**UPR 48 – The Gambia**

Statement by Portugal

*1’ speaking time*

Chair,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of The Gambia and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Portugal commends The Gambia for the establishment of its National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and for initiating in 2024 a constitutional review aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

Portugal **recommends** that The Gambia:

**1.** Promotes gender equality, concretely through the increase of resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and by stepping up efforts to effectively address violence against women and girls;

**2.** Enshrines the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in its national legal framework.

**3.** Considers reviewing laws to uphold the freedom of expression.

Portugal wishes The Gambia a successful review.

Thank you.

*124 words*