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| MISSÃO PERMANENTE DA REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE JUNTO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS  GENEBRA |  | PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  TO THE UNITED NATIONS  GENEVA |

**Statement by H.E. Amadeu da Conceição, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations at the 34th Session of the UPR Working Group on the Gambia**

**Geneva, 5th November 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, we thank H.E. Hon. Aboubacarr Tambadou, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Gambia and his distinguished delegation for the submission of the comprehensive report to their country´s 3rd Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Cognizant of the challenging times, the Gambia went through, we take note of significant strides the country has made in the implementation of the bulk of recommendations it had received from the 2nd Cycle of UPR, including the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles.

Indeed, the Gambia should be commended for addressing the backlog of reports to the treaty bodies and its resolve to submit other overdue reports by 2021, in a display of the countries’ political determination to honour its international obligations, but, more importantly, to improve the enjoyment of human rights by the Gambians.

On constitutional and legislative framework, we welcome the reform of a plethora of laws, including the ongoing review of the Constitution, as to conform them to international human rights and related instruments.

In dealing with all forms of discrimination, the Gambia has adopted the National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women 2010-2020, which focuses on gender as to guarantee the participation of women and men on an equal footing in all spheres of human development activities, for which the Gambia should be praised.

Finally, while aware of the multifaceted challenges the country is faced with, we recommend the Gambia to speed up the implementation of Transitional Justice Process, as to advance national reconciliation.

We wish the Gambia every success in the present UPR exercise.

I thank you!