

STATEMENT MADE BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. ALBERT. R, CHIMBINDI, DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2022 BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR. ANTONIO GUTERRES, IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE: 13 OCTOBER, 2021

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor and congratulations for your election as Chair of the Fifth Committee. Allow me Chair to recognize and appreciate the presence of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, to present the Proposed Programme Budget for 2022; the Chair of the CPC, Mr. Giovanni Buttigieg, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, the Chair of the ACABQ, for their illuminating presentations. I also acknowledge our industrious Secretariat of the Fifth Committee.

I would like to assure the Secretary-General of Zimbabwe's continued support and cooperation in the execution of the identified priorities. The provision of adequate resources is imperative for the UN to deliver on its ever-expanding mandate. The resources should be used judiciously and accountably.

I align my delegation to the statements delivered by the Chair of the G77+China and the Chair of the African Group. I would like to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

Zimbabwe fully supports the systemwide reforms of the UN that the Secretary-General prioritized during his first term in office. The important role of the Resident Coordinator has vastly improved relations between host countries and the UN Country Teams and enhanced effective mandate delivery.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked social and economic havoc in all developing countries where recent achievements have been wiped out or even reversed. During UNGA76, leaders from the developing South, legitimately, bemoaned the existing disparities and inequities over access to and distribution of the life-saving vaccines. The UN mantra of “leaving no one behind” needs the provision of adequate resources if it is not to remain a pious hope.

Zimbabwe has been fighting many challenges, such as the climate change-induced disasters like Cyclone Idai in March 2019 and now the pandemic. Zimbabwe has also been fighting unilateral coercive measures over the last two decades, which have severely constrained the country’s economic recovery efforts, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support the Secretary-General’s principled call for the suspension of debt and unilateral coercive measures to enable affected countries to build back better.

We trust that COP26 will result in decisive ambitions in the Nationally Determined commitments to save the planet. It is imperative to match the scale of the crisis with adequate resources.

Zimbabwe joins the SADC region in expressing concern over the spread of international terrorism into new frontiers on the continent. My delegation will appreciate if the Secretary-General could share some of the envisaged UN counter-terrorism responses.

I THANK YOU!