Nations declaration on human rights defenders and adopt national legislation for its effective implementation; investigate threats, attacks and intimidations against human rights defenders and ensure their protection (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 37, 132.94 Protect civil society actors, including human rights organizations, against any harassment or persecution, including arbitrary arrest or enforced disappearance, and improve the legal framework so that it encourages and facilitates the operation of non-governmental organizations (Czechia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 33.
- ¹⁹ D45/132.96.
- ²⁰ Chapter 9:23.
- ²¹ Chapter 5.06.
- ²² 131.63 Cease ungrounded arrests and detentions, as well as the excessive use of force, torture, intimidation and harassment, interference and anti-protest discrimination (Ukraine); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ²³ D33/161.63.
- ²⁴ 131.97 Ensure that violence directed against political activists, regardless of political affiliation, and human rights defenders will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be held accountable in accordance with the law (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ²⁵ D32/161.64.
- ²⁶ 131.34 Establish a credible, independent electoral commission capable of registering eligible voters on a nationwide basis ahead of the 2018 elections (United States of America); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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.
- ²⁷ p10-11, para 48-57.

- ²⁸ 131.136 Support partnerships, particularly with the private sector, for the implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation (Morocco); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.137 Accelerate activities for implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.139 Continue efforts to implement the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation, in order to improve economic development and to enhance peace and security (Holy See); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.98 Continue its efforts to promote sustainable economic and social development and to improve the living standards in the country (China); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.99 Strengthen the implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation (Angola); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.135 Continue efforts in accordance with the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.39 Guarantee continuing awareness-raising on the Sustainable Development Goals, to make them part of the general culture (Syrian Arab Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.38 Continue to implement policies for the development of its people under the Sustainable Development Goals, including measures taken for equal opportunities for women's participation in the economic development of the country (Pakistan); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.102 Develop an effective national strategy to address poverty, social security and health (Uganda); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.103 Continue its endeavours for development and poverty alleviation throughout the country (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ²⁹ 132.81 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, 131.119 Continue to take further measures to enhance health-care services, especially for women and children (Myanmar); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.121 Strengthen its efforts for realizing full immunization in cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.116 Develop a long-term plan to keep health personnel skilled and establish permanent training on this matter (Panama); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.120 Upgrade primary and secondary health-care infrastructure and increase budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Health and Child Care in line with regional and international obligations (Kenya); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.117 Develop and operationalize a comprehensive strategy on preventing maternal, neonatal and child mortality (Botswana); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.118 Strengthen efforts to increase women's access to health-care facilities and medical assistance in order to address the prevailing high maternal mortality rate (Ghana); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.124 Strengthen national mechanisms to allow children's access to education and health services, specifically in rural areas (Morocco); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.112 Take effective measures to reduce and combat malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (Angola); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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, 131.114 Continue efforts to combat diseases, including malaria and HIV/AIDS, by investing in pharmaceutical research and public access to treatment options (Maldives); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.115 Strengthen children's access to health services, particularly as regards HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (Algeria); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ³⁰ E41/131.118.
- ³¹ E41/131.113.
- ³² 131.45 Allow the unimpeded ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance, including food aid, to all parts of the country (New Zealand); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.104 Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources for the implementation of the food security policy (Uganda); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.105 Enhance social protection to ensure the delivery of food assistance and address malnutrition (New Zealand); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 31.106 Continue to take agricultural productivity measures to ensure food security in the country (Ethiopia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.107 Implement measures to ensure that food agenda against famine caused by drought is distributed fairly, focusing

- especially on vulnerable people (Chile); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ³³ E22/131.45.
- ³⁴ E22/131.105.
- ³⁵ E22/131.105.
- ³⁶ 131.111 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.
- ³⁷ P.17, para 93.
- ³⁸ E26/131.111.
- ³⁹ For example, during the reporting period the GoZ commissioned Tugwi-Mukosi, Marowanyati and Muchekeranwa dams while other government-funded dams are at various levels of construction, such as Gwayi-Shangani, Kunzvi and Chivhu.
- ⁴⁰ 131.122 Promote the right to education, inter alia, through combating the challenges of access to schools (Armenia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.123 Eliminate all barriers to students' access to education in all provinces (Kenya); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.127 Take further steps to provide access to education for all children (Democratic People's Republic of Korea); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.128 Continue to focus on the issue of education to ensure inclusive, high-quality, accessible education for all (Belarus); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.126 Continue working with its development partners to invest in the education sector (South Sudan); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.125 Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources to increase the quality of education, including for improving schools' infrastructure (Turkey); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.100 Continue consolidating its social programmes and strengthening its successful education policy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.132 Continue strengthening the programme on primary education and ensure full school attendance by children deprived of education at the primary and secondary levels (Iraq); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.129 Further develop its education system, including through the improvement of access to education for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.130 Incorporate into the education system a human rights-based strategy which is inclusive of children with disabilities (Panama); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.131 Ensure a free and compulsory primary education by implementing the Education Act (Slovenia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁴¹ P.17, para 97-98.
- ⁴² Secretary's Circular Number 5 of 2019.
- ⁴³ It has also been uploaded to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education website for easy accessibility to all teachers.
- ⁴⁴ EMIS 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- ⁴⁵ 131.84 Ensure that all individuals who have been detained and charged with an offence are given a fair and impartial trial, while ensuring the independence of the judiciary (New Zealand); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 132.89 Immediately adopt policies to guide the equitable use of the performance and accountability systems of the State justice institutions (Denmark); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 32, 131.82 Provide training for judges and prosecutors (Timor-Leste); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.81 Implement measures to strengthen the system of justice administration in order to ensure equal access and due process and to fight impunity (Chile); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁴⁶ P.12, para 58-64.
- ⁴⁷ D51/131.84.
- ⁴⁸ For example, magistrates' courts have been established in the high-density suburbs of Epworth, Budiriro, Entumbane, Nkulumane and Glen Norah in Harare and Bulawayo.
- ⁴⁹ 131.42 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.43 Continue its efforts in human rights training and awareness-raising (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁵⁰ P12, para 62-64.
- ⁵¹ 131.141 Continue to strengthen efforts to fight corruption (United Republic of Tanzania); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁵² A47/131.141.
- ⁵³ 132.78 Reinforce policies to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe, regardless of their parents'

- origins, are issued with birth certificates (Holy See); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 30, 132.80 Scale up efforts to ensure that all children are issued with a birth certificate (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 30, 132.79 Consider amending the existing legislation to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe, regardless of their parents' origin, are issued with birth certificates and ensure the paternity rights of children born out of wedlock (Namibia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 30, 131.62 Increase prompt access to birth registration and public awareness for the same (Kenya); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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.
- ⁵⁴ For example, refer to the MTR (p.20, para 112-115).
- ⁵⁵ 131.75 Step up its efforts to improve detention conditions in prisons and in police holding cells (Burundi); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.76 Step up efforts to improve prison conditions and police cells, in order to decongest prisons (Cuba); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁵⁶ P.13, para.65-68.
- ⁵⁷ 131.77 Continue its efforts in combating human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.78 Continue its efforts to implement the national plan on anti-trafficking and the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation 2013-2018 (Sudan); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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.
- ⁵⁸ P.13 para.69-75.
- ⁵⁹ D27/131.79-80.
- ⁶⁰ P.21, para.117-124.
- ⁶¹ 131.53 Continue to strengthen its policies and measures for the empowerment of women (Bangladesh); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.54 Continue to develop policies to protect women's rights (Syrian Arab Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.140 Take steps to promote economic growth with a more equitable distribution of resources, to ensure social and economic rights for all (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁶² The provinces are Mashonaland East, Matabeleland North, Midlands, Mashonaland West, Masvingo and Manicaland Provinces.
- ⁶³ 131.70 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, 131.71 Adopt measures to prevent and eliminate all abuses of sexual violence against girls and women, ensuring that perpetrators are effectively held to account, including with full coordination of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (Turkey); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.73 Provide adequate assistance and protection to women who were victims of violence (Timor-Leste); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.72 Ensure victims of sexual and gender-based violence have access to social and legal support, and that perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence are brought to justice (Canada); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁶⁴ 131.55 Develop and implement the national gender policy in order to ensure that the principle of equal gender representation is respected (Ecuador); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁶⁵ P.22, para 126.
- ⁶⁶ Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment number 2 of 2019.
- ⁶⁷ 131.40 Continue to do what needs to be done to put together a national child rights policy (Ecuador); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.108 Continue to ensure, through an ongoing campaign or strategy, access to food and to education for all children, including children with disabilities, children who live on the street, orphans and children living in rural areas (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 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, 131.69 Develop a national plan of action to stem the rise in the practice of child marriage (Madagascar); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.66 Fully implement the constitutional provisions for the protection of the rights of the child in line with international standards, also in order to further reduce the practices of child, early and forced marriage (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.74 Ensure strict compliance with legal provisions pertaining to the minimum age for marriage, and also prevent and investigate cases of forced marriage, bringing perpetrators to justice and guaranteeing assistance to victims

- (Argentina); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.67 Improve the protection of children, taking measures to prevent forced and early marriage, and eliminate child labour (Israel); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.41 Establish child protection systems in order to reduce the number of cases of maltreatment of children (Madagascar); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.65 Strengthen the implementation measures taken to fight child labour (France); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁶⁸ September 2021.
- ⁶⁹ 131.133 Promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Algeria); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 131.134 Strengthen social inclusion measures, in particular for persons with physical disabilities (Angola); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁷⁰ 132.62 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); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 17, Continue to take measures to ensure freedom of the media and press freedom (Namibia); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131, 132.93 Make efforts to promote free and unbiased local media, including by removing restrictions on local radio broadcasts (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8/Add.1 - Para. 18, 131.95 Review existing legislation in order to enhance the exercise of the freedom of assembly and of the press (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁷¹ P.7, para 31.
- ⁷² Chapter 10:17.
- ⁷³ Chapter 11:34.
- ⁷⁴ Chapter 10:35.
- ⁷⁵ 131.138 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, 131.37, Continue to mobilize resources and technical support to enhance the capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁷⁶ A42/131.37.
- ⁷⁷ 131.48 Cooperate closely with civil society in the follow-up to the universal periodic review (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/34/8 - Para. 131.
- ⁷⁸ 131.50 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); 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.
- ⁷⁹ Refer to Part VIII.
- ⁸⁰ The High Court of Zimbabwe on 14 August 2020 in the case of *Hopewell Chin'ono and Jacob Ngarivhume versus Minister of Justice and Commissioner General of Prisons and Correctional Services* provided guidance by defining the rights of inmates. These rights included access to a legal representative of one's choice, access to a medical practitioner one's choice, in line with reasonable administrative measures, access to food and to PPEs, and access to social visits within reasonable administrative measures. ZPCS endeavoured to ensure full compliance with these requirements despite resource and other constraints.
- ⁸¹ P.15, para 81.
- ⁸² See MTR p.4, para 13-18.
- ⁸³ Refer to paragraph 38.