

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TAONGA MUSHAYAVANHU,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED
NATIONS UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA
MEETING: 23 APRIL 2025**

Thank you, Chair.

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.” These words by Kofi Annan, the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations, resonate deeply today.

I thank the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China for convening this timely and important meeting.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, we are reminded that the Second World War was won through multilateral cooperation, giving rise to the UN as an enduring symbol of this unity. In the decades since, the UN has led global efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes, efforts to end colonialism, uphold human rights, and advance development, with agencies like the WHO, ILO, UNHCR and others demonstrating that collective action rooted in equity and international law remains the surest path to a better world.

Equally vital is the World Trade Organization, which remains central to a fair and rules-based global trading system, but its role is being undermined by rising unilateralism and coercive practices. Arbitrary tariffs and the politicisation of trade, disproportionately harms developing countries, particularly in Africa, undermining progress towards sustainable development and peace.

Chair,

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, Artificial Intelligence presents both transformative opportunities and risks. To harness its benefits while preventing harm, there is an urgent need for inclusive, ethical, and human-centred global governance frameworks, much like those established after the Second World War to regulate nuclear energy.

This imperative for collective governance echoes Zimbabwe's steadfast commitment to multilateralism, grounded in the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference, and mutual respect. In this spirit, we support calls for a reformed international system, one where no single country acts as judge, jury, and enforcer.

In line with the Pact for the Future, we call for the following:

1. Strengthening and reforming the United Nations and its agencies, especially the reform of the Security Council to

- reflect contemporary global realities, and expanding the role of the UN in emerging areas such as AI governance;
2. An immediate end to unilateral coercive measures as they violate international law and impede development efforts;
 3. Reforming of the international financial architecture to be more inclusive and supportive of developing countries.

Chair,

Guided by the doctrine of being a friend to all and an enemy to none, Zimbabwe calls for the reform and strengthening of multilateralism, so that it continues to serve as a force for peace, justice, equality, and shared progress in a rapidly changing world. As António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, aptly reminded us: ***“The United Nations was created for moments like this – moments of challenge and change, moments when we must come together to chart a safer and more sustainable course for the future.”***

I thank you.