**CLOSING REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PROF. MUHAMMADOU M.O. KAH**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

**AT THE**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 48TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP SESSION**

**21 JANUARY, 2025**

**Mr. Vice President,**

**Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

Allow me to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to all member states and stakeholders for their active engagement during The Gambia’s Universal Periodic Review. Your insightful questions, comments, and recommendations reflect the spirit of collaboration that this process embodies, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share our progress and challenges.

The Gambia has embarked on a transformative journey over the past few years, guided by our unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting human rights for all. This review has reaffirmed our determination to address key challenges and strengthen the mechanisms necessary for justice, equality, and dignity

We are particularly encouraged by the recognition of our efforts in areas such as transitional justice, legislative and institutional reforms, women and children’s rights and access to education. Our progress in implementing the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission, advancing gender equality, and enhancing access to health and education demonstrates our dedication to fostering a just and inclusive society.

However, we acknowledge that significant challenges remain. Issues such as youth unemployment, climate resilience, and the digital divide require innovative approaches and sustained international cooperation. As a nation, we are committed to addressing these challenges and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The feedback and recommendations received today are invaluable. They provide us with a clear roadmap for further advancing human rights and governance reforms. The Gambia is committed to carefully reviewing all the recommendations made during this session and will continue to engage constructively with all stakeholders to ensure their effective implementation.

As we prepare to embark on our second term as a member of the Human Rights Council, we reaffirm our dedication to contributing to global human rights efforts and to sharing our experiences with others.

Mr. President,

On behalf of The Gambia, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the Working Group, the Troika, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and all delegations for their constructive contributions to this review.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the international community as we strive to build a future grounded in justice, peace, and sustainable development for all Gambians.

Thank you.