**STATEMENT BY MS LAURINDA BANZE, COUNSELLOR, HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE, TO THE 48TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP ON**

**THE GAMBIA**

**GENEVA, 21 JANUARY 2025**

**Mr. President**

Mozambique welcomes the distinguished delegation of The Gambia to the 4th cycle of the UPR and thanks them for presenting their national report highlighting the progress made in the field of human rights since the last review.

In a spirit of constructive dialogue, Mozambique proposes the following recommendations to The Gambia:

1. Increase the human, technical, and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare, and strengthen the gender-specific expertise among its staff to enhance its ability to effectively coordinate efforts in promoting gender equality;
2. Promote awareness programs to increase public knowledge of human rights;

Mozambique wishes The Gambian delegation a successful UPR.

**Thank you, Mr. President**