Welcome and Introductory Remarks made on behalf of the Resident Representative OIC at the Occasion of the Induction Retreat NPRC

4 October 2021

Forest Hills, Vumba.

**Salutations:**

The Minister of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs herein represented Director Mr Manhiri;

Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Government

The Chairperson of the Commission Rtd Justice Selo Nare,

The Deputy Chairperson of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission Mrs Chigwedere

Commissioners of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

Executive Secretary of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Mrs. Zembe

The Directors and Secretariat of the NPRC

Our Esteemed facilitators, Ms Busi Ncube and Dr Zambara

Ladies and gentlemen,

**Welcome greetings and appreciation**

Good morning and a warm welcome to everyone to the NPRC Induction and Retreat. It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning, on this important occasion, the Induction and Team Building Workshop for the NPRC more specifically the Commissioners. We are grateful for this window where the COVID 19 measures have allowed this meeting to happen physically albeit still under the measures.

This Retreat will also serve as an opportunity for UNDP and the NPRC Commissioner to exchange useful notes. Experiences and information on our mutual work and collaboration. UNDP has sustained a partnership with NPRC since your inception and we savor the moment of seeing the institution grow and transitions.

We can no doubt never fully emphasize that Peace is a key governance area that continues to grow in its importance and that building infrastructures for peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion towards attainment of Agenda 2030 specifically SDG 16, is even more important now.

Furthermore, let me express my sincere gratitude to the **Royal Norwegian Government Embassy in Pretoria for the support they have provided through this project, which has made this workshop possible. Thank you Ambassador.**

We also express sincere thanks and gratitude to the Executive Secretary and the whole NPRC team for the logistical planning, as well my UNDP Colleagues in the country office for the convenorship of this important meeting, which is a pertinent step towards the implementation of the **Strengthened Infrastructures for Peace** P**rojec**t and other future projects.

**Chairperson and Commissioners of the NPRC, allow me to share 3 key messages briefly.**

**Key Message 1: *Social Cohesion remains a key ingredient to peaceful societies***

As the world begins to recover from the COVID 19 pandemic, evidence is indicating that social cohesion and peace in communities is a key ingredient for responding to the pandemic recovery efforts and building back better. In other words, now more than ever, building infrastructures for peace remains a key developmental need.

Due to the pandemic, the levels of conflict continue to escalate, and the UN Secretary General has recognized the need to transition from reactive and response approaches alone to de-escalation of conflict but to adopt a more robust and preventive approach. This preventative agenda in conflict prevention is clearly spelt out in the mandate of the NPRC in the constitution and enabling legislation as well as the NPRC Strategic Plan.

This induction platform presents you Chairperson and the NPRC to broadly unpack and created a shared understanding on how you as a team can be fit for purpose to carry this very important national task forward. Collegiate teams win.

**Key message 2: *Importance of stakeholder collaboration***

Allow me to hasten to echo the sentiments of this year’s International Day of Peace which was themed “Building Back Better Together” which calls upon all actors to unite and work together to attain and maintain peace during and post the pandemic and to act in responsive and diligent ways to ensure that the existing conflictual fault lines are not worsened or exacerbated. Let me take this time to reiterate a key pertinent point that l raised during the International Day of Peace commemorations because it will always remain relevant. Peace building practitioners need to have a “multidimensional view to address all dimensions of fragility in the governance, social and economic spheres in order to build resilient systems that can withstand shocks.”

Establishing and maintaining peace is not a one-man job but an effort that requires the collaborative efforts of numerous stakeholders from the grassroots right up to Governments and Multilateral organizations. Establishing peace is also key to the enjoyment and attainment of human rights.

We believe again that this platform will allow you the opportunity of reflecting on the ecosystem of peace builders in Zimbabwe and on ways to influence and spread your tentacles as the NPRC through them.

**Chairperson and Commissioners of the NPRC**

**Key Message 3 – *UNDP Commitment to supporting the peace building agenda***

UNDP has for over a decade continued to support the Government of Zimbabwe, through the constitutionally established National Peace and Reconciliation Commission to strengthen capacities for Peace Building and Social Cohesion in the Country. These efforts are aimed at enhancing the capacities of the Government of Zimbabwe, and other non-state actors to manage and transform disputes (when they arise) in constructive and sustainable ways. Key to all these interventions have been strengthening capacities to anticipate and responding to disputes, including through collaborative efforts aimed at finding practical and inclusive solutions, and develop long-term skills for transformation at all levels of society.

The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission has been and remains one of the key national institutions mandated to ensure a conflict free society, provide post conflict solutions founded on justice reconciliation and healing.

In this regard, allow me to reiterate the UNDP’s commitment to continuing our collaborations and we seek to make clearly defined contributions to the NDS 1, and indeed towards the national vision of a peaceful societal with a renewed and stronger social contract.

**Conclusion**

**As I conclude,** through this retreat and workshop with the Commissioners we hope this platform will allow you the space enhance and build upon the already existing expertise to bring in the Commissioners to clarity and mold into a winning team that will indeed drive societal change towards the attainment of positive peace.

End.