

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY HON. FREDERICK M. SHAVA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2024, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Your Excellency, Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the

United Nations,

Excellencies,

I commend the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for his visionary leadership in initiating the Summit of the Future. I, also commend the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Republic of Namibia and the Federal Republic of Germany for providing leadership in the drafting of the Pact of the Future. The theme of the Summit is both relevant and timely.

The Summit of the Future is an opportunity for us to discuss the old, new and emerging challenges facing the world and to renew our commitment to multilateralism. As we navigate these challenging times, effective global cooperation is imperative if we are to attain sustainable peace and inclusive socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

The 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, clearly focus on the "what" in terms of goal setting our commitments. Now is the time to look at "how" we can all effectively work together to meet those commitments and tackle the most pressing issues, while preparing for a more resilient future that leaves no one and no place behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rallying around the reform of the global governance systems, including global financial institutions, and the United Nations Security Council is a fundamental starting point. It is reformed institutions, that are fit for contemporary challenges that will assist us, as developing countries, to meet our common goals. It is equally

imperative that developed countries provide a comprehensive package of support to developing countries, to enable them to transition to green economies. This must include financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building initiatives.

Excellencies,

Given the current geopolitical contestations, and increasing conflicts, it is imperative that the role and capacity of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution be strengthened. The need to include women and youth in the peace and security agenda cannot be overemphasized. Zimbabwe therefore supports the New Agenda for Peace as proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General, and stands ready to play its part in this regard.

Mr. President,

The need for political will is paramount if the implementation of the outcomes of this Summit are to be actualized. It will be critically important to focus on vulnerable African countries, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries like Zimbabwe, and Small Island Developing States, in line with the cardinal

principle of leaving no one and no country behind. Success should be measured in terms of the extent to which any intervention reaches those in hard-to-reach areas and or who are furthest behind.

Excellencies,

Zimbabwe is a relatively youthful nation with more than 65% of our population below the age of 35. This presents opportunities for economic growth through harnessing the innovativeness and zeal of our youth. Our policies and programs have been re-designed and strengthened to ensure that young people are key drivers of our social and economic transformation agenda. This includes the establishment of Innovation Hubs, Industrial and Science Parks, as well as Incubation Centres, at all institutions of higher education, underpinned by a new Heritage-based approach to education termed “Education 5.0”. This approach is enjoying growing success inculcating a sense of self-belief, whilst transforming livelihoods and communities through the production of goods and services. The approach, furthermore, promotes industrialization through the beneficiation of local resources.

Zimbabwe's first youth-centric bank, Empowerment Bank, has been an important vehicle for economic empowerment and social inclusion of previously marginalized groups.

Our efforts to realise the aspirations of our people continue to be impeded by the illegal and unjustified sanctions imposed by some powerful nations among us. We, therefore, continue to call for the unconditional removal of these punitive measures that present barriers to our development trajectory, violate international law and contravene the Charter of the United Nations. The Pact of the Future should be categorical in denouncing the resort to the use of unilateral coercive measures.

In conclusion, let us build enduring partnerships based on mutual respect, shared interests, and a common vision for a prosperous future for all. We have to bring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) back on course.

I thank you.