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STATEMENT BY GHANA ON UPR OF SENEGAL

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Mr President,

My delegation welcomes the distinguished delegation of Senegal to the UPR and congratulate them for the presentation of their report. We seize this opportunity to highly commend the government for vigorously pursuing its commitment towards the full realization of human rights and in promoting the well-being of the Senegalese people.

We note with satisfaction the government's concrete action towards guaranteeing universal health access to children and women by offering free health care for children from 0 to 5 years. We also appreciate the decrease in maternal mortality rate from 401 to 392 death per 100,000 live births from 2005 to 2011, which is attributable to an increased in availability of quality antenatal care. Mindful that access to healthcare especially for children is an indispensable right, we encourage the government to continue to pursue its aim of increasing vaccination coverage from 80% to 90% against the two of the major causes of child mortality; pneumonia and rotavirus.

Mr President, the passage of the 2010 Gender Parity Act and its subsequent establishment of an independent administrative authority; the National Observatory on Gender Parity is a commendable achievement. Indeed, the benefits of the Act are clearly manifesting in the number of women representatives in the new National Assembly, which stands at 65 out of 150 members. While acknowledging the effort in ensuring a gender parity society, it must be borne in mind that gender equity is a cross-cutting developmental issue and must therefore be addressed holistically.

As the report noted, several initiatives are ongoing, aimed at increasing citizen's rights and access to education. We are pleased with the adoption of the 10 years compulsory education at the basic level and the increase in budgetary support for the education sector in general. As you may know Mr President, Free Compulsory Basic Education (FCUBE) has historically been part of Ghana's education system which has contributed tremendously to building our human capital over the years. We therefore have no doubt that as the government of Senegal stay committed to this policy and strengthen its practical implementation, it will not only record an increase in enrollment but importantly, enhance its human capacity for accelerated development.

Thank you, Mr President.

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