**UPR48 – The Gambia**

**21st January 2025**

Statement by Mr. Bernard Charles Mifsud, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Malta to the UN, Geneva

*Check against delivery.*

Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of The Gambia to this UPR session.

Malta welcomes The Gambia’s completion of its ratification process that now encompasses all nine core human rights conventions. This significant milestone is commendable, and we encourage The Gambia to continue on this path by acceding to the remaining Optional Protocols under several conventions.

Similarly, we welcome The Gambia’s actions and efforts to reconcile with its past through the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). We commend the steps taken so far and reaffirm that accountability is a vital step if past violations are not to be repeated. We encourage The Gambia to now implement the recommendations of the TRRC to serve as an irreversible step forward. We also note positively the incorporation of the provisions of the ICCCPR into the 2024 draft Constitution, and we urge The Gambia to work closely with all relevant human rights treaty bodies during the ongoing debate and eventual adoption of the document.

Malta would like to present the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty in all circumstances in line with The Gambia’s ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Strengthen efforts to implement the 2015 amendment to section 32 (a) and (b) of the Women’s Act and effectively combat female genital mutilation in all its instances.
3. Take additional measures to better implement the ban on child marriages.
4. Take steps to de-criminalise consensual same-sex relations and end arbitrary arrests of LGBTIQ+ persons.

We wish The Gambia a successful review.