

**EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY MAURITIUS - UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF GAMBIA**

**5 November 2019 -9am**

Mr. President,

Mauritius welcomes the delegation of Gambia for the presentation of its UPR Report.

We congratulate Gambia for its commitment in the field of human rights, and for having ratified several international human rights treaties since its last review.

We also commend the enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Act in 2017, in line with Paris Principles, and we applaud the major judicial reform efforts which are being undertaken to ensure independence of judiciary.

In a constructive spirit, we recommend Gambia to:

1. improve access to education for women and girls, and support the participation of women in the economic, social and cultural spheres by promoting policies for their empowerment,
2. strengthen efforts to combat youth unemployment through the provision of necessary resources for maintaining the Youth Empowerment Project.

My delegation praises the Gambian authorities for its National HIV and AIDS Policy (2014-2020) and calls on the international community to support Gambia in its efforts to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

We wish the delegation of Gambia a successful review. Thank you, Mr. President.