**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 48th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of The Gambia**

**21 January 2025**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President].

Australia thanks the delegation of The Gambia for their presentation

Australia welcomes the recent vote by the National Assembly of The Gambia to uphold the ban on female genital mutilation. We congratulate the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia for being accredited with A-status.

Australia is concerned by attempts to suppress media freedom in The Gambia, including through the arrest of journalists, and the slow progress in implementing the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

Australia recommends **The Gambia:**

1. **Protect media freedom and uphold the right to freedom of expression, including by amending or repealing sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code.**
2. **Formally and permanently abolish the death penalty.**

1. **Repeal sections 144, 145 and 147 of the Criminal Code criminalising consensual same-sex relations.**

Thank you.