

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**Universal Periodic Review – Gambia**

**November 2019**

Thank you Mr. President.

Italy welcomes the Delegation of Gambia.

Italy commends Gambia of the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the return within the membership of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

In particular Italy welcomes the announcement of a new moratorium of the capital punishment as a measure on the way to its full abolition and praises Gambia for its cooperation and collaboration spirit shown with the several human rights mandate holders that were invited by the Governement.

Mr. President,

Italy seizes this opportunity to offer Gambia the following recommendations:

* *Guarantee the full operability and impartiality of Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission of its activities as a precondition for the long-term stabilization of Gambia.*
* *Strengthen the efforts to fully implement the existing legislation aimed at preventing all harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation and early, child and forced marriages.*
* *Decriminalize homosexuality and take actions to fight against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.*
* *Make further efforts to promote the respect of women’s rights and to promote a greater participation of women in political life.*
* *Prevent the excessive use of the force by public authorities, as well as cases of torture and extrajudicial executions.*
* *Maintain the moratorium on the executions with a view to legally abolishing the death penalty.*

Italy wishes Gambia a successful review.

Thank you.