

*\* STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2021 UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: 7-8 DECEMBER 2021: SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA*

*Mr. Chair*

*Thank you for organizing this United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, whose objective is to reinforce UN peacekeeping by improving the performance and impact of UN peacekeeping operations.*

*Zimbabwe is a peace-loving country and is one of the 154 Member States that endorsed the Secretary-General's call for "Action for Peacekeeping." Zimbabwe also supports the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative and the cross-cutting themes of technology, medical capacity building and sustenance of peace.*

*Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,*

*Zimbabwe has 29 United Nations Military Experts on Mission (UNMEMs) and Staff Officers deployed in UN Peace Operations, of which 72.41% are women, which surpasses the 18% target set for 2021 in the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028. It also has 33 Individual Police Officers (IPOs) deployed, 48.5% of which are women, again exceeding the 22% target set for IPOs for 2021.*

*Zimbabwe has well trained Troop and Formed Police Units personnel that stand ready to be deployed in UN peacekeeping missions. This includes medical personnel, that only requires adequate equipment to deliver on the United Nations Peace Missions. Let me highlight Zimbabwe's readiness and commitment to fulfilling its obligation to contribute to international peace and stability whenever called upon to do so.*

*In conclusion, Zimbabwe also has the capacity to assist other countries in training, as shown by the recent deployment of 304 combat troops through coordinating mechanism of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to assist in training Mozambican soldiers.*

*Thank you.*