



STATEMENT

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE,**

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR E. D. MNANGAGWA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2021 SDG MOMENT

20 SEPTEMBER 2021

**President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr
Abdulla Shahid;**

Your Majesties;

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

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

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr President,

I applaud the convening of this 2nd SDGs Moment at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grossly impede the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the case of Zimbabwe, successive droughts, natural calamities and over two decades of illegal economic sanctions imposed on our country by some Western powers, have further hampered our progress.

However, my country continues to chart policies, institutional reforms and national priorities required for accelerated sustainable socio-economic development and growth. The pursuit to end poverty, create decent jobs, reduce inequalities, promote access to quality social services for all Zimbabweans, remains on course.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic saw my country introduce multi-pronged strategies to adapt to the new normal. These included an economic stimulus package that supported business and cushioned industry; especially women and youth owned small and medium enterprises. Social protection coverage to vulnerable groups was broadened, while a free COVID-19 National Vaccination Programme continues to be rolled out for all citizens.

Progress has been recorded across all the SDGs on key national aggregate indicators. Agriculture production and productivity is being encouraged supported by improved land and water utilisation. The adoption of climate smart agriculture innovations and capacitation of small holder farmers, input support schemes among other interventionist policies, has seen an unprecedented jump in our total cereal production.

This has resulted in increased through-put for agriculture value chain industries as well as improved incomes. The

participation of women and youth in the economy has subsequently widened, thereby addressing SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 8. Zimbabwe also reviewed its National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Policy towards transforming the sector into formalised, innovative, export-oriented and competitive enterprises.

With regards SDG 3, Zimbabwe rolled out an innovative Health Financing Policy and Strategy and increased investments in public health infrastructure as well as skills development for our health service personnel. This has culminated in the reduction in maternal and under five mortalities as well as a general decline in HIV prevalence.

Strides are being made in the education sector with focus now on innovation and competence based education towards building a knowledge economy.

Climate resilience and adaptation remain a key priority. To ensure sustainable socio-economic development and broad based empowerment, my country is strengthening

domestic resource mobilisation as well as renewable energy initiatives. The capacitation of institutions that support democracy, good governance and the rule of law are ongoing. Plugging illicit financial flows and ending corruption are also receiving due attention.

Finally, Zimbabwe remains committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in this, our Decade of Action and Delivery.

I thank you