ZIMBABWE COUNTRY STATEMENT DURING THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF REGIONAL MECHANISMS IN THE REALISATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: 22 APRIL 2026 (THREE MINUTES)

Thank you, Chair

We welcome the convening of this thematic discussion, and thank the briefers for their insightful presentations. Article 3 (3) of the Declaration of the Right to Development affirms the responsibility of States to cooperate in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to its attainment. International cooperation, anchored on multilateralism, is, therefore, critical for the promotion and realization of R2D, and is given expression through regional and global mechanisms. Allow me to offer the following reflections:

First, it is important that regional mechanisms enshrine the right to development in their various statutes. In the African context, for example, Article 22 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights guarantees an individual the right to economic, social and cultural development, and places responsibility upon states to ensure the exercise of that right. Agenda 2063 espouses the vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Africa whose development is driven by its people. In addition, sub-regional organisations have incorporated elements of R2D in their development programmes. Africa has, consequently, taken significant strides to advance R2D.

Second, at the global level, the United Nations, with its three pillars, offers a global platform to promote R2D. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an important pathway. However, with less than four years remaining to 2030, the world is significantly offtrack, with regression in some goals. The financing gap remains the biggest obstacle to the attainment of the SDGs compounded by conflicts, climate-induced disasters, as well as

digital divides. We reaffirm the call for the availing of concessional funding through the participation of multilateral development banks, as well as other financial institutions, and the reform of the global financial and governance architecture, including the Security Council.

Third, the adoption of a legally binding International Covenant on the Right to Development will be instrumental in establishing commitments at the global level to ensure the promotion and implementation of the Right to Development.

In conclusion,

The realization of the Right to Development is in our collective interest. At a time when there are questions about the value of multilateralism, and the role of the United Nations, cooperation at the regional and global level is the most viable route through which R2D can be realised. Zimbabwe reaffirms its commitment to continue working with all stakeholders to ensure that all people enjoy the right to all aspects of development.

I thank you