**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE UPR REPORT OF GABON AT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**23 JANUARY-3 FEBRUARY 2023**

**24 JANUARY 2023- 09:00AM-12:30PM**

**Thank you Mr Vice President,**

**The Gambia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Gabon and thank them for their continued and constructive engagement with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.**

**We wish to commend Gabon for the initiative to promote respect for women’s rights and gender equality, through the adoption of the Strategy called ‘’Gabon Egalite’’ to promote women’s rights and reduce gender inequality.**

**Mr Vice President,**

**The Gambia would like to make the following recommendations to the delegation of Gabon;**

**1. That Gabon put in place a formal anti-trafficking plan to meet the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking in the country.**

**2. That Gabon strengthens its marriage laws by raising the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys to eighteen to protect girls from child marriage.**

**Mr Vice President,**

**In conclusion, The Gambia wishes the distinguished delegation of Gabon a successful review and fruitful deliberations.**

**Thank you.**