

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE,
CRITICAL-MINERAL SOVEREIGNTY,
AND U.S. STRATEGIC COMPETITION**

Prepared for:

The Honorable Ted Cruz

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate

Attention: Brandon Gindt, National Security Advisor

CC: Arden Hooper, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant

International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate,
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Brandon Gindt, National Security Advisor

CC: Arden Hooper, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant

RE: Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, Critical-Mineral Sovereignty, and U.S. Strategic Competition

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Chairman Cruz:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, ending direct presidential elections, extending the current presidential and parliamentary terms through 2030, expanding presidential appointment powers, and restructuring electoral and judicial institutions without a referendum.

This constitutional rupture is directly relevant to United States strategic interests in Africa. A political system able to evade constitutional restraints can allocate mineral rights, licenses, ownership, and offtake through opaque, politically connected networks—strengthening Chinese control of strategic minerals, embedding Belarusian and Russian influence, disadvantaging rules-based American firms, and exposing Zimbabwean citizens to exploitation, including fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war.

On behalf of International Policy Group, I respectfully submit these materials following our July 31 electronic transmission. IPG recommends a Senate resolution on Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development; Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review of strategic-mineral concentration, illicit finance, Belarus-linked networks, and recruitment into Russia's war; and ZDERA modernization that preserves U.S. leverage while enabling responsible trade and investment.

The package also includes the Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness statement and the redacted declaration *A Zimbabwe Worth Building*, which affirm a Zimbabwean commitment to constitutional fidelity, human dignity, and equal citizenship—values shared by Zimbabweans and Americans and capable of supporting a strong, principled relationship between Zimbabwe and the United States.

We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Mr. Gindt and the appropriate foreign-policy and Africa staff regarding immediate congressional oversight and policy options.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

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Enclosures:

1. *Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, Critical-Mineral Sovereignty, and U.S. Strategic Competition*
2. Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement
3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building* cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy
4. *International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brandon Gindt, National Security Advisor
CC: Arden Hooper, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant; Daniel Crumpler, Director of Scheduling
OFFICE: Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho – International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwe’s Constitutional Rupture, Critical-Mineral Sovereignty, and U.S. Strategic Competition

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THE ASK International Policy Group respectfully requests an urgent briefing with Brandon Gindt and the appropriate members of Senator Cruz’s foreign-policy and Africa staff concerning Zimbabwe’s constitutional trajectory, critical-mineral sovereignty, and the implications of expanding Belarusian and Chinese influence.

We propose: (1) a Senate resolution affirming Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development; (2) Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review; and (3) Senate principles for a modern replacement to ZDERA that preserves United States leverage while opening a lawful pathway for responsible American commercial participation.

WHY ZIMBABWE MATTERS TO AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY

Zimbabwe was the world’s third-ranked platinum producer in 2024, fourth-ranked in both lithium—excluding the United States—and palladium, and sixth-ranked in chromium. Mining and quarrying contributed approximately 15.4 percent of gross domestic product. In 2025, Zimbabwe exported approximately 1.13 million metric tons of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate to China—about 15 percent of China’s lithium-concentrate imports—while Chinese firms dominated the sector after approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. [\[1\]\[2\]](#)

The strategic question is whether China will consolidate another important African mineral jurisdiction while American firms face substantial barriers created by opaque licensing, politically connected ownership, uncertain contract enforcement, and concentrated offtake. Chairman Cruz has stated that United States policy in Africa must counter China’s malign activity and that critical-mineral partnerships can bring greater prosperity to Africans while strengthening America’s strategic position. [\[3\]](#) Zimbabwe is a concrete test case.

IPG’s proposed American alternative would combine transparent licensing and beneficial ownership, responsible sourcing and traceability, diversified offtake, domestic processing, enforceable anti-corruption safeguards, community benefit, and commercially stable institutions.

CONSTITUTIONAL CAPTURE IS A MARKET-ACCESS PROBLEM

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026. It abolishes direct presidential elections; extends presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years; and applies those extensions to current officeholders through 2030.

It adds ten Senate seats filled by presidential appointment; transfers the voters' roll to the Registrar-General; creates a new delimitation commission; and alters judicial-appointment and constitutional-oversight arrangements under the voter-approved 2013 Constitution. [4][5] Section 328(7) bars tenure extensions from benefiting incumbent officeholders, while section 328(9) requires a national referendum to amend section 328 itself. [6]

Amendment No. 3 nevertheless applies the extensions to current officeholders “notwithstanding section 328(7),” and no referendum was held. A pre-enactment challenge was dismissed on procedural grounds, and the constitutional merits have not been finally adjudicated. The resulting legitimacy dispute is immediate and unresolved. [4][5][6]

For American firms and Zimbabwean citizens, constitutional capture is also a market-access and economic-opportunity problem. Kleptocratic state actors that evade constitutional restraints and align with similarly opaque foreign regimes can allocate contracts, licenses, ownership and strategic assets through patronage rather than fair competition—placing rules-bound U.S. firms at a structural disadvantage and denying Zimbabweans a fair share in their own economy. [7]

ZIMBABWE’S RUSSIA–BELARUS WAR-ECONOMY ALIGNMENT

The Mnangagwa government has deepened Zimbabwe’s alignment with Russia and Belarus through a Belarus-linked political-commercial network spanning gold mining, agricultural mechanization, equipment procurement, and diplomatic representation. Investigations have documented a network tied to senior state relationships and sustained through offshore structures that obscure beneficial ownership, placing Belarusian state-adjacent interests inside Zimbabwe’s strategic-resource governance. [7]

On March 25, 2026, Zimbabwe’s government acknowledged 81 known cases: 15 citizens had been killed after fraudulent recruitment into Russia’s war against Ukraine, and diplomatic efforts were underway to repatriate 66 survivors. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of travel documents, and coerced into combat. Given the clandestine recruitment methods, the absence of comprehensive public accounting, and the opacity of a captured state apparatus, IPG assesses that the reported figure likely understates the true scale of the recruitment network. [8]

Zimbabwe is part of a wider African recruitment pattern. Reporting from Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and other states indicates that civilian-employment or training offers have been used to move African citizens into Russian military service; Ukrainian authorities have estimated that more than 1,700 Africans from 36 countries are fighting for Russia. The issue therefore warrants treatment as a continent-wide trafficking, illicit-finance, and security network supporting Russia’s war effort. [8]

This extends the alignment from the exploitation of Zimbabwe’s natural resources and public procurement systems to the exploitation of vulnerable citizens, consigning Zimbabwean lives to the

Kremlin's war machine, eroding national sovereignty, and advancing Russian aggression in direct conflict with U.S. national-security interests.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE MOMENT

ZDERA links stronger U.S.–Zimbabwe trade and investment ties to progress on governance, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, and recovery of stolen assets. Repeal would remove the principal statutory framework connecting political reform to constructive economic reengagement. H.R. 5300 remains at the introduced stage after the House Foreign Affairs Committee ordered it reported, as amended, by a 27–24 vote. In the introduced text currently published by Congress.gov, section 303 would repeal ZDERA and substitute a narrower compensation-related condition on U.S. support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. [\[9\]\[10\]](#)

Farmer compensation and property rights are legitimate obligations, but they cannot prevent Chinese mineral consolidation, expose illicit ownership, discipline politically connected procurement, or secure meaningful access for United States firms. A compensation-only replacement could normalize Zimbabwe's economy without changing who controls its strategic assets.

Zimbabwe policy cannot be reduced to compensation while Chinese firms dominate lithium, Belarus-linked networks remain embedded in its political economy, and Zimbabwean citizens are exploited by recruitment into Russia's war. [\[7\]\[8\]\[10\]](#)

RECOMMENDED SENATE ACTION

- **Senate resolution on constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development.** Affirm the Zimbabwean people's right to choose their leadership; defend the 2013 constitutional settlement and referendum safeguards; protect journalists, lawyers, students, veterans, civic leaders, and other peaceful participants in constitutional debate; and affirm the right of Zimbabweans to receive the full national benefit of mineral development through public revenue, domestic value addition, employment, and community benefit.
- **Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review.** Request briefings from the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, and Justice and relevant development-finance, law-enforcement, and national-security agencies concerning Chinese mineral concentration, Belarus-linked procurement and beneficial ownership, continent-wide fraudulent recruitment networks supporting Russia's war, illicit finance, sanctions evasion, victim protection, and barriers to responsible American participation.
- **Modernize rather than simply repeal ZDERA.** Establish Senate principles preserving compensation and property rights while adding constitutional, anti-corruption, beneficial-ownership, strategic-mineral, market-access and community-benefit benchmarks, together with positive pathways toward lawful investment, debt resolution, and economic recovery.



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SELECTED AUTHORITIES

1. [U.S. Geological Survey, Zimbabwe—Minerals Information.](#)
2. Reuters, [“Zimbabwe Adds Freight Rail Option to Lithium Export Gateway,”](#) July 21, 2026.
3. Office of Senator Ted Cruz, [“Sen. Cruz, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, Meets with African Ambassadors,”](#) February 20, 2025.
4. [Constitution of Zimbabwe \(Amendment\) Act \(No. 3\), 2026, Act No. 6 of 2026.](#)
5. Human Rights Watch, [“Zimbabwe Constitution Amended to Extend President’s Term,”](#) July 8, 2026.
6. [Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013, section 328; Veritas, Constitution Watch 8/2026.](#)
7. OCCRP, [“Belarusian Elites’ Golden Deal With Zimbabwe”](#); Associated Press, [report on Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko’s visit to Zimbabwe.](#)
8. Associated Press, [report on fraudulent recruitment of Zimbabwean citizens into Russia’s war against Ukraine](#), March 25, 2026; Reuters, [“More Than 1,700 Africans Fighting for Russia, Ukraine Says,”](#) February 25, 2026; Reuters, [“African Nations Tiptoe Around Recruitment of Citizens by Russian Networks,”](#) March 15, 2026.
9. [Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001; Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Amendment Act of 2018.](#)
10. Congress.gov, [H.R. 5300](#), introduced text, section 303, and legislative status.



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Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Brandon Gindt, National Security Advisor

RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3

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Dear Chairman Cruz:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the **Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations** concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The enclosed statement is therefore not merely a pre-enactment objection. It forms part of a continuing institutional appeal for constitutional fidelity, peaceful civic participation, elections in 2028, and a dignified leadership transition.

Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", is written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God’s call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it’ (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



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Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
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Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Brandon Gindt, National Security Advisor

CC: Arden Hooper, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant

RE: *A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of National Renewal, Enterprise, and Constitutional Government*

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Dear Chairman Cruz:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose *A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, responsible mineral governance, and constructive international partnership.

Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document is significant because it presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision rather than merely opposing Constitution Amendment No. 3. Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and ensuing parliamentary impeachment proceedings, precipitated by President Robert Mugabe's attempt to engineer a dynastic succession in favor of his wife, Grace Mugabe, exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions.

The declaration is therefore neither a partisan appeal nor a request for foreign control. It is a Zimbabwean proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates that expanded American commercial participation can be aligned with solidarity for Zimbabweans seeking lawful government, economic sovereignty, and responsible development of their national resources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosure: *A Zimbabwe Worth Building* — Congressional Redacted Copy

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and that

hat national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work – the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems – and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home alongside partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

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INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

Date: July 29, 2026

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWEAN CONSTITUTIONAL SOVEREIGNTY,
RUSSIAN WARTIME EXPLOITATION,
AND U.S. DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP**

Prepared for:

The Honorable John Fetterman

United States Senator

Member, U.S. Helsinki Commission

Attention: Nick Borgaonkar, Senior Policy Adviser / Legislative Assistant

CC: Relevant U.S. Helsinki Commission staff

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant

International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Fetterman

United States Senator

142 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Nick Borgaonkar, Senior Policy Adviser

CC: Rachel Bauman, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus; Janice Helwig, Trafficking in Persons; and Nate Sibley, Illicit Finance and Economic Statecraft, U.S. Helsinki Commission

RE: Zimbabwean Constitutional Sovereignty, Russian Wartime Exploitation, and U.S. Democratic Leadership

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Dear Senator Fetterman:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Act, 2026, into law. The Act eliminates direct popular election of the president, transfers presidential selection to Parliament, extends the electoral terms of the president, Parliament, and local authorities from five to seven years, carries the current electoral cycle through 2030, expands presidential appointment authority, and alters electoral administration and judicial appointment processes—all without a national referendum.

This constitutional rupture intersects directly with Russia's exploitation of vulnerable Zimbabweans. By late March, Zimbabwean authorities had identified 81 citizens recruited into Russia's armed forces. Subsequent government statements reported 18 deaths and at least 63 Zimbabweans remaining in the conflict zone. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of their travel documents, and coerced into combat. As a commissioner of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, your work at the intersection of human rights, democratic sovereignty, and European security provides a direct framework for examining this African extension of Russia's war economy.

On behalf of International Policy Group, I respectfully submit these materials following our July 31 electronic transmission. IPG recommends: a bipartisan Senate resolution affirming the constitutional sovereignty of the Zimbabwean people and condemning deceptive recruitment into Russia's war; Senate and interagency examination of recruiters, financing, travel channels, document confiscation, Russian counterparties, any Belarusian facilitation, illicit finance, potential sanctions exposure, repatriation, and victim protection, with Helsinki Commission consultation where appropriate; and modernization of the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act that preserves existing private-property protections and compensation commitments while adding constitutional-governance, beneficial-ownership, human-security, critical-minerals, market-access, domestic-value-addition, and community-benefit benchmarks.

The package also includes an independently issued Christian pastoral statement and the Congressional Redacted Copy of *A Zimbabwe Worth Building*. Together, these materials affirm popular sovereignty, peaceful civic participation, equal citizenship, human dignity, responsible stewardship, and an open economic partnership aligned with the United States and its democratic allies. We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Mr. Borgaonkar and the appropriate personal-office and Helsinki Commission staff concerning immediate legislative, oversight, victim-protection, sanctions, and diplomatic options.

Respectfully,

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant

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Enclosures: 1. Zimbabwean Constitutional Sovereignty, Russian Wartime Exploitation, and U.S. Democratic Leadership

2. Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement 3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building* cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy 4. International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nick Borgaonkar, Senior Policy Adviser
OFFICE: Office of U.S. Senator John Fetterman
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho – International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwean Constitutional Sovereignty, Russian Wartime Exploitation, and U.S. Democratic Leadership

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THE ASK International Policy Group respectfully requests a twenty-minute briefing with Senator Fetterman and relevant Senate policy staff concerning the fraudulent recruitment of Zimbabweans into Russia's war, Zimbabwe's constitutional rupture, and Belarus-linked political and commercial influence. We further request consultation with U.S. Helsinki Commission staff regarding the Russia- and Belarus-related dimensions of the evidence.

We propose: **(1)** a bipartisan Senate resolution; **(2)** Senate and interagency examination of transnational recruitment networks, with Helsinki Commission consultation where appropriate, alongside separate examination of Belarus-linked commercial and financial networks; and **(3)** a constructive United States–Zimbabwe framework combining victim protection and repatriation, transparent investment, and ZDERA modernization.

WHY THIS FITS SENATOR FETTERMAN'S RECORD

As a commissioner of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Senator Fetterman works at the intersection of human rights, democratic sovereignty, and European security. In 2025, he joined a bipartisan Senate resolution calling for the return of Ukrainian children forcibly transferred by Russia and noting their exposure to trafficking and exploitation. The fraudulent recruitment of Zimbabweans represents a related dimension of Russia's war economy reaching vulnerable people beyond Europe. [5][6]

RUSSIA'S WAR IS EXPLOITING VULNERABLE ZIMBABWEANS

By late March 2026, Zimbabwean authorities had identified 81 citizens recruited into Russia's armed forces. Subsequent government statements placed the confirmed account at no fewer than 18 deaths and at least 63 Zimbabweans remaining in the conflict zone. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of their travel documents, and coerced into combat. [4]

The pattern connects African economic vulnerability to Russia's wartime manpower requirements. Congressional examination will focus on recruiters, financing, travel channels, document confiscation, Russian counterparties, potential trafficking and sanctions exposure, law-enforcement authorities, repatriation, and victim protection, while advancing lawful employment and investment alternatives.

CONSTITUTIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IS HUMAN SECURITY

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa assented to the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026. The Act eliminates direct popular election of the President, substitutes election by a joint sitting of Parliament, extends presidential, parliamentary, and local-authority terms from five to seven years, applies the seven-year cycle to current officeholders through 2030, expands presidential Senate appointments, transfers voter registration and voters-roll management from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar-General, and alters judicial and constitutional oversight arrangements. [1][3]

Section 328(7) provides that an amendment extending the length of time a person may hold public office does not benefit a person who held that office before the amendment. Section 328(9) requires a national referendum for an amendment to section 328 itself. Amendment No. 3 nevertheless applies the extended terms to current officeholders "notwithstanding section 328(7)." Because no referendum preceded enactment, Veritas and other constitutional analysts contend that the Act circumvents section 328 and is constitutionally defective. [1][2][3]

Zimbabwean church, civil-society, legal, opposition, and war-veteran constituencies defending the voter-approved 2013 settlement are advancing popular sovereignty, lawful succession, accountable institutions, civic dignity, and open economic partnership—principles aligned with the United States and its democratic allies.

BELARUS-LINKED NETWORKS AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

OCCRP documented a 2018 Zimbabwean gold venture negotiated by senior Belarusian official Viktor Sheiman in which his son and another politically connected figure stood to benefit through offshore ownership structures. During his 2023 state visit to Zimbabwe, Alexander Lukashenko advanced bilateral cooperation in mining, agriculture, and equipment procurement and reiterated Belarus's readiness to assist Russia if requested. [7]

These facts warrant examination of Belarus-linked commercial relationships, beneficial ownership, procurement arrangements, politically exposed persons, and financial flows as a distinct component of the broader strategic picture.

Zimbabwe ranked third globally in platinum production in 2024, fourth in lithium production excluding the United States, fourth in palladium, and sixth in chromium. Chinese firms dominate its lithium sector after approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. A credible American alternative will combine ownership transparency, responsible sourcing, domestic processing, employment, community benefit, and stable institutions. [8][9]

THE SENATE POLICY MOMENT

ZDERA connects stronger United States–Zimbabwe relations to governance, rule of law, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, civilian control of security institutions, and recovery of stolen assets.

H.R. 5300 has not reached the House floor. On September 18, 2025, the House Foreign Affairs Committee ordered it reported, as amended, while the introduced version remains the only bill text currently published by Congress.gov and GovInfo. Section 303 of that version would repeal ZDERA and establish a single compensation-linked restriction on United States support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. [10]

Compensation and property rights remain essential. A durable modernization will also address Russian recruitment, constitutional governance, beneficial ownership, strategic minerals, and the conditions required for responsible American participation.

RECOMMENDED SENATE ACTION AND HELSINKI COMMISSION CONSULTATION

- **Bipartisan Senate resolution.** Affirm the constitutional sovereignty of the Zimbabwean people; condemn deceptive recruitment and coercion into Russia’s war; protect peaceful constitutional stakeholders; and support affected citizens.
- **Senate and interagency examination, with Helsinki Commission consultation where appropriate.** Seek briefings from the Departments of State, Treasury, and Justice and other relevant agencies concerning recruitment networks, Russian counterparties, financing, travel channels, document confiscation, illicit finance, potential sanctions exposure, repatriation, and victim protection. Consult Helsinki Commission staff regarding Russia and Belarus and, separately, examine Belarus-linked commercial and financial networks in Zimbabwe.
- **Constructive United States–Zimbabwe engagement.** Advance ZDERA modernization that preserves compensation and property-rights commitments while adding constitutional-governance, beneficial-ownership, human-security, critical-minerals, market-access, domestic-value-addition, and community-benefit benchmarks.



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2. [Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013, section 328; Veritas, Constitution Watch 8/2026.](#)
3. [Human Rights Watch, “Zimbabwe Constitution Amended to Extend President’s Term,” July 8, 2026.](#)
4. [Associated Press, “Zimbabwe Says 15 of Its Citizens Killed After Fraudulent Recruitment into Russia-Ukraine War,” March 25, 2026.](#)
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6. [U.S. Helsinki Commission, “Commissioners”; Office of Senator Fetterman, “About John.”](#)
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August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Fetterman
United States Senator
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Nick Borgaonkar, Senior Policy Adviser
FOR REFERRAL TO: Rachel Bauman, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission
RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3

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Dear Senator Fetterman:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The statement bears particular relevance to your work through the U.S. Helsinki Commission at the intersection of human rights, democratic sovereignty, and European security. Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change. Their peaceful civic witness strengthens the institutional resilience that protects citizens from authoritarian capture.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho
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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God's call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. 'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it' (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
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August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Fetterman
United States Senator
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Nick Borgaonkar, Senior Policy Adviser

FOR REFERRAL TO: Rachel Bauman, Senior Policy Advisor for Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, U.S. Helsinki Commission

RE: A Zimbabwe Worth Building: Democratic Sovereignty, Human Security, and Constitutional Renewal

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Fetterman:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose *A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, human dignity, responsible mineral governance, economic inclusion, and constructive international partnership. Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision directly relevant to your service as a commissioner of the U.S. Helsinki Commission. It joins equal citizenship, accountable institutions, freedom of faith, reconciliation under law, property and contract rights, productive work, responsible mineral development, and protection of citizens from political and economic exploitation.

Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and subsequent parliamentary impeachment proceedings arose from a ruling-party succession struggle after President Robert Mugabe dismissed Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa amid efforts to position his wife, Grace Mugabe, for succession. The episode exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions. The safeguards of the 2013 Constitution have again come under pressure through an effort to alter the constitutional order without direct popular consent.

The declaration presents a Zimbabwean, nonpartisan proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates how constitutional government, citizen protection, transparent investment, domestic value creation, and responsible development of national resources can anchor a democratic future. In IPG's assessment, that framework offers a credible alternative to Russian wartime exploitation and Belarus-linked authoritarian political and commercial influence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho
Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group | FARA Registration No. 7751
garcia@internationalpolicygroup.com | +1 202 540 0651
Enclosure: A Zimbabwe Worth Building — Congressional Redacted Copy

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and that

That national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work – the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems – and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home along side partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

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INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

Date: July 29, 2026

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWE AS A TEST CASE FOR
TRANSPARENT U.S.-AFRICA
CRITICAL-MINERALS PARTNERSHIP**

Prepared for:

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons

Member, Committee on Foreign Relations
Ranking Member, Defense Appropriations Subcommittee

Attention: Vidya Neelakantan, National Security Adviser

CC: Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons

United States Senate

218 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Vidya Neelakantan, National Security Adviser

CC: Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant

RE: Zimbabwe as a Test Case for Transparent U.S.-Africa Critical-Minerals Partnership and Democratic Resilience

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Dear Senator Coons:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, ending direct presidential elections, extending the current presidential and parliamentary terms through 2030, expanding presidential appointment powers, and restructuring electoral and judicial institutions without a referendum.

Zimbabwe's constitutional rupture has direct implications for the critical-minerals and good-governance agenda you have placed at the center of mutually beneficial U.S.-Africa relations. It illustrates why constitutional governance and institutional reliability are essential to responsible mineral partnerships.

Your China-Africa Mining Transparency Act of 2026 targets forced labor, child labor, and environmental abuse in African mineral supply chains. The bipartisan Energy Security Pacts Act would coordinate U.S. diplomatic, technical, and development-finance tools to strengthen those supply chains and offer partner countries an alternative to opaque state-linked extraction.

In Zimbabwe, responsible partnership will depend on whether public institutions can honor mineral licenses and contracts, enforce labor and environmental standards, uphold community agreements, and account for public revenues.

The package also includes an independently issued Christian pastoral statement and the declaration *A Zimbabwe Worth Building*. Together, they place constitutional legitimacy, human dignity, responsible stewardship, peaceful civic participation, and community benefit at the center of a durable United States-Zimbabwe partnership.

We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Ms. Neelakantan, Ms. Flynn Sapia, and appropriate Senate Foreign Relations and Appropriations staff concerning immediate oversight, legislative, and implementation options.

Respectfully,

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant

International Policy Group | FARA Registration No. 7751

garcia@internationalpolicygroup.com | +1 202 540 0651

Enclosures:

1. Zimbabwe as a Test Case for Transparent U.S.-Africa Critical-Minerals Partnership and Democratic Resilience
2. *Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement*
3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy*
4. *International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vidya Neelakantan, National Security Adviser
CC: Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant
OFFICE: Office of U.S. Senator Christopher A. Coons
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho — International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwe as a Test Case for Transparent U.S.–Africa Critical-Minerals Partnership and Democratic Resilience

FARA DISCLOSURE

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THE ASK International Policy Group respectfully requests a **twenty-minute briefing** with Senator Coons and relevant Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff concerning Zimbabwe as a test case for a transparent, values-based U.S.–Africa critical-minerals strategy grounded in constitutional legitimacy, responsible investment, African economic participation, and durable strategic partnership.

We propose three mutually reinforcing actions: (1) oversight and implementation principles building upon Senator Coons’s China-Africa mining-transparency and energy-security agenda; (2) a bipartisan Senate resolution affirming Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development; and (3) Senate principles for a modern ZDERA successor that preserves U.S. leverage while opening a lawful path to transparent investment, diversified supply chains, and shared prosperity.

ZIMBABWE IS A DIRECT TEST OF SENATOR COONS’S AFRICA AND MINERALS AGENDA

Zimbabwe was the world’s third-ranked platinum producer in 2024, fourth-ranked in lithium—excluding the United States—and palladium, and sixth-ranked in chromium. Mining and quarrying contributed approximately 15.4 percent of gross domestic product. In 2025, Zimbabwe exported approximately 1.13 million metric tons of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate to China—about 15 percent of China’s lithium-concentrate imports—while Chinese firms dominated the sector after approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. [1][2]

Senator Coons’s Africa and critical-minerals agenda provides a direct policy frame for Zimbabwe. His recent mining-transparency and energy-security initiatives seek to expose coercive labor and environmental abuse, strengthen strategic supply chains, and coordinate American diplomatic, development-finance, and private-investment tools. Zimbabwe is where those principles can be tested against Chinese commercial concentration, weak ownership transparency, and the need for a credible American alternative. [3][4]

CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY AND PARTNERSHIP RELIABILITY

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026. It abolishes direct presidential elections; extends presidential, parliamentary, and local-authority terms from five to seven years; applies those extensions to current officeholders through 2030; adds ten Senate seats filled by presidential appointment; transfers responsibility for the voters’ roll; and alters delimitation, judicial-appointment, and constitutional-oversight arrangements. [5][6]

Section 328(7) bars tenure extensions from benefiting incumbent officeholders, while section 328(9) requires a national referendum to amend section 328 itself. Amendment No. 3 nevertheless applies the extended terms to current officeholders “notwithstanding section 328(7),” without the referendum required to amend section 328 itself. A pre-enactment challenge was dismissed on procedural grounds, and the constitutional merits remain unresolved. [5][6]

A durable minerals partnership requires institutions capable of honoring licenses, contracts, labor protections, environmental obligations, community agreements, tax commitments, and public-revenue responsibilities. When incumbent authority can rewrite constitutional restraints, politically connected actors can allocate strategic assets through patronage, obscure beneficial ownership, and place rules-bound American firms at a structural disadvantage.

FROM EXTRACTION TO AFRICAN SHARED PROSPERITY

Senator Coons has consistently treated African nations as strategic and economic partners rather than merely as sources of raw materials. Applied to Zimbabwe, that principle means mineral development that produces transparent public revenue, domestic processing and value addition, skilled employment, enforceable labor and environmental standards, meaningful community benefit, and genuine Zimbabwean participation in ownership and decision-making. [3][4]

IPG’s proposed American alternative would combine transparent licensing and beneficial ownership, responsible sourcing and traceability, diversified offtake, commercially reliable institutions, and development-finance tools capable of mobilizing responsible private capital. This framework would strengthen U.S. supply-chain resilience while enabling Zimbabweans to retain a fairer share of the value created by their national resources.

AUTHORITARIAN ECONOMICS AND HUMAN EXPLOITATION

The Mnangagwa government has deepened alignment with Russia and Belarus through a Belarus-linked political-commercial network spanning gold mining, agricultural mechanization, equipment procurement, and diplomatic representation. Investigations have documented senior-state relationships and offshore structures that obscure beneficial ownership and place Belarusian state-adjacent interests inside Zimbabwe’s strategic-resource governance. [7]

On March 25, 2026, Zimbabwe’s government acknowledged 81 known cases of fraudulent recruitment into Russia’s war against Ukraine: 15 citizens had been killed, and diplomatic efforts were underway to repatriate 66 survivors. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of travel documents, and coerced into combat. The clandestine methods and absence of comprehensive public accounting make the official figure a confirmed minimum and place the issue within a wider African trafficking, illicit-finance, and security pattern supporting Russia’s war effort. [8]

Zimbabwe’s constitutional capture also carries a wider geopolitical consequence. An African state with a highly educated, English-speaking population, longstanding ties to Western institutions, and a political and commercial culture historically more readily oriented toward the United States and its democratic partners is being drawn, without the consent of its people, ever more deeply into networks aligned with Russia, Belarus, and China by an increasingly anti-constitutional governing establishment.

If this trajectory consolidates, Zimbabwe could become a durable authoritarian foothold in Southern Africa—providing Moscow and its allies access to strategic resources, public-procurement systems,

diplomatic influence, and vulnerable populations while narrowing the space for responsible American and allied engagement.

THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AND LEGISLATIVE MOMENT

The strategic objective should be neither isolation nor unconditional normalization. It should be a transparent pathway under which lawful reform unlocks responsible economic engagement.

Senator Coons's mining-transparency and energy-security agenda offers a framework for preventing Zimbabwe's strategic capture while advancing ownership disclosure, enforceable labor and environmental safeguards, diversified investment and offtake, domestic processing, commercially viable infrastructure, community benefit, and responsible American participation. [3][4]

ZDERA links stronger U.S.–Zimbabwe trade and investment ties to governance, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, and recovery of stolen assets. H.R. 5300 remains at the introduced stage after the House Foreign Affairs Committee ordered it reported, as amended. In the introduced text currently published by Congress.gov, section 303 would repeal ZDERA and replace it with a narrower compensation-related condition governing U.S. support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. [9][10]

Farmer compensation and property rights remain legitimate obligations. A compensation-only replacement would leave constitutional capture, opaque ownership, Chinese mineral concentration, labor and environmental risk, politically connected procurement, Russian recruitment networks, and unequal community benefit outside the principal statutory framework for U.S. reengagement.

IPG recommends a modern successor framework preserving compensation and property-rights objectives while adding constitutional-legitimacy benchmarks, anti-corruption and beneficial-ownership standards, responsible-sourcing requirements, labor and environmental protections, strategic-mineral transparency, competitive market access, domestic value-addition objectives, community-benefit standards, and positive pathways toward investment, debt resolution, and economic recovery.

RECOMMENDED SENATE ACTION

- **Mining-transparency and energy-security implementation** — request State Department and interagency planning that uses Zimbabwe as a priority case for examining Chinese mining entities, labor and environmental conduct, ownership structures, state-linked financing, energy and transport infrastructure, and barriers to responsible American participation.
- **Bipartisan constitutional and partnership framework** — affirm the Zimbabwean people's right to choose their leadership; defend the voter-approved 2013 constitutional settlement and referendum safeguards; protect peaceful civic participation; and recognize Zimbabweans' right to receive the full national benefit of mineral development through public revenue, value addition, employment, and community benefit.
- **Africa Subcommittee oversight and ZDERA modernization** — seek briefings from State, Treasury, Commerce, Justice, DFC, EXIM, and relevant national-security agencies on Chinese mineral concentration, Belarus-linked ownership and procurement, fraudulent Russian wartime recruitment, illicit finance, and labor and environmental risks; and establish Senate principles for a modern ZDERA successor supporting transparent reform and responsible investment.

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons

United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Vidya Neelakantan, National Security Adviser

CC: Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant

RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Coons:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The statement bears particular relevance to your longstanding engagement with African civil society, faith-based institutions, democratic governance, and bipartisan international partnership. Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change. Their appeal is indigenous, lawful, nonviolent, and directed toward constitutional fidelity, elections in 2028, and a dignified leadership transition.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Garcia Mavinga Sozinho', is written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God’s call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it’ (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons

United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Vidya Neelakantan, National Security Adviser

CC: Margaret Flynn Sapia, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant

RE: A Zimbabwe Worth Building: Transparent Partnership, African Enterprise, and Constitutional Renewal

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Coons:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, human dignity, responsible mineral governance, economic inclusion, and constructive international partnership.

Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision consistent with your treatment of African nations as strategic and economic partners rather than sources of raw materials. It joins equal citizenship and accountable institutions with transparent ownership, domestic processing and value addition, skilled employment, enforceable labor and environmental standards, and meaningful community benefit from national resources.

Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and ensuing parliamentary impeachment proceedings, precipitated by President Robert Mugabe's attempt to engineer a dynastic succession in favor of his wife, Grace Mugabe, exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions. The 2013 Constitution did not resolve the institutional weaknesses that now permit another effort to alter the constitutional order without direct popular consent.

The declaration is therefore neither a partisan appeal nor a request for foreign control. It is a Zimbabwean proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates that expanded American commercial participation can be aligned with constitutional legitimacy, transparent investment, African ownership and decision-making, diversified supply chains, domestic value creation, community benefit, and shared prosperity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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Enclosure: *A Zimbabwe Worth Building — Congressional Redacted Copy*

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and that

That national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work — the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems — and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home alongside partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

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INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

Date: July 29, 2026

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWE AS A TEST CASE FOR A
VALUES-BASED U.S.-AFRICA
CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY**

Prepared for:

The Honorable Cory A. Booker

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate

Attention: Samantha Schiffrin, Defense and Foreign Policy Adviser

CC: Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff; Stefan Suric, Scheduling Director

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Cory A. Booker

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Samantha Schiffrin, Defense and Foreign Policy Adviser

CC: Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff; Stefan Suric, Scheduling Director

RE: Zimbabwe as a Test Case for a Values-Based U.S.-Africa Critical-Minerals Strategy

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Booker:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, ending direct presidential elections, extending the current presidential and parliamentary terms through 2030, expanding presidential appointment powers, and restructuring electoral and judicial institutions without a referendum.

This rupture tests the values-based U.S.-Africa critical-minerals strategy you advanced. Mineral partnerships require institutions honoring licenses, contracts, labor and environmental safeguards, community agreements, and revenue commitments. Rewritten constitutional restraints channel assets through opaque networks that deepen Chinese concentration, embed Belarusian and Russian influence, disadvantage American firms, and deny African communities a fair share of national-resource value.

On behalf of International Policy Group, I respectfully submit these materials following our July 31 electronic transmission. IPG recommends a bipartisan Senate resolution affirming Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development; Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review of strategic-mineral concentration, beneficial ownership, illicit finance, wartime recruitment networks, and barriers to responsible American participation; and Senate principles for a modern ZDERA successor preserving compensation and property-rights obligations while adding constitutional legitimacy, responsible sourcing, labor and environmental safeguards, competitive market access, local value addition, and community benefit.

The package also includes an independently issued Christian pastoral statement and the redacted declaration *A Zimbabwe Worth Building*. Together, they place constitutional legitimacy, human dignity, equal citizenship, peaceful civic participation, and shared prosperity at the center of a durable U.S.-Zimbabwe partnership. We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Ms. Schiffrin and the appropriate Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Africa Subcommittee staff concerning immediate oversight and legislative options.

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garcia Mavinga Sozinho". The signature is written on a dark, textured background.

inho

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Enclosures:

1. Zimbabwe as a Test Case for a Values-Based U.S.-Africa Critical-Minerals Strategy
2. Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement
3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building* cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy
4. International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement

MEMORANDUM

TO: Samantha Schiffrin, Defense and Foreign Policy Adviser
CC: Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff; Stefan Suric, Scheduling Director
OFFICE: Office of U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho — International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwe as a Test Case for a Values-Based U.S.–Africa Critical-Minerals Strategy

FARA DISCLOSURE

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THE ASK International Policy Group respectfully requests a twenty-minute briefing with **Senator Booker's office and relevant Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff** concerning Zimbabwe as a test case for a U.S.–Africa critical-minerals strategy grounded in constitutional legitimacy, transparent investment, community benefit and durable partnership.

We propose three mutually reinforcing actions: **(1)** a bipartisan Senate resolution on Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development; **(2)** Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review; and **(3)** Senate principles for a modern ZDERA successor that preserves U.S. leverage while opening a lawful path to responsible investment and shared prosperity.

ZIMBABWE IS THE VALUES-BASED TEST CASE

Zimbabwe was the world's third-ranked platinum producer in 2024, fourth-ranked in lithium—excluding the United States—and palladium, and sixth-ranked in chromium. Mining and quarrying contributed approximately 15.4 percent of gross domestic product. In 2025, Zimbabwe exported approximately 1.13 million metric tons of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate to China—about 15 percent of China's lithium-concentrate imports—while Chinese firms dominated the sector after approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. ^{[1][2]}

At the July 30, 2025 Africa Subcommittee hearing on critical minerals, Ranking Member Booker framed the competition as a crisis of both capacity and credibility: the United States requires a comprehensive strategy that reflects American values, protects U.S. interests, strengthens African partnerships, empowers local economies, and creates durable opportunities for American companies and African partners. Zimbabwe is where those propositions meet. ^{[3][4]}

CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY AND PARTNERSHIP CREDIBILITY

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026. It abolishes direct presidential elections; extends presidential, parliamentary, and local-authority terms from five to seven years; applies those extensions to current officeholders through 2030; adds ten Senate seats filled by presidential appointment; transfers the voters' roll to the Registrar-General; and alters delimitation, judicial-appointment, and constitutional-oversight arrangements. ^{[5][6]}

Section 328(7) bars tenure extensions from benefiting incumbent officeholders, while section 328(9) requires a national referendum to amend section 328 itself. Amendment No. 3 nevertheless applies the extensions to current officeholders “notwithstanding section 328(7),” and no referendum was held. A pre-enactment challenge was dismissed on procedural grounds, and the constitutional merits remain unresolved. ^{[5][6]}

A minerals partnership rests on institutions capable of honoring licenses, contracts, environmental obligations, labor protections, community agreements, and public-revenue commitments. When incumbent authority can rewrite constitutional restraints, politically connected actors can also allocate strategic assets through patronage, obscure beneficial ownership, and place rules-bound American firms at a structural disadvantage. ^{[6][7]}

FROM EXTRACTION TO SHARED PROSPERITY

Ranking Member Booker has emphasized that Africa must be treated as a rising economic force and long-term partner. Applied to Zimbabwe, that principle means mineral development that produces transparent public revenue, domestic value addition, skilled employment, community benefit, responsible labor and environmental practice, and genuine African participation in ownership and decision-making. ^{[3][4]}

IPG’s proposed American alternative would combine transparent licensing and beneficial ownership, responsible sourcing and traceability, diversified offtake, commercially stable institutions, and development-finance tools that crowd in responsible private capital. This framework would strengthen U.S. supply-chain resilience while enabling Zimbabweans to retain a fairer share of the value created by their national resources. ^{[3][4]}

AUTHORITARIAN ECONOMICS AND HUMAN EXPLOITATION

The Mnangagwa government has deepened alignment with Russia and Belarus through a Belarus-linked political-commercial network spanning gold mining, agricultural mechanization, equipment procurement, and diplomatic representation. Investigations have documented senior-state relationships and offshore structures that obscure beneficial ownership and place Belarusian state-adjacent interests inside Zimbabwe’s strategic-resource governance. ^[7]

On March 25, 2026, Zimbabwe’s government acknowledged 81 known cases of fraudulent recruitment into Russia’s war against Ukraine: 15 citizens had been killed, and diplomatic efforts were underway to repatriate 66 survivors. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of travel documents, and coerced into combat. The clandestine methods and absence of comprehensive public accounting make the reported figure a confirmed minimum and place the issue within a wider African trafficking, illicit-finance, and security pattern supporting Russia’s war effort. ^[8]

THE SENATE LEGISLATIVE MOMENT: MODERNIZE ZDERA

ZDERA links stronger U.S.–Zimbabwe trade and investment ties to governance, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, and recovery of stolen assets. H.R. 5300 has been ordered reported, as amended, by a 27–24 vote of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, while Congress.gov and GovInfo continue to publish only the introduced text. Section 303 of that published text would repeal ZDERA and replace it with a compensation-related condition on U.S. support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. ^{[10][11]}

Farmer compensation and property rights remain legitimate obligations. A compensation-only replacement would leave constitutional capture, opaque ownership, Chinese mineral concentration, labor and

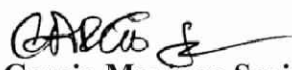
environmental risk, politically connected procurement, and unequal community benefit outside the central statutory framework for U.S. reengagement. ^[11]

Ranking Member Booker provides direct institutional continuity on Zimbabwe. As ranking member of the Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee, he participated in its 2017 hearing, *The Future of Zimbabwe*, and its 2018 hearing, *Zimbabwe After the Elections*. Those proceedings centered constitutional democracy, credible elections, the rule of law, economic recovery and conditions for renewed U.S. engagement. The 2026 rupture reactivates that established oversight framework while bringing strategic-mineral competition more directly into the policy equation. ^[9]

IPG recommends a modern successor framework that preserves compensation and property-rights objectives while adding constitutional, anti-corruption, beneficial-ownership, responsible-sourcing, strategic-mineral, market-access, labor, environmental, and community-benefit benchmarks.

RECOMMENDED SENATE ACTION

- **A bipartisan resolution on constitutional sovereignty and responsible mineral development** — affirming the Zimbabwean people's right to choose their leadership; defending the 2013 constitutional settlement, referendum safeguards, and peaceful civic participation; and recognizing Zimbabweans' right to receive the full national benefit of mineral development through public revenue, domestic value addition, employment, and community benefit.
- **Africa Subcommittee oversight and interagency review** — requesting briefings from State, Treasury, Commerce, Justice, DFC, EXIM, and relevant law-enforcement and national-security agencies on Chinese mineral concentration, Belarus-linked procurement and beneficial ownership, fraudulent wartime recruitment networks, illicit finance, diplomatic capacity, and barriers to responsible American participation.
- **Modernization of ZDERA** — establishing Senate principles that preserve compensation and property rights while integrating constitutional legitimacy, anti-corruption, responsible sourcing, labor and environmental safeguards, strategic-mineral transparency, competitive market access, and positive pathways toward investment, debt resolution, and economic recovery.



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1. U.S. Geological Survey, "Zimbabwe—Minerals Information" (2024 production and GDP data).
2. Reuters, "Zimbabwe Adds Freight Rail Option to Lithium Export Gateway", July 21, 2026.
3. SFRC, "Critical Minerals: Finding Opportunities for U.S.–Africa Partnerships", July 30, 2025.
4. Office of Senator Cory Booker, [critical-minerals hearing video](#).
5. Veritas Zimbabwe, "Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Act No. 6 of 2026" (Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026).
6. [Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013, § 328](#); [Constitution Watch 8/2026](#); [Human Rights Watch](#), July 8, 2026.
7. OCCRP, "Belarusian Elites' Golden Deal With Zimbabwe"; [Associated Press](#).
8. Associated Press, [report on fraudulent recruitment of Zimbabweans into Russia's war](#), March 25, 2026; Reuters, African recruitment-network reporting, February–March 2026.
9. SFRC, "Zimbabwe at the Crossroads: A Chance for a New Beginning", 2017; "U.S. Policy Responses to Zimbabwe's Illusory Reforms", 2018.
10. [Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001](#), as amended by the [Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Amendment Act of 2018](#).
11. [Congress.gov, H.R. 5300—Department of State Policy Provisions Act](#) (§§ 303–304, 314; ordered reported 27–24, Sept. 18, 2025).



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Cory A. Booker

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Samantha Schiffrin, Defense and Foreign Policy Adviser

CC: Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff; Stefan Suric, Scheduling Director

RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Booker:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The statement aligns closely with your emphasis on democracy, transparency, human rights and dignity, peaceful civic participation, and accountable institutions. Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change. Their appeal is indigenous, lawful, nonviolent, and directed toward constitutional fidelity, elections in 2028, and a dignified leadership transition.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garcia M. Sozinho", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God's call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. 'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it' (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



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August 5, 2026

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Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Samantha Schifrin, Defense and Foreign Policy Adviser

CC: Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff; Stefan Suric, Scheduling Director

RE: A Zimbabwe Worth Building: Shared Prosperity, Equal Citizenship, and Constitutional Renewal

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Senator Booker:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, human dignity, responsible mineral governance, economic inclusion, and constructive international partnership.

Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision consistent with the principle at the center of your public service: political and economic systems must empower people who have been left out, left behind, or left without a voice. It calls for a non-racial constitutional republic in which citizenship rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history, and it joins equal citizenship with accountable institutions, productive work, local value creation, responsible labor and environmental practice, and community benefit from national resources.

Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and ensuing parliamentary impeachment proceedings, precipitated by President Robert Mugabe's attempt to engineer a dynastic succession in favor of his wife, Grace Mugabe, exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions. The 2013 Constitution did not resolve the institutional weaknesses that now permit another effort to alter the constitutional order without direct popular consent.

The declaration is therefore neither a partisan appeal nor a request for foreign control. It is a Zimbabwean proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates that expanded American commercial participation can be aligned with constitutional legitimacy, transparent investment, African ownership and decision-making, skilled employment, community benefit, equal citizenship, and shared prosperity.

Respectfully,

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

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Enclosure: A Zimbabwe Worth Building — Congressional Redacted Copy

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and that

That national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work — the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems — and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home alongside partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

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INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

Date: July 29, 2026

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE
RUSSIA-BELARUS ALIGNMENT
AND ZDERA MODERNIZATION**

Prepared for:

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle

Ranking Member, House Committee on the Budget
Member, House Committee on Ways and Means; Trade Subcommittee

Attention: Gianluca Nigro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director

CC: Scott Heppard, Chief of Staff

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

**August 5, 2026****The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle**United States House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**ATTN: Gianluca Nigro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director****CC: Scott Heppard, Chief of Staff****RE: Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, Russia-Belarus Alignment, and ZDERA Modernization****FARA DISCLOSURE**

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Dear Congressman Boyle:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, ending direct presidential elections, extending the current presidential and parliamentary terms through 2030, expanding presidential appointment powers, and restructuring electoral and judicial institutions without a referendum.

This constitutional rupture directly engages your work at the intersection of democratic sovereignty, trade, multilateral finance, and transatlantic security. A political system able to evade constitutional restraints can allocate mineral rights, procurement, market access, and public finance through opaque networks - strengthening Chinese commercial concentration, embedding Belarusian state-linked interests, enabling the African reach of Russia's war economy, and placing rules-based American firms and Zimbabwean citizens at a structural disadvantage.

On behalf of International Policy Group, I respectfully submit these materials following our July 31 electronic transmission. IPG recommends a House resolution affirming Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and peaceful civic activity; modernization of ZDERA that preserves compensation and property-rights obligations while adding constitutional, anti-corruption, beneficial-ownership, strategic-mineral, trafficking, and competitive-market-access benchmarks; a multilateral-finance and trade review through the World Bank Caucus, Budget Committee, and Trade Subcommittee; and coordinated democracy-support and transatlantic engagement addressing Belarus-linked influence and fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war.

The package also includes an independently issued Christian pastoral statement and the redacted declaration A Zimbabwe Worth Building. Together, they affirm Zimbabwean commitments to popular sovereignty, constitutional fidelity, human dignity, equal citizenship, responsible resource governance, and open economic partnership with the United States and its democratic allies.

We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Mr. Nigro, Mr. Heppard, and the appropriate Budget, Ways and Means, trade, World Bank, and transatlantic-policy staff concerning immediate congressional oversight and legislative options.

Respectfully,
Garcia Mavinga SozinhoPolicy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group | FARA Registration No. 7751
garcia@internationalpolicygroup.com | +1 202 540 0651**Enclosures:**

1. Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, Russia-Belarus Alignment, and ZDERA Modernization
2. *Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement*
3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy*
4. *International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gianluca Nigro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director
CC: Scott Heppard, Chief of Staff
OFFICE: Office of Congressman Brendan F. Boyle
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho – International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwe’s Constitutional Rupture, Russia–Belarus Alignment, and ZDERA Modernization

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THE ASK International Policy Group (IPG) respectfully requests a twenty-minute briefing with Congressman Boyle and relevant policy staff concerning Zimbabwe’s constitutional rupture, the African reach of Russia’s war economy and Belarus-linked influence, critical-mineral governance, trade, and multilateral finance.

IPG proposes: (1) congressional affirmation of Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and popular consent; (2) modernization—not simple repeal—of the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act; and (3) coordinated democracy-support, multilateral-finance, and transatlantic engagement addressing the African reach of Russia’s war economy and Belarus-linked influence.

WHY ZIMBABWE MATTERS TO CONGRESSMAN BOYLE

Congressman Boyle’s responsibilities place him at the intersection of the principal issues presented by Zimbabwe. He serves as Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and its Trade Subcommittee, as co-chair of the Congressional World Bank Caucus, and as Lead Democrat for the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. [\[1\]](#)

Zimbabwe is an African test of whether constitutional capture will permit authoritarian state-linked networks to control strategic resources, public procurement, multilateral reengagement, and market access while drawing vulnerable citizens into Russia’s war against Ukraine. The constituencies defending Zimbabwe’s voter-approved 2013 settlement are asserting popular sovereignty, lawful succession, accountable institutions, civic dignity, and open economic partnership—aspirations closer to the United States and its democratic allies than to the authoritarian model represented by Russia and Belarus.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitution Amendment No. 3, abolishing direct presidential elections, extending presidential, parliamentary, and local-authority terms from five to seven years, and applying those extensions to current officeholders through 2030. The measure also expands presidential appointment authority and restructures electoral, judicial, and constitutional-oversight institutions established under Zimbabwe’s voter-approved 2013 Constitution. [\[2\]\[4\]](#)

Section 328(7) bars an amendment extending tenure from benefiting incumbent officeholders, while section 328(9) requires a national referendum to amend section 328 itself. Amendment No. 3 nevertheless applies the extensions to current officeholders “notwithstanding section 328(7),” and no referendum was held. A

pre-enactment challenge was dismissed on procedural grounds; the constitutional merits have not been finally adjudicated. [\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

For Congressman Boyle, the relevant question is whether Amendment No. 3 weakens electoral choice and institutional oversight in ways that give Belarusian and Russian-aligned actors greater access to Zimbabwe's mining, procurement, transport, agriculture, and trade sectors—and greater influence across Southern Africa. [\[5\]](#)

STRATEGIC MINERALS, TRADE, AND MULTILATERAL FINANCE

Zimbabwe ranked third globally in platinum production in 2024, fourth in lithium production excluding the United States, fourth in palladium, and sixth in chromium. Mining and quarrying contributed approximately 15.4 percent of gross domestic product. [\[5\]](#)

In 2025, Zimbabwe exported approximately 1.13 million metric tons of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate to China—about 15 percent of China's lithium-concentrate imports—while Chinese firms dominated the sector after approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. [\[6\]](#)

This concentration raises urgent questions of transparent licensing, beneficial ownership, domestic value addition, employment, community benefit, diversified offtake, and meaningful access for U.S. firms. The terms of any future U.S.-supported economic reengagement will determine whether new capital broadens opportunity or reinforces existing control over Zimbabwe's strategic assets.

RUSSIA–BELARUS WAR-ECONOMY ALIGNMENT

The Mnangagwa government has deepened Zimbabwe's alignment with Russia and Belarus through a Belarus-linked political-commercial network spanning gold mining, agricultural mechanization, equipment procurement, and diplomatic representation. Investigations have documented a network operating through senior state relationships and offshore structures that obscure beneficial ownership, placing Belarusian state-adjacent interests inside public procurement and strategic-resource governance. [\[7\]](#)

On March 25, 2026, Zimbabwe's government reported that 15 citizens had been killed after fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war against Ukraine and that, at that time, 66 surviving citizens remained in the conflict zone. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of travel documents, and coerced into combat. [\[8\]](#)

This extends the pattern from the exploitation of Zimbabwe's natural resources and public procurement systems to the exploitation of vulnerable citizens, consigning Zimbabwean lives to the Kremlin's war machine, eroding national sovereignty, and advancing Russian aggression in direct conflict with U.S. national-security interests.

For Congressman Boyle, this is a direct extension of the Ukraine and democratic-resilience portfolio: Russia's war effort and Belarusian state-commercial influence now reach into African political economies, strategic-resource systems, and vulnerable populations.

THE HOUSE LEGISLATIVE MOMENT

ZDERA links stronger U.S.–Zimbabwe trade and investment ties to progress on governance, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, and recovery of stolen assets; repeal would remove the principal statutory framework connecting political reform to constructive economic reengagement. [\[9\]](#)

H.R. 5300 remains at the introduced stage after the House Foreign Affairs Committee ordered it reported, as amended, by a 27–24 vote. In the introduced text currently published by Congress.gov, section 303 would repeal ZDERA and substitute a narrower compensation-related condition on U.S. support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. [\[10\]](#)

Farmer compensation and property rights are legitimate obligations, but a compensation-only replacement cannot prevent Chinese mineral consolidation, expose opaque ownership, discipline politically connected procurement, or secure meaningful access for American firms. The resulting path toward multilateral reengagement could confer international legitimacy and fresh capital on a captured authoritarian political economy without changing who controls Zimbabwe's strategic assets, unless a successor framework also addresses constitutional legitimacy, ownership transparency, and competitive market access. ^[10]

RECOMMENDED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

- **Congressional resolution on Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty.** Affirm popular sovereignty and the voter-approved 2013 constitutional settlement; defend referendum safeguards, civic freedoms, and peaceful constitutional activity; and recognize the right of Zimbabweans to receive the full national benefit of mineral development.
- **Modernization rather than simple repeal of ZDERA.** Work with House Foreign Affairs Committee colleagues on amendment or successor language connecting compensation and economic reengagement to constitutional legitimacy, anti-corruption safeguards, beneficial-ownership transparency, strategic-mineral diversification, competitive market access, and protection against exploitation connected to Russia's war.
- **Multilateral-finance and trade review.** Through the World Bank Caucus, Budget Committee, and Trade Subcommittee, examine whether proposed IMF or World Bank engagement would support transparent reform and broad-based recovery or consolidate opaque political-commercial control over Zimbabwe's strategic assets.
- **Democracy-support and transatlantic engagement.** Consult the National Endowment for Democracy, National Democratic Institute, and International Republican Institute concerning Zimbabwean-led constitutional and civic-resilience initiatives; and raise the African reach of Russian recruitment and Belarusian state-commercial influence through the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's work on democratic resilience, supply-chain security, and support for partners facing Russian aggression.



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10. [Congress.gov, H.R. 5300](#), section 303 and legislative status.



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August 5, 2026**The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle**

United States House of Representatives

1502 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

ATTN: Gianluca Nigro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director**CC: Scott Heppard, Chief of Staff****RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3****FARA DISCLOSURE**

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Dear Congressman Boyle:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The statement bears particular relevance to your leadership on democratic resilience, transatlantic solidarity, and accountability in trade and multilateral finance. Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change. Their peaceful and nonviolent appeal demonstrates that Zimbabwean constitutional advocacy arises from established faith and civic institutions committed to elections in 2028 and a dignified leadership transition.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,
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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God’s call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it’ (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle

United States House of Representatives
 1502 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

ATTN: Gianluca Nigro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director**CC: Scott Heppard, Chief of Staff****RE: A Zimbabwe Worth Building: Democratic Sovereignty, Open Economic Partnership, and Constitutional Renewal****FARA DISCLOSURE**

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group. This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Dear Congressman Boyle:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, human dignity, responsible mineral governance, economic inclusion, and constructive international partnership.

Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision aligned with the institutional fields central to your public service: democratic sovereignty, transatlantic partnership, fair trade, responsible multilateral finance, and broad-based economic opportunity. It calls for a non-racial constitutional republic in which citizenship rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history, and it joins equal citizenship with accountable institutions, property and contract rights, productive enterprise, responsible mineral development, domestic value creation, skilled employment, and community benefit.

Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and ensuing parliamentary impeachment proceedings, precipitated by President Robert Mugabe's attempt to engineer a dynastic succession in favor of his wife, Grace Mugabe, exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions. The 2013 Constitution did not resolve the institutional weaknesses that now permit another effort to alter the constitutional order without direct popular consent.

The declaration is therefore neither a partisan appeal nor a request for foreign control. It is a Zimbabwean proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates that expanded American commercial participation, responsible multilateral engagement, and transatlantic democratic solidarity can support lawful government, economic sovereignty, diversified market access, and responsible development of Zimbabwe's national resources.

Respectfully,
Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
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 garcia@internationalpolicygroup.com | +1 202 540 0651

Enclosure: A Zimbabwe Worth Building — Congressional Redacted Copy

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and t

That national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work – the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems – and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home alongside partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

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INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

Date: July 29, 2026

**INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PACKAGE**

**ZIMBABWE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE,
ZDERA MODERNIZATION,
AND U.S. STRATEGIC INTERESTS**

Prepared for:

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa

Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives

Attention: John McDonough, Legislative Director

CC: Mary McDermott Noonan, Chief of Staff

Submitted by:

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant

International Policy Group

FARA Registration No. 7751

August 5, 2026

This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



INTERNATIONAL POLICY GROUP

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa
Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
ATTN: John McDonough, Legislative Director
CC: Mary McDermott Noonan, Chief of Staff

RE: Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, ZDERA Modernization, and U.S. Strategic Interests

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Dear Chairman Smith:

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, ending direct presidential elections, extending the current presidential and parliamentary terms through 2030, expanding presidential appointment powers, and restructuring electoral and judicial institutions without a referendum.

This constitutional rupture intersects directly with your longstanding congressional work on human rights, trafficking, religious freedom, and accountable government. A political system able to evade constitutional restraints can also repress peaceful civic activity, expose Zimbabweans to fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war, and channel national resources through opaque foreign state-linked networks.

On behalf of International Policy Group, I respectfully submit these materials following our July 31 electronic transmission. IPG recommends a House resolution affirming Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and peaceful civic activity; Africa Subcommittee oversight and coordinated executive review of trafficking, repression, illicit finance, and foreign state-linked arrangements; and ZDERA modernization. A successor framework will preserve compensation and property-rights obligations while adding constitutional, anti-corruption, beneficial-ownership, trafficking, strategic-mineral, and competitive-market-access benchmarks.

The package also includes an independently issued Christian pastoral statement and the redacted declaration A Zimbabwe Worth Building. Together, they affirm constitutional fidelity, human dignity, and equal citizenship as the foundation for a strong, principled relationship between Zimbabwe and the United States.

We respectfully request an opportunity to brief Mr. McDonough, Ms. McDermott Noonan, and the appropriate Africa Subcommittee staff concerning immediate congressional oversight and legislative options.

Respectfully,

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho

Policy and Government-Relations Consultant
International Policy Group | FARA Registration No. 7751
garcia@internationalpolicygroup.com | +1 202 540 0651

Enclosures:

1. *Zimbabwe's Constitutional Rupture, ZDERA Modernization, and U.S. Strategic Interests*
2. *Zimbabwean Christian constitutional-witness cover letter and pastoral statement*
3. *A Zimbabwe Worth Building cover letter and Congressional Redacted Copy*
4. *International Policy Group Institutional Profile and United States Engagement Statement*

MEMORANDUM

TO: John McDonough, Legislative Director
CC: Mary McDermott Noonan, Chief of Staff
OFFICE: Office of Congressman Christopher H. Smith Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa
FROM: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho – International Policy Group
DATE: July 31, 2026
RE: Zimbabwe’s Constitutional Rupture, ZDERA Modernization, and United States Strategic Interests

FARA DISCLOSURE

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THE ASK International Policy Group respectfully requests a **twenty-minute briefing** with Chairman Smith and relevant Africa Subcommittee staff concerning Zimbabwe’s constitutional rupture and its implications for democratic legitimacy, United States critical-mineral security, and authoritarian state-linked influence in Southern Africa.

We propose three mutually reinforcing actions: (1) a congressional resolution on Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty and popular consent; (2) modernization—rather than simple repeal—of the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act; and (3) coordinated executive, democracy-support, and responsible private-sector engagement.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE

On July 7, 2026, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Act (No. 3), 2026 (Act No. 6 of 2026). It abolishes the direct popular election of the President in favor of selection by a joint sitting of Parliament; extends presidential, parliamentary, and local-authority terms from five to seven years; and applies those extensions to current officeholders, prolonging the present presidential and parliamentary mandates from 2028 to 2030. ^{[1][4]}

It adds ten Senate seats filled by presidential appointment; transfers voter registration and custody of the voters’ roll from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar-General; assigns delimitation to a new commission; and alters judicial-appointment and constitutional-oversight arrangements established under Zimbabwe’s voter-approved 2013 Constitution. ^{[1][4]}

THE REFERENDUM SAFEGUARD

Section 328(7) of Zimbabwe’s Constitution bars a constitutional amendment extending the tenure of a public officeholder from benefiting a person already holding that office. Section 328(9) requires a national referendum to amend section 328 itself. Amendment Act No. 3 nevertheless applies the seven-year terms to current officeholders “notwithstanding section 328(7),” and no referendum was held. ^{[1][2][3]}

The resulting dispute concerns whether incumbent terms and the administration of democratic authority may be rewritten without the popular consent protected by the Constitution. A pre-enactment challenge was dismissed by a Zimbabwean court on procedural grounds, and the constitutional merits have yet to be finally adjudicated.

^{[3][4]}

STRATEGIC MINERALS AND MARKET ACCESS

Zimbabwe was the world's third-ranked platinum producer in 2024, fourth-ranked in lithium—excluding the United States—and palladium, and sixth-ranked in chromium. Mining and quarrying contributed approximately 15.4 percent of gross domestic product.

In 2025, Zimbabwe exported approximately 1.13 million metric tons of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate to China—about 15 percent of China's lithium-concentrate imports—while Chinese firms dominated the sector following approximately \$2 billion in investment since 2021. ^{[5][6]}

This concentration raises urgent questions involving transparent licensing, beneficial ownership, public revenue, domestic value addition, employment, community benefit, and diversified market access for responsible United States firms.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTO RUSSIA'S WAR

Zimbabwean citizens have been subjected to fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war against Ukraine. On March 25, 2026, the government acknowledged 81 known cases: 15 citizens had been killed, and diplomatic efforts were underway to repatriate 66 survivors.

Given the clandestine recruitment methods and absence of comprehensive public accounting, this figure likely represents a confirmed minimum. Victims were reportedly lured by false civilian-employment offers, deprived of their travel documents, and coerced into combat. ^[7]

Under the trafficking framework Chairman Smith helped establish through the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, this exploitation of vulnerable citizens warrants examination as trafficking in persons and forced labor. ^[8]

It extends the pattern from the exploitation of Zimbabwe's resources and public procurement to the exploitation of its people, consigning Zimbabwean lives to the Kremlin's war machine, eroding national sovereignty, and advancing Russian aggression against United States national-security interests.

THE LEGISLATIVE MOMENT: MODERNIZE ZDERA

ZDERA links stronger United States–Zimbabwe trade and investment ties to progress on governance, credible elections, economic reform, property rights, and recovery of stolen assets. Repeal would remove the principal statutory framework connecting political reform to constructive economic reengagement. ^[9]

As of July 28, 2026, H.R. 5300 had been ordered reported, as amended, by a 27–24 vote of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, while Congress.gov and GovInfo continued to publish only the introduced text. Section 303 of that published text would repeal ZDERA and replace it with a compensation-related condition governing United States support for new or expanded IMF or World Bank funding for Zimbabwe. ^[10]

Farmer compensation and property rights represent legitimate obligations. A compensation-only replacement cannot prevent Chinese mineral consolidation, expose opaque ownership, discipline politically connected procurement, or secure meaningful access for American firms. It could normalize Zimbabwe's economy without changing who controls its strategic assets.

Elsewhere, H.R. 5300 addresses United States commercial competition in Africa, China-related strategic risks, Belarusian authoritarianism, and Russia's war against Ukraine. Zimbabwe is where these concerns converge: Chinese firms dominate its lithium sector; citizens have been fraudulently recruited into Russia's war; and a Belarus-linked political-commercial network tied to senior state relationships has used offshore structures to obscure beneficial ownership and embed Belarusian state-adjacent interests in public procurement and strategic-resource governance. ^{[6][7][10][11]}

International Policy Group recommends that Chairman Smith and the Africa Subcommittee advance a successor framework that preserves compensation and property-rights objectives while adding constitutional, anti-corruption, strategic-mineral, beneficial-ownership, and competitive-market-access benchmarks.

RECOMMENDED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

- A resolution on Zimbabwean constitutional sovereignty — affirming popular sovereignty and the 2013 constitutional settlement; defending civic freedoms, referendum compliance, and peaceful constitutional activity; recognizing the right of Zimbabweans to receive the full national benefit of their mineral resources; and expressing concern over fraudulent recruitment into Russia's war and opaque foreign state-linked arrangements.
- Review and modernization of ZDERA — establishing a modern replacement framework integrating compensation and commercial engagement with constitutional, anti-corruption, illicit-finance, strategic-mineral, beneficial-ownership, and competitive-market-access benchmarks.
- Africa Subcommittee oversight — examining Zimbabwe's constitutional rupture, restrictions on civic space, the treatment of peaceful constitutional actors, the political economy surrounding strategic minerals, and Russian, Belarusian, and Chinese state-linked influence.
- Coordinated executive engagement — requesting State Department monitoring of constitutional repression and civic-space restrictions and Treasury and interagency examination of credible evidence concerning corruption, illicit finance, sanctions evasion, trafficking networks, and foreign state-linked commercial arrangements.
- Democracy-support and responsible private-sector engagement — consulting Zimbabwean-led constitutional and civic-resilience actors and engaging responsible United States critical-minerals supply-chain stakeholders regarding transparent licensing, traceability, domestic value creation, community benefit, and diversified market access.



Respectfully,

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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa
Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

ATTN: John McDonough, Legislative Director

CC: Mary McDermott Noonan, Chief of Staff

RE: Zimbabwean Christian Witness on Constitutional Sovereignty and Amendment No. 3

FARA DISCLOSURE

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Dear Chairman Smith:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose the February 27, 2026 pastoral statement issued by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations concerning Constitution Amendment No. 3.

The statement preceded enactment of the amendment, but its relevance has increased since President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed it into law on July 7. The church leaders warned that the measure would weaken popular consent, constitutional safeguards, and institutional accountability, and committed themselves to continuing peaceful, nonpartisan engagement in defence of the 2013 Constitution.

That Christian witness has continued after enactment. On July 27, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, a constituent body of ZHOCD, renewed its call for a national referendum and maintained that the amendment's enactment had not resolved the constitutional and moral dispute surrounding it.

The statement is particularly relevant to your longstanding leadership on human rights, religious freedom, and the protection of vulnerable communities. Its authors speak "to conscience, not partisanship," describe public authority as stewardship rather than domination, affirm Parliament as a sacred trust, and defend the people's right to consent to fundamental constitutional change. Their appeal is peaceful, lawful, and nonviolent, seeking constitutional fidelity, elections in 2028, and a dignified leadership transition.

The statement is reproduced without alteration. Its issuing bodies did not commission this distribution, do not thereby endorse International Policy Group, and should not be understood as endorsing any separate United States policy recommendation or lobbying initiative.

Respectfully,

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Enclosure: *Pastoral Statement of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations on the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — February 27, 2026*



PASTORAL STATEMENT

Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD)

On the Proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Date: 27 February 2026

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow citizens, and leaders of our nation,

As shepherds of God's people, we issue this pastoral statement in a season of testing as our government is considering the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026. We speak to conscience, not partisanship, and to the common good entrusted to all who love this land. Guided by Scripture and prophetic witness in difficult times (Jeremiah 29:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 20:25–28), we write to build peace, protect justice, and preserve the people's voice.

We acknowledge genuine gains recorded under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa: efforts toward economic stabilization and growth, significant infrastructural and agricultural projects, and re-engagement to improve Zimbabwe's international standing. These are foundations for a worthy legacy when anchored in constitutionalism.

Yet even with these positive strides, our nation continues to face deep and painful challenges: we have not fully benefited from our God-given mineral wealth; corruption remains entrenched in many institutions; public social services—health, education, and essential infrastructure—continue to collapse or underperform; and poverty and inequality are increasing, leaving many households in despair. These realities call us to sober reflection, repentance, and renewed commitment to justice, stewardship, and accountability as envisioned in our national values and in God's Word (Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24).

Drawing from the timeless wisdom of **Micah 6:8**, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God,*" we, as the Church, address the proposed Constitutional Amendment (Bill, 3), 2026, with a profound sense of moral responsibility. This verse reminds us of our sacred duty to uphold justice, fairness, and integrity in all aspects of governance. As we consider the implications of these amendments, we are called to ensure that our actions reflect these divine principles, safeguarding the rights, well-being and shared future of all Zimbabweans.

As the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), we affirm the Church's historic and constructive role in shaping a home-grown and people driven constitutional order: prior to the 2013 process, churches spearheaded advocacy for a people-driven charter through the 2006 *Zimbabwe We Want* national vision document, which called for a home-grown constitution, political tolerance, and a shared national vision. Building on this groundwork, we mobilised congregations nationwide to participate in COPAC outreach and stakeholder forums so that community voices informed the draft. These efforts are reflected in the 2013 Constitution's affirmation of diverse religious values, robust freedom of conscience, and a Preamble that acknowledges the supremacy of Almighty God. We therefore recommit to safeguarding constitutionalism through prayer, reflection, discernment, civic education, non-partisan advocacy, and vigilant defence of the 2013 Constitution's spirit and letter, particularly our national values, electoral system and the safeguards against entrenchment of

power. The proposed constitutional amendments raise serious moral and constitutional concerns as they fundamentally alter the 2013 aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and raise serious constitutional and moral concerns, particularly without going back to the people in a referendum.

We recall with a sense of profound hope our correspondence to His Excellency on 18 July 2024, in which we unreservedly commended his public commitment to not seek a third term of office or term extension. At that time, we celebrated this decision as a 'sterling example of servant leadership' that honoured both the letter and spirit of Section 91(2) of our Constitution. To now proceed with amendments that would effectively bypass these very term limits—limits the President himself previously pledged to uphold—would not only contradict those honorable assurances but would deeply wound the nation's trust and the moral standing of the Second Republic.

After prayerful reflection on the proposed constitutional amendments—we discern grave risks and are deeply concerned: the extension of presidential and parliamentary terms without a fresh mandate from the people of Zimbabwe; attempts to bypass entrenched constitutional safeguards that require a referendum for constitutional changes; removal of direct presidential elections; re-structuring of the Senate in manner that will entrench dominance of the incumbent; weakening of electoral independence by reallocating core functions to presidential appointees; increased executive control over the judiciary and prosecution, the abolition or dilution of key independent commissions as well as politicking the customary, cultural and traditional functions of the traditional leadership.

Taken together, the proposed Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment) Bill 3, 2026, has far reaching amendments to the 2013 people driven and home-grown constitution such that they should not be enacted without going for a referendum. The proposed amendments alter values underpinning our 2013 Constitution, and if passed will set a dangerous precedence to our constitutional democracy. They would narrow the people's voice in Governance of the country and concentrate power in ways incompatible with our 2013 Constitution's spirit. As they limit the participation of citizens in governance, they heighten the threat of conflict in the country.

We pray for discernment, moral and ethical leadership, good leadership is reflected in a willingness to serve without attachment to position, building successors and leading smooth transition for a shared future of the country. Holy Scripture charges rulers to defend the oppressed and to enact just laws (Isaiah 1:17; 10:1), teaches that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34), and that authority is a stewardship expressed in service, not domination (Matthew 20:25–28). In that light, constitutional changes that extend terms of Office, reduce citizen participation and weaken checks and balances contradict the moral order God intends for public leadership.

Moreover, these constitutional proposals stand at odds with the President's own words. The President recently stated that he would respect the Constitution, entrench Constitutionalism and not overstay the two (2) 5 year-term limit that ends in 2028. He stated that by doing this at the end of his two (2) 5-year terms, he will give people of Zimbabwe the chance to choose new leadership. To proceed with amendments and also bypass a referendum and remove direct presidential elections would wound credibility and imperil a statesman's legacy that could otherwise be secured by a dignified constitutional transition following the 2028 elections.

Our Pastoral Call:

1) To all Christians, all people of faith, and all Zimbabweans: At this crisis moment, pray without ceasing for wisdom, courage, and peace (1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 1:5). Then engage your Members of Parliament respectfully and persistently—through letters, visits, and lawful civic platforms—to urge them to act with justice, mercy, and humility as they consider these deeply concerning Constitutional amendments. Let your actions and voices be truthful, non-violent, and grounded in love (Ephesians 4:15) as you deeply express our concerns over the negative implications of these Constitutional amendments for our common life. Draw strength from biblical witnesses who resisted unjust decrees: the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15–21), Moses before Pharaoh (Exodus 5–12), Esther before the king (Esther 4–7), Daniel and his companions (Daniel 3; 6), Nathan confronting David (2 Samuel 12), and the apostles who said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). In this spirit, we urge all people of faith to prayerfully reflect on these amendments which are broadly inconsistent with the foundational values underpinned in the people-driven 2013 Constitution, the inherent dignity of citizens and the demand of justice.

2) To Members of Parliament: Your oath of office binds you to the Constitution and to the people of this nation. Parliament is a sacred trust, intended to serve the collective good rather than as a mechanism for the extension of power. We appeal to your conscience to stand on firm moral ground and decline to endorse these

amendments. We urge you to choose principle over expedience. By doing so, you will safeguard the integrity of institutions that must serve every Zimbabwean, both in the present and for generations to come

3) **To His Excellency, the President:** Do not be swayed by those persuading you with these deeply concerning constitutional amendments fundamentally changing our people driven 2013 Constitution. Lead as a constitutionalist. Consolidate your legacy by providing exemplary leadership, conducting elections in 2028 and allow the country to witness the first truly smooth leadership transition. By this, you honor your oath and the hopes of the nation. This path preserves the positive gains of your tenure—stabilization efforts, infrastructure, and international re-engagement—and aligns with God's call to rulers to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We make this fervent call to resist any temptation to amend the Constitution for selfish ends, instead align with the national development agenda (NDS2) and Vision 2030 by entrenching constitutionalism and constitutional democracy in the country.

Our Ongoing Commitment (ZHOCD): As ZHOCD, we will continue to engage His Excellency and all stakeholders in a spirit of dialogue and national healing. We commit to strategic, non-partisan engagement across churches, civil society, traditional leaders, business, youth, and all citizens to ensure Zimbabwe does not regress but advances toward the entrenchment of constitutional democracy for sustainable development and national transformation as aspired in NDS2 and Vision 2030. We have since launched a National Dialogue and Engagement Document towards the Zimbabwe We Want, a document we believe can guide the nation towards a comprehensive National Dialogue Process to resolve the challenges we face as a nation. We will support the attainment of development priorities in NDS2 and Vision 2030, recognizing that sustainable development rests on the rule of law, accountable institutions, and citizen participation, not entirely on a single leader.

May the God of peace grant us courage to do what is right, wisdom to preserve justice, and love to bind us together as one people. 'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... pray to the Lord for it' (Jeremiah 29:7).

Amos 5vs 24: But let justice run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Issued by: Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) Bishops

END///



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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith

Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa
 Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives
 2373 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

ATTN: John McDonough, Legislative Director**CC: Mary McDermott Noonan, Chief of Staff****RE: A Zimbabwe Worth Building: Equal Citizenship, Human Dignity, and Constitutional Renewal****FARA DISCLOSURE**

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Dear Chairman Smith:

Further to the July 31 memorandum submitted to your office, I respectfully enclose A Zimbabwe Worth Building: A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity.

The declaration was prepared and transmitted to International Policy Group by Zimbabwean constitutional stakeholders drawn from diverse civic, professional, faith, economic, community, and national constituencies. IPG has engaged these stakeholders confidentially in support of constitutional government, human dignity, responsible mineral governance, and constructive international partnership.

Certain identifying and constituency-specific information has been redacted to protect contributors from political retaliation and intimidation. The declaration's substantive policy and national-vision content has not otherwise been altered.

The document is significant because it presents an affirmative Zimbabwean vision rather than merely opposing Constitution Amendment No. 3. Its central proposition closely concerns the human-rights principles that have defined your public service: Zimbabwe must become a non-racial constitutional republic in which citizenship rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history.

Zimbabwe's recent history demonstrates the danger of allowing political power struggles to displace lawful constitutional processes. The 2017 military intervention and ensuing parliamentary impeachment proceedings, precipitated by President Robert Mugabe's attempt to engineer a dynastic succession in favor of his wife, Grace Mugabe, exposed the persistence of a political order in which ruling-party and military power could supersede constitutional institutions. The 2013 Constitution did not resolve the institutional weaknesses that now permit another effort to alter the constitutional order without direct popular consent.

The declaration is therefore neither a partisan appeal nor a request for foreign control. It is a Zimbabwean proposition for national renewal and principled partnership, especially with the United States. It demonstrates that expanded American commercial participation can be aligned with solidarity for Zimbabweans seeking lawful government, equal citizenship, economic sovereignty, and responsible development of their national resources.

Respectfully,
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Enclosure: A Zimbabwe Worth Building — Congressional Redacted Copy

CONGRESSIONAL REDACTED COPY

Certain identifying information has been redacted to protect Zimbabwean stakeholders. The substantive declaration has not otherwise been altered.
Original declaration signed on July 6, 2026, as confirmed in International Policy Group's records.

A Zimbabwe Worth Building

*A Declaration of the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders on
National Renewal, Enterprise, and Cultural Dignity*

Preamble

We, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders, speak as custodians of a covenant renewed through the liberation struggle and affirmed through constitutional order: that sovereignty in Zimbabwe, as with all nations, belongs to its people — not to any ruling family, political faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its political sovereignty; the task now is to make that sovereignty productive — to restore lawful institutions, renew national unity, protect every citizen, and unlock the enterprise of a people long denied it.

This declaration sets out, for Zimbabweans and for friends of Zimbabwe abroad, the kind of nation we intend to build.

Who We Are

The Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders are a Zimbabwean platform of constitutional patriotism

[Description of participating Zimbabwean stakeholder constituencies redacted to protect contributors.]

We are the serious forces of society *[Description of a participating constituency redacted to protect contributors]* who feed and teach and heal its people, those who build its enterprises, and those who carry Zimbabwe's name with discipline across the world.

[Identifying description of the originating Zimbabwean stakeholder leadership and constituency redacted to protect contributors.]

Alongside this Zimbabwean platform, we welcome friends of Zimbabwe abroad — statesmen, legislators, diplomats, investors, churches, companies, and citizens of other nations who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, lawful enterprise, human dignity, and sovereign development. They are invited to stand with the people of Zimbabwe as partners in renewal, equal in dignity, aligned in principle, and committed to mutual benefit.

The Constitutional Moment

Through the 2013 Constitution, the people of Zimbabwe themselves placed clear limits on power: presidential terms, direct democratic consent in the choice of national leadership, and the principle that fundamental constitutional changes must return to the people.

The immediate constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe is Constitution Amendment No. 3, known as CAB3. Its significance reaches beyond technical legal amendment. By extending terms of office, weakening direct popular consent in the choice of national leadership, and redirecting presidential authority through parliamentary control, CAB3 threatens to upend the constitutional settlement ratified by the people in 2013.

The deeper danger is strategic. A constitutional order that permits power to prolong itself without renewed popular consent creates the conditions for permanent capture. It allows opaque patronage networks, politicized security-commercial arrangements, black-market mineral channels, shadow finance, and externally backed interests to organize themselves around political permanence. A constitutional breach therefore becomes an economic and security breach: the doorway through which Zimbabwe's resources, institutions, and foreign partnerships can be redirected for private enrichment and external leverage rather than national development.

As CAB3 moves from parliamentary passage toward presidential assent and further constitutional contestation, the issue has entered a new national phase. Churches, constitutional movements, labour organizations, civic actors, war-veteran voices, and political formations are now converging around a common principle: those entrusted with power by the people cannot extend or redesign that power without the people's direct consent. This convergence confirms that CAB3 is not merely a legal dispute. It is a national question of consent, sovereignty, and the future character of the Zimbabwean state.

We hold that the people are the source of all legitimate power. A durable settlement will be built through constitutional renewal, lawful dialogue, and broad national inclusion – the principle of a government of national unity that brings together the serious forces of Zimbabwean society across party, region, tribe, race, faith, and political history.

Zimbabweans have shown before that they can govern together when the national interest demands it. That inheritance of inclusive accommodation is available again, and we intend to claim it for a lawful, productive, inclusive, sovereign Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe and the Free Constitutional Tradition

Zimbabwe's renewal belongs naturally within the tradition of free constitutional peoples: government by consent, equal citizenship, lawful property, open enterprise, religious freedom, and the dignity of work.

We seek partnership with nations and institutions that believe political authority must be limited by law, that markets must reward production, that citizens must be protected from arbitrary power, and t

That national resources must generate broad national wealth through lawful enterprise rather than be captured by closed networks of privilege.

On that basis, we seek renewed partnership with free constitutional nations, including the United States, grounded in dignity, transparency, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to production over predation.

The incumbent ruling faction's attempt to use CAB3 to extend tenure in office and entrench political control has made the choice before Zimbabwe unmistakable. The country can remain bound to permanent rule and extractive dependency, or it can reclaim the constitutional promise of a self-governing nation capable of building a future worthy of its people. We choose that promise. We invite those who share these convictions to stand with Zimbabweans in defence of their constitutional inheritance, and to join us as partners in building a sovereign, productive Zimbabwe.

The Aspiration of the Majority: Freedom, Work, and Industrialization

The deepest aspiration of ordinary Zimbabweans is freedom joined to work — the freedom to build, worship, trade, farm, learn, own, innovate, employ, and prosper under a lawful constitutional order. Industrialization gives that freedom material form: energy, mines, farms, factories, roads, rail, data systems, skills, wages, exports, and the dignity of building something that endures.

Zimbabweans seek an economy where minerals become processing plants, farms become agro-industry, energy becomes manufacturing, education becomes engineering, and commerce becomes national capacity.

This is a country of farmers, engineers, traders, nurses, miners, teachers, builders, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Across the diaspora, in every country that rewards lawful enterprise, Zimbabweans have proven what discipline, education, faith, and talent can achieve. They seek the same conditions at home: stable institutions, fair rules, property protection, honest markets, and the right to build.

A Zimbabwe at peace with its constitution can industrialize. A Zimbabwe united in common purpose can restore confidence, unlock human talent, and build an economy worthy of its people.

Zimbabwe's Strategic Minerals and Productive Sovereignty

Zimbabwe's lithium, platinum-group metals, chrome, gold, nickel, copper, and diamonds must become the foundation of national production rather than another cycle of raw extraction. Lithium in particular sits at the center of the world's energy transition, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and battery systems — and its future in Zimbabwe must be governed by transparency, local value addition, and mutual benefit.

The scale is real, and so is the problem. Zimbabwe is Africa's largest lithium producer, yet in 2025 it shipped more than a million tonnes of lithium-bearing spodumene concentrate abroad, largely to China, where China-centred downstream supply chains convert such concentrate into higher-value lithium materials for batteries, while limited downstream industrial value is captured in Zimbabwe. A dominant Chinese commercial presence has shaped much of the sector around extraction, concentrate ex

ports, and offshore value addition rather than Zimbabwean industrialization. The issue is not foreign investment itself; it is a structure in which Zimbabwe remains the source of feedstock while others capture the industrial margin. That is the difference between being a quarry and building an industry.

Zimbabwe can be more than a source of feedstock. With its mineral base, skilled workforce, English-speaking business environment, and position in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe can refine and process at home – and become a trusted, Western-aligned platform for lithium materials serving the United States and allied nations as they build energy-storage, electric-vehicle, and advanced-manufacturing supply chains.

That is productive sovereignty: value added in Zimbabwe, and a reliable partner for the industrial base of the free world.

Zimbabwe chooses production. Zimbabweans know from experience the difference between capital that merely extracts and capital that builds systems. We welcome partnership with the United States, free constitutional nations, technology firms, mining companies, manufacturers, responsible investors, and development-finance institutions whose commercial tradition is rooted in enforceable contracts, transparent finance, productive supply chains, skilled work, and engineering discipline.

Such partners understand that local suppliers, trained workers, processing capacity, infrastructure, and stable communities are not obstacles to profit; they are the foundation of efficient production. That is the compact Zimbabwe seeks: responsible access to strategic minerals for partners, and real industrial development, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and national wealth for Zimbabweans.

Three Pillars: Citizenship, Commerce, Culture

Citizenship. Zimbabwe belongs equally to all who are of it. We affirm equal standing before the law, fidelity to the constitutional order, and a national belonging that rises above party, tribe, race, region, religion, generation, and political history. A self-confident and capable Zimbabwe extends the protection of the law to every person within its jurisdiction, securing person, property, contract, and dignity without arbitrary discrimination or factional privilege.

We reject racism, tribalism, political persecution, and any doctrine that turns inherited history into a mark of permanent guilt or exclusion.

Commerce. We affirm free enterprise, responsible capitalism, property rights, lawful contracts, and productive development as the engine of recovery. We seek capital that builds, technology that anchors industrial capability, markets that reward productivity, and institutions that protect lawful enterprise and engineering discipline.

Our resources must become systems: mines connected to power, power to processing, processing to manufacturing, and manufacturing to exports and national strength. The incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks have reduced key strategic sectors to a shadow concession economy.

We seek partners who come in daylight, respect sovereignty, honour contracts, develop local capacity, and help turn national resources into national production.

Culture. A nation is more than its economy. We honour Zimbabwe's faith traditions, families, languages, churches, and the memory of those who fell in the liberation struggle – and the deeper inheritance carried in the name Zimbabwe itself: houses of stone, the memory of Great Zimbabwe, a civilization that built with skill, patience, and purpose.

We hold that faith, family, moral responsibility, and lawful enterprise are sources of strength. We honour the liberation struggle by completing its highest promise: a sovereign, non-racial republic where citizenship is equal, enterprise is lawful, families are protected, faith is respected, and patriotic Zimbabweans of every history can find their place in the nation's future.

The Zimbabwe we seek is not built by permanent suspicion, racial grievance, or inherited exclusion. It is built by reconciliation under law, equal citizenship, productive work, and a shared commitment to the republic.

Zimbabwe invites partners animated by that same builder's ethic – first principles, disciplined risk-taking, engineering seriousness, and the conviction that civilization advances when capable people are free to build.

Sovereign Resource Governance

Zimbabwe's minerals, logistics corridors, and energy systems must serve national development, broad national wealth, and productive enterprise. Instead, the incumbent ruling faction and its commercial networks are subordinating them to externally backed extraction fused with domestic capture.

Mineral value now moves through opaque intermediaries, shadow finance, and privileged access rather than constitutional institutions and open competition. This has entrenched at home a closed, rent-seeking model of power shaped by foreign resource-patronage systems. Value is then channelled outward through opaque commercial relationships with war-linked patrons in Eastern Europe, deepening Zimbabwe's dependency and exposing the country to diplomatic, financial, reputational, and strategic risks far beyond its borders.

Zimbabwe's resources are being turned into instruments of enrichment, repression, and external leverage. The same capture that strengthens foreign patrons abroad hardens unaccountable power at home. CAB3 would preserve the incumbent ruling faction's political permanence, and with it the resource-patronage system through which those foreign patrons profit.

Zimbabwe rejects this path. Its future belongs to production, enterprise, and sovereign partnership – to a constitutional order that lets a nation of proven builders and entrepreneurs work at home alongside partners who bring capital, technology, industry, and markets.

Zimbabwe's answer is productive sovereignty. We seek partners who build mines, processing plants, power systems, rail, roads, farms, factories, and training institutions; who respect our sovereignty; and who engage Zimbabweans as equals. Zimbabwe's mineral wealth must become the foundation of Zimbabwean production and renewed partnership with the United States and other responsible allies committed to freedom, free markets, faith, and sovereign development.

A Call to International Partners in Zimbabwe's Renewal

To all who believe in freedom, free markets, faith, constitutional government, and the dignity of work, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders offer a serious basis for international partnership in support of Zimbabwe's national renewal, productive sovereignty, and enterprise.

Zimbabweans have learned, through hard experience, what it costs a nation when power serves itself rather than its people. That experience has clarified who we are and what kind of republic Zimbabwe must now become.

We do not ask anyone to choose our leaders for us; that is ours to do. But we are clear about the leadership Zimbabwe now requires: leadership committed to constitutional consent, lawful enterprise, equal citizenship, faith, family, and productive industry. These are not foreign values. They are the instincts of a people who want to build, own, work, worship, and prosper under law.

A sovereign, constitutional, and productive Zimbabwe offers serious international partners a strategic entry point into Southern and East-Central Africa. For partners, that means reliable access to strategic minerals, secure investment opportunities, resilient supply chains, regional corridors, and regional stability. For Zimbabweans, it means industry, jobs, skills, infrastructure, and broad national wealth.

We invite those who share these convictions to engage the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders in serious consultation, in a spirit of constitutional respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. To those partners, we extend our hand.

Declaration

We who speak here are the Zimbabwe Constitutional Stakeholders – a platform of constitutional patriotism, equal citizenship, productive sovereignty, and lawful reconstruction, composed of the serious forces of Zimbabwean society.

We affirm the principle of a government of national unity as the path to constitutional renewal, institutional stability, industrial development, responsible resource governance, and national reconciliation.

We are prepared to pursue every lawful constitutional, civic, diplomatic, and commercial avenue available to ensure that Zimbabwe remains a sovereign republic of its people, rather than a storehouse for any family, faction, or foreign patron.

The liberation struggle gave Zimbabwe its sovereignty. Our task now is to make that sovereignty productive: to restore lawful institutions, unite our nation, reopen honest engagement with the world, protect the dignity and property of every citizen, and build a state where every Zimbabwean and every legitimate partner may participate under equal rules.

That is a Zimbabwe worth building. We invite all Zimbabweans and all who share these convictions to build it with us.

[Name, signature, title, and organizational affiliation of the authorized Zimbabwean signatory redacted to protect the originating stakeholders.]

FARA DISCLOSURE

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group. This material is distributed by Garcia Mavinga Sozinho on behalf of International Policy Group. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE AND UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**WHO WE ARE**

International Policy Group is a Kenyan public benefit organization and public-policy institution working across governance, peacebuilding and strategic advisory., peacebuilding and strategic advisory. It develops Africa-focused initiatives that strengthen public institutions, support responsible economic development and build international partnerships. IPG is governed under its constitution by a Kenyan board and led by Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo, Secretary and Chief Executive.

OUR POLICY OUTLOOK

International Policy Group regards constitutional government and economic development as mutually reinforcing. Accountable institutions protect political and property rights, while competitive markets and private enterprise convert stability into broad prosperity. Responsible stewardship of natural resources enables African states to turn national assets into enduring public value.

IPG's outlook is informed in part by Kenya's experience under President Mwai Kibaki. Macroeconomic discipline, strategic public investment and renewed domestic enterprise helped restore growth and strengthen national development. That experience demonstrates how capable public institutions and a competitive private sector can operate together as foundations of African prosperity.

STRENGTHENING UNITED STATES–AFRICA RELATIONS

International Policy Group believes that relations between the United States and Africa remain substantially underdeveloped relative to the democratic, economic and strategic interests shared by both regions. United States engagement has often been episodic and crisis-driven, leaving substantial room for stronger commercial cooperation, institutional partnership and sustained development engagement.

IPG advances a more durable relationship built on shared values, strategic understanding and practical cooperation. Such a relationship will help African countries diversify their international partnerships, strengthen their institutions and develop productive capacity. It will also give American institutions and businesses credible African partners while expanding transparent alternatives to opaque or politically conditioned arrangements.

WHY ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's trajectory brings constitutional sovereignty and strategic-resource governance into the same urgent field. It provides an early warning for Africa: constitutional manipulation, institutional capture and opaque foreign control of strategic resources can converge to erode national sovereignty and establish a regional precedent. IPG's engagement reflects a Pan-African responsibility to safeguard constitutional sovereignty and African control of strategic assets, with Zimbabwean agency at its centre.

Through the **Zimbabwe Constitutional Governance, Institutional Continuity and Democratic Resilience Initiative** (the "Initiative"), IPG consults Zimbabwean constitutional, institutional, civic, professional and community stakeholders while independently developing responsible engagement with the United States government, democracy-support institutions and private sector. The Initiative supports peaceful constitutional participation and advances a constitutional, productive and sovereign Zimbabwe in which political and property rights are secure, domestic enterprise flourishes, and strategic mineral wealth produces domestic value, skilled employment, public revenue and community benefit.

Present conditions subject political rights, contracts, licences and economic opportunity to patronage and executive discretion. They weaken Zimbabwean enterprise, reduce the national return from strategic resources and narrow the country's choice of responsible partners. Constructive United States engagement supports diversification through transparent capital, advanced technology and wider markets.

Zimbabwean stakeholders contribute information, institutional perspectives and nonbinding recommendations. IPG independently evaluates their contributions, establishes the Initiative's policy direction and work plan, and retains sole authority over its United States engagement, including direction and supervision of its United States representative.

UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT

Garcia Mavinga Sozinho serves on the International Policy Group Advisory Council and, under a separate consulting agreement, as IPG's independent United States policy and government-relations consultant. He is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of International Policy Group, FARA Registration No. 7751. His United States engagement is undertaken on behalf of and under the direction of International Policy Group.



Dr. Kenneth Otieno Orengo

Secretary and Chief Executive

International Policy Group

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