

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SIERRA LEONE

IRELAND

- What is the Government of Sierra Leone doing to address harmful traditional practices being performed on vulnerable young boys and girls who are initiated into male and female secret societies such as Poro, Bondo and Sande?
- High rates of gender-based violence (GBV) are imposing heavy economic, health and justice costs on victims, local communities and on the country as a whole. Will the Government of Sierra Leone introduce free medical examinations for victims and streamlined legal procedures in GBV cases to reduce barriers to justice for victims?
- Ireland welcomed the report and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission published in 2004. As the implementation of these recommendations is mandated under Section 17 of the Truth and Reconciliation Act 2000, what is the time-frame for implementation? Is the Human Rights Commission, which is doing excellent work on the ground, to be formally assigned the responsibility of ensuring that the recommendations are implemented within the time-frame envisaged?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Sierra Leone to elaborate on the measures taken to reinforce the protection of women from domestic violence and to combat the culture of impunity for this violence?
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Sierra Leone about what measures it has taken to improve the healthcare in connection with delivery as well to address other causes of maternal mortality? Would the Government of Sierra Leone please indicate eventual actions taken to combat female genital mutilation?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society were consulted in the preparation of your national report, and whether it will include similar measures in the follow-up to this review.
- Please could you tell us what steps you intend to take to improve the independence and effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission for Sierra Leone, so that it is fully in line with the Paris Principles?
- Please could you tell us will Sierra Leone formally establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) follow-up committee, including representatives of the Lome Peace Agreement, to monitor and report on the implementation of the TRC recommendations?

- We should be grateful to know what steps you have taken, and what steps you intend to take to ensure Female Genital Mutilation is prohibited on girls and young women under the age of 18.
- Please could you tell what plans Sierra Leone has to enact a moratorium on the death penalty?
- We would be grateful to know what steps the government of Sierra Leone plan to take in order to follow-up this review, and in particular which government body will examine, and oversee the implementation of, the recommendations made by this review?