##

**HRC UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

THE GAMBIA

##  (Geneva, January 21st 2025)

## STATEMENT OF BRAZIL

 Thank you, Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the Gambian delegation.

 We recognize the challenges faced during the period under review, in particular those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

 Brazil commends The Gambia for the work of its Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission and the progressive implementation of the Commission`s recommendations, as well as the efforts towards transitional Justice, including the recent initiative to establish a Special Tribunal for The Gambia, in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States, to investigate and prosecute human rights violations committed between July 1994 and January 2017.

 In a constructive spirit, Brazil recommends that the Gambia:

 1) seek to guarantee the rights of women, in particular by expanding access to education, health care and employment, to protect them against violence, to revoke any discriminatory provisions in civil, family and inheritance law, and to adhere to the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention; and

 2) decriminalize same-sex relations and adopt anti-discrimination policies in that regard.

 We commend the National Assembly`s decision to uphold the ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and encourage the country to improve access to support and rehabilitation and health services for women and girls who were victims of FGM.

 We wish The Gambia an excellent review.

 Thank you.