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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**48th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of the gambia**

**21 JANUARY 2025**

**(90 SecONDS)**

**speaker no: 38**

***Check against delivery***

**Mr. President,**

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of The Gambia to this UPR Session.

My delegation commends the efforts made by The Gambia since the previous cycle of the UPR mechanism, for ratifying, inter alia, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

South Africa wishes to respectfully recommend that the Gambia:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
3. Ratify and the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and to declare its recognition of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications.
4. Put in place legal framework governing the media sector to ensure and guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

South Africa takes this opportunity to wish the sister country of The Gambia a successful review.

**I thank you.**