



NEW VERSION 61

**Statement By The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia On the Universal Periodic Review of the
of the Gambia**

Mr. President

Ethiopia welcomes the delegation of the Gambia led by H.E. Mr. Basiru V.P Mahoney Minister of Justice to the Gambia to the 20th session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the national report and the oral update.

We commend the Gambia for identifying priority areas in the promotion and protection of human rights and further note with appreciation Gambia's effort to enhance equitable access to education, to combat gender based violence, to reduce maternal and infant mortality, to enhance the protection of the rights of children, and to fight Female Genital Mutilation.

We particularly note with appreciation the Development Strategy and Investment Programme for 2012 to 2015, called the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) of the Gambia designed to reduce poverty and address the root causes of unemployment. It is also encouraging to note the Government has created an enabling environment to ensure greater protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism by the Department of Social Welfare and Child Protection Alliance.

My delegation would like to recommend to Gambia to;

1. Intensify efforts to strengthen the fight against Female Genital Mutilation.
2. Enhance the existing effort health service delivery system particularly to vulnerable groups.

Finally, my delegation wishes all the best to the delegation of the Gambia in its engagement with the Human Rights Council.

Thank you