**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Thank you, Co-Facilitator,

My delegation aligns itself with the comments made by the G77 and China and the African Group. I would like to add the following points in a national capacity.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) play an important role in advancing financial inclusion, and fast-tracking progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. My delegation, therefore, welcomes the section on the digital divides, which presents key commitments on investments in digital public infrastructure and digital public goods, as part of national financing frameworks.

We also support the commitments to implementing digital literacy programmes targeting marginalized communities, women and youth, to ensure that no group is left behind in our pursuit for digital transformation.

Secondly, while advancements in STI have the potential to drive action in sustainable development, there are associated risks that we must anticipate, and pre-emptively mitigate. These risks include potential job displacement and Artificial Intelligence bias. We join other delegations that have already stressed that the zero draft should incorporate these risks, and outline mitigatory measures that include workforce up-skilling and re-skilling.

Finally, technology transfer is an issue of paramount importance to Zimbabwe and other developing countries, as it enhances equal access to useful technology. We recommend that this aspect be given more prominence in this section.

I thank you.