

20th Session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Gambia

Statement by Rwanda delivered by Moses Rugema

Thank you Mr President.

1. Honourable Minister, Rwanda warmly welcomes you and your delegation and thanks you for the presentation of your national report.
2. Rwanda commends Gambia for its continued efforts to enhance the social, cultural and economic rights and the right to development of its people. We particularly commend Gambia for the progress it has registered in poverty reduction, ensuring food security, ensuring equitable access in education and the subsequent increases in enrolment and the efforts aimed at improving maternal health and reducing infant mortality.

3. We further commend Gambia's continued efforts to promote and protect human rights through reforms to the judiciary, improving access to justice, reducing cases of FGM and other harmful traditional practices and measures aimed at combating sexual and gender based violence.

Rwanda would like to make the following recommendations:

- Intensify its efforts to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality and eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Continue its efforts to eliminate of harmful tradition practices and FGM.
- Consider issuing a standing invitation to the UN human rights Special Procedures.

We wish Gambia every success in the implementation of the recommendations of this UPR. Thank you.