*Check against delivery*

**UPR48 – Gambia (1min)**

**Statement by Slovakia**

21 January 2025

Mr. Vice-President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Gambia and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the Gambia for its active engagement in human rights agenda. We appreciate also the ongoing Gambia’s constitutional reform process, we suggest holding the open discussion and consultation with all interested groups – members of the parliament, lawyers, law specialists and other stakeholders. The actual draft raises a lot of questions about the government’s intent about replacing the still valid 1997 “Jammeh-era” constitution.

The last EU Election Observation Mission 2021 assessed the progress made since previous elections. It sent 20 main recommendations, but the implementation has been rather limited.

Slovakia **recommends** to **Gambia:**

1. ensure that the new constitution reflects desire of citizens for a democratic government and the rule of law;
2. **reform the electoral law**, including the personal data protection;
3. before the next elections **address the main recommendations** of the EU Election Observation Mission in order to enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the electoral process; and
4. to **renew social contract** between the people of the Gambia and their elected leaders.

We wish Gambia a successful review.