

Joint Statement for Zimbabwe's UN VNR Process

The Zimbabwe Civil Society acknowledges the Government's efforts towards the 2030 Agenda through National Development Strategy 1. However, minimal impact is felt by the people. Public investment in crucial sectors falls short, with poverty more than 42 percent. Free education remains unfulfilled, healthcare is underfunded, and anti-progressive policies, laws and statutory instruments exacerbate poverty, particularly for women and girls.

Therefore, we would like to ask how the government is planning to address the following issues within the next six years:

- **SDG 1 and 16 require stronger action.** Despite decentralization policies, investment in NDS 1 implementation is lacking. Ending corruption, child marriages, and violence against women and girls requires more than policy pronouncements.
- Destructive policies have marginalized communities, de-industrialized cities, and driven unemployment above 80 percent. Total consumption poverty remains high. Past injustices such as the Matabeleland Genocide and 2008 political violence need closure for national healing and SDG 3 progress.
- **Endemic corruption in private and public institutions diverts resources from critical services.** We call for an enabling environment for transformation across all sectors.
- **Zimbabwe's rich natural resources hold immense potential, but the fast-track land reform program has negatively impacted the agricultural sector.** Key concerns include security of tenure for land reform beneficiaries and measures for reparations in cases of forced evictions. This, along with the environmental costs of mining, threatens food security and exacerbates poverty.
- **SDGs are interconnected, shift to informal employment due to agricultural decline and the negative externalities of mining highlight this.** We urge investments in youth education to empower them to advocate for good governance, sustainable development, and address inequalities and future challenges.

We commend the Government's acknowledgement of key goals but urge them to prioritize fundamentals for genuine SDG implementation. The VNR process is a chance for introspection. We urge the government to address these and other unmentioned challenges.