The President of the Executive Board,
Executive Board Members,
The Executive Director,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President
Let me start by thanking you for presiding over this important Second Regular Session, which is an opportunity for the Board to offer guidance and direction to the operations of UNICEF.

Allow me, also, to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Executive Director, Ms. Henrietta Fore, for her sterling and exemplary leadership of UNICEF and in steering the organization during this unprecedented period when we are all fighting to contain and halt the pandemic. She ably led UNICEF’s response to the pandemic in support of Member States, leveraging its comparative advantage in the procurement of essential medical supplies, including Personal Protective Equipment’s (PPEs).

Mr. President
With regards to the Zimbabwe Country Programme Document (CPD), for the period 2022 to 2026, which is before the Board, allow me to express my
country’s gratitude to UNICEF for complementing Government’s efforts in the area of child protection. As you are aware, the impacts of COVID-19 have disproportionately affected children. School closures have affected about 4.6 million learners in Zimbabwe, disrupted immunization and nutritional programmes, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes. It is our fervent hope that through the implementation of the CPD, UNICEF will continue to complement Government’s post-pandemic efforts to build-back-better for the children, and assist in the fulfillment of national aspirations as enshrined in our Vision 2030.

The seven priority areas of the CPD are consistent with Zimbabwe’s needs on the ground that require intervention for children. They have been shaped through years of collaboration and cooperation between the Government, UNICEF, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. However, we would be grateful if UNICEF would also look into strengthening the child rights governance architecture, through capacity development of the relevant institutions, including line Ministries that are charged with making children’s rights a reality.

We continue to support UNICEF’s call for increased long-term Regular Resources, which are predictable and would enable the organization to respond to the needs of Member States as and when they arise.

UNICEF has long identified the challenge of concentration of its activities in urban areas. Therefore, we urge the Agency to continue to expand its
operations countrywide, so as to leave no child behind. In fact, children in the rural areas need UNICEF’s services even more.

My Government pledges its continued commitment to the development of our children, especially the girl child, and to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for the growth of our children. In that regard, we fully support and recommend the adoption of our UNICEF CPD, which is a huge contribution towards the fulfillment of our SDGs and Vision 2030.

I thank you