**The Republic of Zimbabwe**

**African Union**

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The Republic of Zimbabwe is a nation located in Southern Africa, land-locked between Zambia and South Africa. This nation achieved its independence from a British colonialist rule in 1980 and has since been governed by President Robert Gabriel Mugabe of the Zimbabwe United National Union-Patriotic Front. Zimbabwe has been a member of the African Union since its independence in 1980. The nation has shown its dedication to upholding the ideals and ambitions of this council through its adoption of various resolutions and documents presented by the council, such as *The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* and *The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption.[[1]](#footnote-1)* Additionally, this nation has demonstrated its interest in the topics being discussed at this conference, specifically concerning the amelioration of access to education for women and girls. This delegation also has specific interest in working to find a solution to increase Foreign Direct Investments into Africa, as FDIs to Zimbabwe dropped by 23% in 2015.[[2]](#footnote-2) Therefore, this delegation is interested in working with this council to construct comprehensive solutions for these issues.

As of 2015, Zimbabwe has a literacy rate (citizens 15 and older can read and write English) of 85.6%, with men having a literacy rate of 88.6% and women having a literacy rate of 84.6%.[[3]](#footnote-3) This boasts an impressive increase in access to education among the general populace and among women and girls in Zimbabwe from earlier years. Education has always been an important aspect of Zimbabwean culture; therefore, the Zimbabwean government has worked with NGOs and other nations such as Save the Children and the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, to improve access to education for all of its citizens. In 2004, the Zimbabwean government launched a new national gender policy into their Education Act, which lead the government to examine the issue of gender parity in education on a policy level in order to implement solutions which would ameliorate the situation. Zimbabwe is involved with other UN organisations, such as *The Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework* (ZUNDAF), which also aim to improve access to opportunities and education for women and girls. Though access to education for women and girls- especially in rural areas- is still a problem in this nation, the situation has improved immensely. However, gender parity in education is still an issue and is presented mostly at the secondary school level with lower income families, when girls are denied access to education in favor of boys and instead work domestic jobs to earn money for their family. Therefore, this delegation is of the opinion that this issue can be addressed by making education for lower income families affordable. Additionally, introducing a customised curriculum to each region, determined by the needs and requests of the community. This will increase the value of education in these regions, causing families to be more inclined to provide education to their children.

The issue of FDIs in Zimbabwe is a substantial one, given the significant decrease in them since 2013. One of the reasons why FDIs are decreasing in Zimbabwe is due to the lack of transparency when dealing with the trade of commodities such as minerals. The National Resource Governance Unit has stated that greater transparency means nations must disclose periodic and timely information about revenues, operations, licensing and contracts concerning the trade of commodities. This can be achieved if federal governments regulate these institutions so individual corporations will uphold them. However, this delegation is of the strong opinion that the Zimbabwean government should regulate these institutions without international interference. The delegation would also like to emphasise the importance of not becoming dependent on international superpowers concerning foreign investments. African nations must remain independent from these superpowers and maintain control of their own affairs; as the exploitation of African nations through colonialism decimated African states and the diversity of African culture.

Finally, on the topic of promoting transparency in governments and democratic elections, this delegation would like to emphasise that the Zimbabwean government has done much to root out corruption in the government and governmental institutions. The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Committee (ZACC) has worked to root out corruption in this nation. Additionally, Zimbabwe has signed and ratified *The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption.* However, the state of the government in Zimbabwe must be decided by the Zimbabwean government and people, to prevent exploitation from other nations and protect the Zimbabwean culture which is different from Western and colonialist cultures.

In conclusion, the delegation of Zimbabwe is enthusiastic to improve the quality of life for its citizens, while also working with NGOs and other nations to achieve these goals. However, the delegation of Zimbabwe would also like to emphasise its independence from Western nations and other superpowers in the world, to protect Zimbabwean culture and the nation from further exploitation from colonialist ideals and institutions.

1. African Union [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNCTAD [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Central Intelligence Agency (US) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)