

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR – Gambia**  ***Belgian intervention***  21 January 2025 |

President,

Belgium welcomes the Gambian delegation and wishes it every success in its fourth Universal Periodic Review. We welcome the efforts made by the Gambia to improve the human rights situation in the country, in particular regarding transitional justice. As in many parts of the world, challenges remain.

My country would therefore recommend to :

**R1.** Increase efforts to enforce existing legislation banning gender discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence, including FGM, and include marital rape as an offence in the Sexual Offences Act.

**R2.** Finalize and adopt the Children's Code, ensuring its compliance with international standards, especially regarding the age of marriage and the rights of children born out of wedlock.

**R3.** Continue and accelerate the implementation of all of the recommendations made by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, and support and facilitate the work of the Special Accountability Mechanism institutions.

Thank you.