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

**23 JANUARY-3 FEBRUARY 2023**

**1ST FEBRUARY 2023-09:00AM-12;30PM**

**Thank you Mr President,**

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

We wish to commend Sri Lanka on its efforts to strengthen institutional structures that enhance activities dedicated to curbing Sexual and Gender Based Violence and equally note Sri Lanka’s strengthening of child labour laws in relation to the minimum age of employment.

**Mr President,**

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

1. That Sri Lanka put in place mechanisms to strengthen the laws prohibiting sexual and gender-based violence against women

2. That Sri Lanka continues to ensure the prosecution of all forms of gender-based violence.

3. That Sri Lanka strengthen the national and local resources allocated to the required facilities for children with disabilities and enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

**Mr President,**

In conclusion, The Gambia wish the distinguished delegation of Sri Lanka a successful review and fruitful deliberations.

**Thank you.**