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

**23 JANUARY-3 FEBRUARY 2023**

**30 JANUARY 2023-14:30PM-18:00PM**

**Thank you Mr President,**

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

We wish to commend Zambia’s enactment of Children’s Code Act No. 12 of 2022 which prohibits children’s economic exploitation that is likely to interfere with their education, physical or mental health, spiritual, moral, emotional or social development.

We equally note Zambia’s efforts to encourage girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy to go back to school after giving birth.

**Mr President,**

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

1. That Zambia put in place mechanisms to combat the human trafficking of women and children for forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

2. That Zambia ensure that social support be given to children/adolescents living or working on the streets in order to address their immediate needs including food insecurity, healthcare access, and school enrolment.

3. That Zambia strengthens and supports efforts to prioritize women’s health by building clinics and hospitals in rural areas.

**Mr President,**

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

**Thank you.**