

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE, AMBASSADOR T. MUSHAYAVANHU ON THE OCCASION OF A UNSC SESSION ON THE TOPIC: *PRACTICING MULTILATERALISM, REFORMING AND IMPROVING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE*: 18 FEBRUARY 2025**

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**Thank you, Mr President,**

We appreciate your delegation for convening this crucial session and congratulate you on assuming the Security Council Presidency for February 2025. We also thank His Excellency Wang Yi and the Secretary General for their seminal insights.

**Excellencies,**

The preamble of the United Nations Charter begins with these immortal words:

***"We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..."***. The Charter goes on to speak of the **equal rights for nations, large and small**, and to make a solemn

pledge: ***"to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security."***

For nearly 80 years, these principles have guided our pursuit of a just and peaceful world. Yet today, as we face mounting crises, from conflicts and climate change to economic instability and technological divides, we must ask: Are our global governance structures fit for purpose? If not, then reform is imperative.

## **Excellencies,**

The history of the United Nations teaches us that, when practiced with sincerity, multilateralism has prevented conflicts, facilitated decolonisation, advanced development, and safeguarded human rights. But too often, it has fallen short. Too often, responses to crises have been slow, decision-making unbalanced, and outdated structures have failed to reflect contemporary realities.

The Pact for the Future presents an opportunity to reshape this global governance so that it is fit for purpose in addressing today's pressing threats, like climate change, pandemics, conflicts, economic instability, and the growing technological divide.

Reforming the UN Security Council is central to this effort. Expanding its membership, particularly for Africa and the developing world, will not only enhance legitimacy but also effectiveness. No nation should wield veto power as a tool for paralysis in moments of global crisis, instead the Council should uphold its primary purpose with credibility, fairness, and efficiency.

Equally important, the General Assembly, the most democratic and representative UN organ, must be strengthened. It plays a crucial role in shaping global norms, yet its influence remains limited when the Security Council is deadlocked. Enhancing the General Assembly's role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention will make the UN more effective, legitimate, and responsive to global challenges.

Beyond traditional security threats, we face climate change, food insecurity, cyber threats, and terrorism, challenges that transcend borders and disproportionately affect developing nations. The global governance system must provide greater support to these countries through technical, financial, and strategic assistance. A security framework that ignores these threats is incomplete.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Justice in governance begins with the equal application of international law. Unilateral coercive measures violate sovereignty, stifle economic progress, and punish ordinary citizens. Zimbabwe, like many others, continues to bear the burden of these unjust measures. True multilateralism demands respect for sovereignty, fairness, and non-interference. The UN must stand firm against these violations, as called for in numerous General Assembly resolutions.

Economic disparities remain one of the greatest barriers to a just global order, with unfair trade, inequitable international financial architecture, and technological exclusion fuelling underdevelopment. Solutions include fair trade, debt relief, a fairer international financial architecture and sustainable investment. Technology should unite, not divide, with inclusive AI governance ensuring equitable benefits.

### **Excellencies,**

If we are to tackle the challenges ahead, the UN must be more inclusive, more transparent, and more responsive to today's realities.

The path forward is clear: A reformed, revitalized multilateral system that upholds the dignity, security, and prosperity of all nations—large and small.

I thank you, Mr President.