**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**28th Session – 7 November 2017**

**STATE UNDER REVIEW: GABON**

**(Intervention by Turkey)**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Gabon and thank them for their presentation.

Turkey takes positive note of concerted efforts by Gabonese authorities for the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of UPR recommendations of previous cycles.

We commend efforts exerted by Gabon in ratifying new international instruments including the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRPD.

Turkey welcomes the efforts of Gabonese authorities aiming at upholding the right to health for all, which has led to the development and adoption of a national health policy until 2015. Regarding the rights of women, Turkey welcomes the adoption of the National Gender Equality Strategy.

Turkey comprehends that Gabonese Government’s availability for dialogue with civil society partners in awareness and capacity building activities are bearing concrete results especially in the field of children rights. In this context, we appreciate the adoption of national strategy in the field of birth registration and several other steps taken in cooperation with civil society and UNICEF to raise awareness about the importance of birth certificates particularly for children of school age.

Turkey would like to **recommend** the following:

1. Continue to promote the equal representation of women in political and public life.
2. Guarantee that refugee and asylum-seeking children have access to appropriate medical services.
3. Continue its awareness-raising programmes with a view to putting an end to the use of corporal punishment in schools.

Finally, we wish Gabon all the success during its 3rd UPR.

I thank you, Mr. President.