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Universal Periodic Review – 20<sup>th</sup> Cycle - Gambia

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Brazil welcomes the delegation of Gambia to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Brazil notes with appreciation the efforts by the Gambian authorities in order to implement the "Education for All" and the "Fast Track" initiatives, which have allowed for considerable progress in primary school enrolment in the country, free of charge and respecting gender equality.

We also welcome the entry into force of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences bills which aim at addressing violence against women and girls, including of sexual nature, by providing protection for the victims and criminalizing all forms of sexual assault, exploitation and harassment.

Nevertheless, the country still faces significant challenges in the protection and promotion of human rights in specific areas, such as LGBT rights. In this connection, the recent adoption of legislation sentencing to life imprisonment individuals considered guilty of "aggravated homosexuality" is a matter of concern.

Brazil also notes with concern the considerable number of executions which took place in the country after a 27 year moratorium on the death penalty. Therefore, we recommend that the authorities of Gambia consider establishing a new moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty in the future.

In addition, Brazil recommends that the government of Gambia enhance its initiatives designed to halt female genital mutilation (FGM) and related harmful practices.