STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZIMBABWE,
COMRADE E.D. MNANGAGWA,
TO
THE NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT
AT THE
73\textsuperscript{RD} SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, USA:
24 SEPTEMBER 2018
Your Excellency, Madam Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency, Mr. Moussa Faki Mohamed, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cde Cyril Ramaphosa,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my Government’s gratitude for the adoption of the resolution, in December 2017, on the holding of this high-level meeting focusing on world
peace to mark the Centenary Anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s birthday. This centenary celebration is indeed an occasion to reflect on his life and legacy.

We applaud the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the United Nations for organising various events to celebrate and keep alive the legacy and unique contributions of Nelson Mandela. His sacrifices and tireless commitment to justice and equality; as well as his courage, magnanimity and compassion continue to motivate and inspire the world.

Madam President,

As we gather here today to celebrate the life of one of the iconic leaders of our time, let us honour his legacy by creating a better world for all, and leaving no one behind. Let us utilise the rare opportunity presented to us by the United Nation Agenda 2030 to change our world, inspired by Nelson Mandela’s vision to make the world a better place to live in.
As a great visionary, he remains a beacon of peace and we cannot afford to let his vision fade. In spite of his long imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was never a hostage of his past by becoming retributive. Instead, he rose above the challenges and directed his efforts towards promoting reconciliation and building a peaceful, multi-racial and democratic South Africa.

Madam President,

There is an inextricable and symbiotic relationship between peace and development. Equally important, is the need for a world premised on dialogue, continuous engagement, harmony and tolerance of divergent views.

In this spirit, my country has embarked on a deliberate and robust policy of engagement and re-engagement with the global family of nations. We are ready and willing to play an active and positive role towards global peace. There can be no peace without development or development without peace.
At the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda is the resolve to end all forms of poverty. According to the World Bank, there has been marked progress on reducing poverty over the past decades. Despite the progress, the number of people living in extreme poverty globally remains unacceptably high. While poverty rates have declined in all regions, progress has been uneven, with half of the extremely poor living in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In this regard, the work to end extreme poverty is far from over, particularly for us in the Global South. Economic shocks, climate change, food insecurity and diseases often negatively impact on the gains we make. Therefore, there is an urgent need for comprehensive, collaborative and integrated action to accelerate our quest to end poverty. In addition, the economic participation and inclusion of women and youth must be given priority in all initiatives within our countries as an
ingredient to sustainable peace and economic development.

Let us be emboldened by the words of Nelson Mandela when he said, "Do not look the other way, do not hesitate. Recognise that the world is hungry for action, not words. Act with courage and vision".

Madam President,

In conclusion, I wish to emphasise that honouring Nelson Mandela without action to address his concerns, would be a betrayal to the immense sacrifices he made in his lifetime. He once said, "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation".

Indeed we can be that great generation by providing global leadership and ensuring that his invaluable ideals on peace, equality, human dignity and justice are realised and upheld throughout the entire world for the betterment of present and future generations.
I wish the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit fruitful deliberations and every success.

I thank you!