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**RECOMMENDATIONS DELIVERED BY THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA DURING THE 46TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF THE STATE REPORT OF NORWAY- MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2024 -9 :00AM -12 :30PM**

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

The Gambia warmly welcomes the delegation from Norway and expresses appreciation for their constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council today.

We commend Norway for its commitment to human rights, particularly in the areas of children's rights and family welfare, as demonstrated by its robust parental leave programme, and the establishment of a Chuldren’s Expert commission to strengthen the legal protection of both children and parents. We also applaud efforts at combating hate speech, racism and discrimination, and the grants extended to all religious and belief communities.

However, my delegation notes with concern reports of online xenophobic and anti-immigrant discourse, as well as the premature and long term separation of children from their families which disproportionately affects migrant families. In this regard, we recommend the following ;

1. To strengthen the levels of transparency, supervision and diversity within the child welfare system, to ensure that the right to private and family life is duly safeguarded in the best interest of the child, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. To identify and address the root causes for the removal of children from parental care, ensure that removals are only used as a measure of last resort, and provide parents with the necessary support to exercise their parental role in the upbringing and education of their children.
3. To strengthen the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination against migrants and people of African descent, reinforce educational programs aimed at challenging stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination, and take targeted measures to improve their access to employment.

My delegation wishes the distinguished delegation from Norway a successful review.

**Thank you.**