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

**23 JANUARY-3 FEBRUARY 2023**

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

**Thank you Mr Vice President,**

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

The Gambia recognises that Switzerland continues to assist developing countries in addressing the root causes of poverty, migration, terrorism and climate change and we applaud the government for this and for promoting reduction in the causes of forced and irregular migration.

We equally note the measures taken to allow measures for the integration of marginalized and disadvantaged children, including migrant children and children with disabilities, in the education system.

**Mr Vice President,**

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

1. That Switzerland strengthens protections against discrimination by private actors for persons with disabilities in the Disability Discrimination Act.

2. That Switzerland strengthens its efforts to address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities accessing employment and ensure full integration into the labour market.

**Mr Vice President,**

In conclusion, my delegation wishes the distinguished delegation of Switzerland a successful review and fruitful deliberations.

**Thank you.**