**STATEMENT BY GHANA AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

**TUESDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2025 AT 9AM**

**REVIEW OF THE GAMBIA**

 **Speaking time: 1 minute**

**Thank you, Mr. Vice President.**

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Gambia to the 4th cycle of UPR and thanks the delegation for their comprehensive presentation on the human rights situation in the country.

2. We commend the Gambia for the efforts made towards the implementation of the recommendations from the third UPR cycle and the steps taken to address emerging human rights issues including digital rights and cybersecurity as well as transitional justice and climate change.

3. In the spirit of constructive engagement, Ghana recommends that the Gambia:

1. Enacts legislation guaranteeing 12 years of free basic education, and undertake to improve all learning facilities through adequate funding of the Ministry of Education;
2. Continues implementing initiatives to advance gender equality, particularly equal employment opportunities in public and private institutions, and the elimination of sexual harassment; and
3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

4. Ghana wishes the delegation of the Gambia a successful review.

**Thank you, Mr. Vice President.**