**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other international organizations**

**48th Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Gambia**

**Statement by Montenegro**

**Geneva, 21 January 2025**

Mr. President,

Montenegro welcomes the distinguished delegation of Gambia [and its constructive engagement in the Working Group’s session].

We noted improvements in the protection and promotion of human rights at the legislative and policy levels since the last cycle. We particularly welcome the comprehensive review of its constitutional framework and the preparation for the abolition of the death penalty provisions, in line with the country’s ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

We also recognize the extensive efforts under the Recovery-focused National Development Plan 2023–2027, while encouraging the authorities to consider measures to strengthen the gender component of development strategies and enhance women’s economic empowerment.

Montenegro recommends to Gambia:

1. To continue with efforts to abolish the death penalty by amending relevant constitutional and legislative provisions;
2. To adopt a strategy to address hate speech, cyberbullying and other defamatory speech directed against women, including online violence, harassment, stalking and sexist hate speech.

We wish Gambia a very successful review.

Thank you.