**ZIMBABWE’S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS AN ENGINE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you, Chair.

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements delivered by the G77 and China, as well as the African Group. In our national capacity, I would like to highlight two key points.

**First**, unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) continue to hinder our ability to trade freely, limiting access to trade finance and restricting our participation in global value chains. These measures create unnecessary barriers to sustainable development and impose severe hardships on affected populations. We, therefore, reiterate our call for strong language addressing the negative impact of UCMs on trade and support the proposals put forward by the G77 and China on this issue.

**Second**, Zimbabwe welcomes the commitment to a universal, rules-based, and transparent multilateral trading system that ensures fair and equitable trade opportunities. The recognition of regional trade integration, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), is encouraging, as are commitments to capacity building, infrastructure development, and digital trade as drivers of sustainable development.

However, there are areas that require further attention. The discussion on critical minerals and commodities remains too broad. We call for clearer mechanisms that promote technology transfer, capacity building, and local value addition while safeguarding against market monopolization and price volatility.

Additionally, financial and technical assistance must be addressed with greater specificity. We urge donor countries and financial institutions to commit to equitable resource distribution for trade-related infrastructure and to consider the establishment of a dedicated fund supporting trade development in the Global South. Strengthening the negotiation capacity of developing countries through technical assistance and advisory services is also essential.

In conclusion, while we recognize the progress made, we encourage stronger commitments to financial support, capacity-building mechanisms, and policy flexibility. By enhancing these provisions, we can ensure that trade truly becomes a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable development for all.

I thank you.