\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS DELIVERED BY THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA DURING THE 44TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF THE STATE REPORT OF AZERBAIJAN- TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Thank you Mr President,**

The Gambia extends a very warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan and thank them for their presentation on the human rights situation in their country.

We wish to commend Azerbaijan’s efforts in increasing women entrepreneuship and elimination of gender discrimination in employment.

**Mr President,**

While recognizing the efforts and commitments being made by the government of Azerbaijan, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations to the delegation of Azerbajan

1. Azerbaijan supports and strengthens the independence of its National Human Rights Institution to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles as well as the office of the Ombudsman

2. Azerbaijan put in place and strengthened mechanisms combating and preventing discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children born to foreign or stateless fathers, and other vulnerable children from minority groups to avoid marginalization.

3. Azerbaijan strengthens its efforts to combat, prevent, eradicate, and punish practices of human trafficking and forced labor against all persons.

**Mr President,**

In conclusion, The Gambia wishes the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan a successful review and fruitful deliberations.

**Thank you.**