**Statement by Romania**

**The 48th session of the UPR Working Group: Review of the Gambia**

**21 January, 2025**

Mr. President,

We welcome the Gambia’s efforts and progress achieved since the last UPR in criminalizing torture and advancing impunity for gross violations of human rights. We encourage the Gambia to continue these positive developments.

Romania constructively recommends that the Gambia:

1. Continue its national efforts towards ratifying the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*;
2. Support women’s empowerment by increasing their participation in formal economy in a meaningful and substantive manner and by putting an end to caste-based discrimination;
3. Eliminate barriers faced by girls in accessing education by carrying out appropriate and effective measures to fully combat child marriage and by eliminating discriminatory practices against pregnant students.

We wish the Gambia a successful outcome of its review!