

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

**Intervention by H.E. Ambassador O. Neocleous**

**Tuesday, 21 January 2025**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**48th Session**

**The Gambia**

*(1 minute – 195 words)*

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the delegation from The Gambia to the fourth UPR-cycle and thanks them for their presentation.

We take note of the measures taken by the Government in the direction of the protection and promotion of human rights and in this respect commends the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. However, significant challenges have prevented their effective implementation.

To this end, Cyprus recommends that The Gambia

1. ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
2. strengthens the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission to promote the rights of women including their free and democratic participation on an equal basis in political, public as well as family life
3. continues providing inclusive and targeted adult literacy programmes for women, prioritizing those in rural areas,
4. establishes effective procedures to investigate cases of sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools
5. ensures that victims of gender-based violence have access to effective remedies and legal protection

Cyprus wishes The Gambia a successful review.

Thank you