Government Official here present;
Representatives of Development Partners;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel greatly honoured to welcome you to this virtual training workshop on strengthening the collection of disability data during the 2022 Population and Housing Census. It is gratifying and reassuring to see many of you attending this virtual training workshop. This confirms that you are always ready and available to make inputs into the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

The importance of official statistics bearing the traits of quality is a culmination of vital processes and procedures that derive from the quest to employ scientific methods in producing information to promote and fasten decision making. It is against this background that ZIMSTAT adopted the short set of six questions on functioning for use during the 2022 Population and Housing Census as one of the modules of the questionnaire.
The short set of six questions on functioning was developed, tested and adopted by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The questions reflect advances in the conceptualization of disability and use by the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) as a conceptual framework.

Ladies and gentlemen; in conducting a Population and Housing Census, ZIMSTAT always consults producers, users and researchers about possible questions for inclusion in this national exercise. Such consultations have proved to be an efficient and transparent way of determining the demand for census questions that are required to provide information used in achieving national development goals as encapsulated in the national development frameworks, such as; National Development Programme 1 and Vision 2030, as well as, regional and international agendas such as Africa Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In November, 2016, at the fourth meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators in Geneva, a group of leading UN agencies, civil society actors, and independent experts issued a statement strongly supporting the Washington Group on Disability
Statistics’ Short Set of Questions as the preferred method to use with the SDGs to number the world’s population of people with a disability. The UN Statistical Commission has recommended the WGSS for collection of disability information for the 2020 round of censuses. These recommendations are the latest in a growing body of endorsements for a method that can be quickly and inexpensively added to censuses, surveys, and research efforts to generate disaggregated, internationally comparable data that provides new insights into how people with disabilities fare in global health and development efforts. In that context, ZIMSTAT adopted the six shot of questions for regional and international comparability.

I wish to register my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa for supporting ZIMSTAT on this workshop. I look forward to everyone’s participation and contributions to the 2022 Population and Housing Census. I wish you all successful deliberations and I am confident that you will enjoy this workshop.

I thank you.