**Universal Periodic Review, 48th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of the Gambia, 21 January 2025**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of The Gambia and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend The Gambia’s efforts towards eliminating torture and welcome the enactment of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act of 2023.

Nevertheless, we remain concerned by the continued use of legislation to unduly restrict freedoms of speech and expression. We further note with concern the widespread challenges with violence against women and girls, including SGBV, FGM and other harmful practices.

Denmark *recommends* The Gambia to:

1. Repeal legislation that restricts freedoms of speech and expression, including sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code.
2. Amend The Sexual Offences Act of 2013 to explicitly criminalise marital rape.
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

Denmark wishes the Gambia a successful review.

I thank you.