**National Statement, delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during the 4th UPR Review of Gabon**

**(42nd Session of UPR)**

**24 January 2023**

Mr. Vice President,

 We express our deepest sympathies on the sad demise of Gabon’s Foreign Minister.

We warmly welcome the delegation of Gabon and thank it for presentation of its 4th UPR report.

We recognize the administrative, policy and legislative steps taken by Gabon to strengthen human rights mechanisms in its country. We particularly acknowledge the enactment of Organic Acts No. 7 and 8 of 2019, which aim to further strengthen the judicial system in the country and the Act No. 6 of 2021 on the elimination of violence against women.

We have the following recommendations:

* Further strengthen the National COVID-19 Pandemic Response Strategy, especially to protect the social and economic rights of the vulnerable groups;
* Expand projects aimed at developing infrastructure to build and expand prisons and reduce prison overcrowding; and
* Further reinforce the framework to combat human trafficking.

We wish Gabon a successful UPR.

I thank you!