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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sierra Leone

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 13 January 2016. The review of Sierra Leone was held at the 15th meeting on 27 January 2016. The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, H. E. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara. At its 18th meeting held on 29 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Sierra Leone.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sierra Leone: Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and Togo.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Sierra Leone:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Sierra Leone through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation of the State under review

5. The Minister stated that Sierra Leone recently undertook the review of its report under the African Charter on Human and Peoples Right in November 2015 in Banjul, The Gambia. Sierra Leone continues to give the highest consideration to international human rights standards and has signed all nine major international treaties and ratified five, and domesticated the International Humanitarian Law into the Geneva Conventions Act, 2012. Sierra Leone has also complied with reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and continued engagement with other global treaty bodies and mechanisms. The Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) has also reported to the Human Rights Council on the Convention on Civil and Political Rights in 2014 and it is committed to completing all outstanding reporting obligations.

6. The country endured an eleven year civil war, during which the most egregious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law occurred. The war ended in 2002 and with the collaboration of the international community, two transitional justice bodies were created: the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Both institutions demonstrated Sierra Leone's resolve to ending

impunity at all levels. GOSL continues to implement the recommendations of the TRC including reparations.

7. Since the end of the war, Sierra Leone has conducted some five democratic local and national government elections and democracy continues to take firm root in governance. The recruitment of children in armed conflicts has been eradicated: the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces regulation allows recruits only at 18 in conformity with the CRC.

8. President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, since coming to office in 2007, initiated two inclusive and rights-based development programmes: the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity. Both programmes fully embrace the political, economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Implementation was moving apace until the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) disastrously struck the country in early 2014.

9. The unexpected EVD calamity wreaked total havoc on the lives of Sierra Leone's people and economy. There was indeed a clear threat to the national cohesion and security of our nation.

10. As a consequence, President Koroma, in early July 2014, as empowered by the Constitution, declared a national State of Emergency, entailing the curtailment of certain rights and civil liberties, particularly the right to free movement, assembly, social and cultural rights and practices. However, the State of Emergency was at all times limited to what was strictly necessary for the achievement of an early end to EVD. The emergency regulations were progressively relaxed proportionately to the waning of the EVD and presently President Koroma has given directives for its complete repeal by parliament.

11. Nevertheless, Sierra Leone continues to enjoy high level of political stability, political participation, expanded opportunities for civil and political rights, empowerment of women and high levels of political and religious tolerance. Double GDP growth and increased investment in infrastructure and social sectors like health, education and roads put Sierra Leone on a path to economic development.

12. Sierra Leone is undertaking a review of its constitution and the Constitutional Review Committee enjoys GOSL's full support. The constitutional review process stalled during the EVD crisis, yet the Review Committee resumed work last year and is scheduled to submit its report in March 2016 with a referendum to be held subsequently. The review will provide significant opportunities for the advancement of human rights and to bring Sierra Leone's basic law in line with international human rights standard. The Review Committee is presently considering, inter alia, the abolition of the death penalty, citizenship, libel laws, press freedom, gender discrimination, equal opportunities, separation of the office of Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

13. During the period under review, Sierra Leone has undertaken a number of policy initiatives aimed at improving access to justice and human rights:

- Increased support and autonomy of the Human Rights Commission that enjoys a 'A' status accreditation according to the Paris Principles;
- Strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-Corruption Commission with GOSL responsible for 90 percent of the budgetary allocation;

- Establishment of the Justice Sector Coordination Office with a mandate to improve strategic coordination for enhanced justice delivery to citizens;
- Establishment of the Legal Aid Board which, within six months of coming into operations, has delivered legal aid services to over five hundred citizens with over 100 persons discharged from remand;
- Improving accountability and civilian oversight: Sierra Leone established the Independent Police Complaints Board that augments the Complaints Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (CDIID). Approximately, since its inception, the CDIID has investigated over 2000 cases resulting in suspensions, dismissals, warnings, corrective trainings and rank reduction;
- Improving police capacity in handling domestic and sexual and gender based violence: GOSL established Family Support Units in all Police Stations of the country;
- Establishment of a Children’s Commission to enhance the implementation of the Child Rights Act 2007, which further domesticates the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Improvement of detention facilities: Sierra Leone promulgated the Correctional Services Act, 2013 aimed at transforming the prison system from punitive to rehabilitation. Separation of the male and female population has been successfully achieved whilst the juvenile population has also been relocated;
- The GOSL legislated the Local Courts Act of 2011 to meet local justice needs for the wider population. The Local Court proceedings are being recorded and oversighted from the Chief Justice and legal representation;
- To improve judicial independence, Sierra Leone has recently approved a new improved salary scheme to enhance the conditions of service of Judicial and Law Officers. This is the first step in improving responsiveness, accountability, transparency and most importantly in dealing with the perennial problems of backlog.
- GOSL is also reviewing the Criminal Procedure Act of 1965 to inject a dose of efficiency, transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system, inter alia introducing alternative forms of sentencing to decongest detention facilities. The Criminal Procedure Bill, submitted to Parliament in late 2015, is featured in the current legislative calendar of Parliament for due consideration. It is GOSL’s strong desire to get it enacted as soon as possible.

14. Furthermore, Sierra Leone enacted the Right to Access Information, 2013 and subsequently established the Right to Access Information Commission. This is consistent with Sierra Leone’s commitment to uphold freedom of expression by allowing increased autonomy of the Independent Media Commission and create an enabling environment for the growth of the media. At present, there are over 40 newspapers in the country and at least a radio station in every district.

15. Sierra Leone continues to work hard in improving the status and rights of women and children in the society. In this regard, Sierra Leone enacted the Sexual Violence Act

2012, which together with the promulgation and implementation of the three Gender Acts (the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act, the Devolution of Estates Act and the Domestic Violence Act), has significantly helped in the protection of women's rights.

16. The Ministry of Justice has recorded over 350 cases referred to the courts and the Family Support Units in the last quarter of 2015. The GOSL is aware, in particular, of the challenges in the area of witness and evidence management and cultural impediments and will continue to work with key development partners to improve the quality of investigations and prosecutions. Further, GOSL is now poised to increase the number of Magistrates and Judges: two weeks ago two female judges were appointed to the Supreme Court. Female judges therefore make up 45 percent of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.

17. The Free Health Care initiative for children, under-fives, pregnant and lactating mothers is in the sixth year of implementation and has reduced the rate of child and maternal mortality rates as well as case fatality rates from other common diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia. This is complemented with improved health funding and recruitment of over 2000 health workers since 2013. Consequently, 97% of pregnant women now receive antenatal care.

18. Female Genital Mutilation is a cultural practice in Sierra Leone. Since the last review, significant steps were undertaken to address this concern: GOSL worked closely with traditional leaders in raising awareness on the ills of the practice and provided alternative sources of income in the form of micro finance. The GOSL has adopted a policy banning initiation of girls below the age of 18. This policy is premised on a human right pedestal of freedom of association that people are free to associate and partake in cultural activities in so far as they are competent to make that decision.

19. Moreover, Sierra Leone is currently pursuing a robust child protection regime with the establishment of a Children's Commission, which is pursuing the elimination of child abuse, corporal punishment and child trafficking among others. the GOSL is also implementing a National Child Welfare Policy to bring the protection of children in line with international standards. To ensure the implementation of similar standards in rural areas, Child Protection Departments have been established in all Local Councils. A Child Justice Strategy is currently being implemented in order to separate juveniles from adults in detention centers.

20. Investment in education is critical to empowering citizens in enjoying their rights: the GOSL has implemented free and compulsory primary education with increased funding to encourage girl child education in junior and senior secondary schools in line with the UDHR. Thus, gender parity in enrolment is rapidly increasing at all levels.

21. Under its education policy, the GOSL now takes responsibility in providing school fees and in kind assistance, such as uniforms and school materials for girls. The program has now led to a significant number of girls attending junior secondary school. Approximately 160 primary and 30 junior secondary schools were constructed since 2012. As reported by the School Census Report and the 2013 Country Status Report on Education, gender parity has been achieved at the pre-primary level, and almost achieved at the primary level. Gender parity is increasing rapidly at the junior and secondary school levels with enrolment at a remarkable rate.

22. GOSL's policy regarding visibly pregnant school girls remains unchanged: it has provided learning centers around the country for visibly pregnant girls to receive special classes and at the same time have access to qualified medical personnel. There are also provisions for these girls to continue with their education in normal schools upon giving birth. In addition, a National Teenage Pregnancy Secretariat is implementing a strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy.

23. Sierra Leone has taken major steps for the rights of people with HIV/Aids, Ebola survivors and people with disability. The 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act made it an offence to deny a person access to any employment or educational institution because of his or her HIV status, by inter alia, prohibiting discrimination of any form against people living with HIV/AIDS, including their families and communities.

24. Government has adopted similar steps in protecting EVD survivors and their family members from marginalization. Under the National Ebola Recovery Plan, the Government is providing free education for the orphans and young people, free health care for survivors, entrepreneurial training for widows and other welfare packages.

25. The GOSL has followed through by further domesticating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability by establishing the Commission and allocating budget that will ensure its proper implementation.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

26. During the interactive dialogue, 80 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. Panama acknowledged the social and economic consequences of the Ebola virus (EVD) and the need for ongoing international community's support. It applauded the resumption of the constitutional review, in compliance with pending UPR recommendations, to strengthen rule of law and promote social justice.

28. The Philippines appreciated that the constitutional review would be conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner and lauded Sierra Leone for the steps taken to curb female genital mutilation. It also commended Sierra Leone for coming triumphant against EVD.

29. Poland noted with appreciation the adoption of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence. It also appreciated activities on right to health, including the adoption of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.

30. Portugal welcomed the delegation of Sierra Leone and thanked for the presentation of the national report. It particularly welcomed the introduction of a de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

31. The Russian Federation noted the process of revision of the Constitution, measures taken for free healthcare for pregnant women, children and adolescents, and programmes of free treatment of malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and the policy to protect families.

32. Senegal acknowledged improvements in the institutional and legislative framework for human rights and encouraged Sierra Leone to pursue this path through implementing all

the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which would further solidify the national cohesion.

33. Singapore welcomed Sierra Leone's efforts to strengthen its healthcare system, the implementation of the Free Health Care initiative to improve healthcare for women, and other programmes to combat malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. It commended Sierra Leone's commitment to raise education standards and access to education.

34. Slovakia welcomed resuming of the constitutional review process and encouraged GOSL to take into account civil society's views. It was concerned about the high rates of violence against women. It encouraged Sierra Leone to take further steps to address prison overcrowding and the lack of independent monitoring mechanism.

35. Slovenia welcomed the ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, as per its past recommendation, and the national action plans on women, peace and security and on gender-based violence. It was concerned about deep-rooted patriarchal stereotypes, high rates of domestic/sexual violence, harmful practices and teenage pregnancies.

36. South Africa commended positive developments, including the adoption of the "Agenda for Prosperity" and progress in consolidating peace and enhancing security country-wide. It encouraged Sierra Leone to continue these efforts, while noting persisting constraints in the EVD recovery period.

37. Spain commended Sierra Leone for the major steps in terms of human rights, including the Sexual Offences Act 2012 and Legal Assistance Act 2012, and the important role played by Sierra Leone as member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2013-2015.

38. Swaziland was encouraged by progress in addressing most of the recommendations, including the amendment of the Constitution Act No. 6, and by the advancement of gender equality and signature/ratification of most of the UN human rights treaties, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

39. Switzerland commended the efforts to abolish the death penalty. It was concerned about the prevalence of female genital mutilation and the widespread use of extended period of remands.

40. Tunisia noted the work of the Constitutional Review Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It also commended the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence.

41. Uganda noted the campaign to educate and raise the awareness of HIV/AIDS among the population. It also welcomed the launch of the "Agenda for Prosperity" programme with the aim of building a middle-income country by 2035.

42. Ukraine recognized that the recommendation it made in the first cycle, namely to improve reporting to treaty bodies, had been implemented to the extent possible. It expressed hope that the resumed work of the Constitutional Review Committee would result in a prompt revision of the Constitution.

43. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Sierra Leone to complete the Constitutional Review process by the agreed timescale. It welcomed a draft

national strategy on countering the practice of female genital mutilation and encouraged Sierra Leone to implement it.

44. The United States of America commended increased protection for migrant labourers and the establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Board. It was concerned about restriction of freedom of expression, lack of resources to combat trafficking in persons, prolonged pre-trial detention, and poor prison conditions.

45. Uruguay was pleased with the efforts concerning maternal mortality, family planning and teenage pregnancies and requested more information in these regards. It welcomed the ratification of the Palermo Protocol and ILO Conventions nos. 138 and 182.

46. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) highlighted the adoption of the National Gender Strategic Plan, the strengthening of the education system, the gradual increase in the budget assigned to the Education Sector Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy of 2012.

47. Zambia noted that the domestication of international law still seemed a challenge. It was also concerned about female genital mutilation and asked what measures Sierra Leone was taking to prohibit the practice.

48. Albania commended the adoption of the “Agenda for Prosperity” and congratulated affirmative actions for the improvement of women’s participation in public life through the appointment of women in key leadership positions in the country.

49. Algeria congratulated the strengthening of democratic institutions through the review of the Constitution. It appreciated Sierra Leone’s cooperation with treaty bodies. It was also pleased with the improvement of economic, social and cultural rights through the adoption of plans and programmes.

50. Angola welcomed the review of the 1991 Constitution, and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Angola encouraged Sierra Leone to eliminate discriminatory provisions regarding transmission of nationality.

51. Argentina highlighted progress to eliminate poverty through its Prosperity Programme. Argentina was particularly interested in the strategies on the rights of women and children which included fight against traditional harmful practices.

52. Armenia, while appreciating efforts to combat Ebola, noted persistent challenges regarding the right to health, particularly for women in rural areas, low rate of girls’ enrolment at school and sexual abuses. Armenia appreciated that child labour concerns were mainstreamed into national policies.

53. Australia congratulated Sierra Leone on achieving stable governance and sustained peace. While welcoming steps towards abolishing the death penalty, Australia was concerned that it was still in the law. Australia welcomed ratification of the Maputo Protocol.

54. Azerbaijan acknowledged efforts to develop a normative and institutional human rights framework. Azerbaijan noted with appreciation the adoption in 2012 of the Agenda for Prosperity and commended Sierra Leone on measures taken regarding gender issues and gender based violence.

55. The delegation of Sierra Leone replied to a number of issues mentioned in the first part of the dialogue. Regarding of length trials, the Government is enacting the Criminal Procedure Act of 2015 and has also embarked on recruitment of more judges and more

magistrates. On overcrowding of prisons, the court committees are presently considering alternative sentencing. The Government has also been able to establish the legal aid board, which has been able to address over half a million cases since its inception. There is heightened commitment by the GOSL to increase budgetary allocation in the health sector. The Government has been able to enact the Sexual Offences Act, the Gender Act, with an increase in the rate of prosecutions against offences for gender-based violence. Through a girl child education policy far more girls are going to school, with over 300% increase in the last five years. The Constitutional Review Committee will submit its reports to the Office of the Attorney-General Minister of Justice in the near future.

56. Bangladesh acknowledged victory against EVD and noted progress made regarding international human rights obligations. Bangladesh acknowledged Sierra Leone's cooperation with treaty bodies and encouraged the international community to continue supporting Sierra Leone.

57. Belgium welcomed ratification of ILO Conventions No.138 and 182. Belgium was concerned at violations of freedom of expression regarding journalists and human rights defenders. It noted that protection of the rights of women and children should be strengthened.

58. Benin welcomed the reform of the justice system and measures taken to eliminate FGM, including related agreements with traditional chiefs. Benin appreciated Sierra Leone's efforts regarding maternal mortality.

59. While acknowledging legislative reforms undertaken by Sierra Leone, Botswana remained concerned at prevalence of FGM, domestic and sexual violence and low conviction rate on cases reported. Botswana was also concerned at the lack of independence of the Judiciary.

60. Burkina Faso noted that the EVD compromised development initiatives. It welcomed the constitutional review to strengthen the rule of law and exhorted Sierra Leone to intensify its efforts to eliminate FGM, child labour, early and forced marriage.

61. Burundi congratulated Sierra Leone for its efforts to implement the UPR recommendations despite challenges related to the EVD. It welcomed the establishment of a national human rights commission. It noted legislative and institutional measures undertaken.

62. Cabo Verde acknowledged challenges related to the EVD. It welcomed the constitutional review, the establishment of a national human rights commission, the reform of the judicial system, and the national plans on gender equality. It noted that harmful traditional practices should end.

63. Canada commended Sierra Leone for its sponsorship of HRC Resolution 27/31 on the protection of civil society space. Canada acknowledged steps taken to implement the "Let Girls be Girls Not Mothers" strategy. Canada stressed the importance of protecting girls' right to education and privacy rights.

64. Chad welcomed Sierra Leone's efforts to protect human rights despite the EVD epidemics. It appreciated that the preparation of the national report was participative. Chad encouraged Sierra Leone to submit its overdue reports to treaty bodies.

65. Chile acknowledged Sierra Leone's efforts to combat EVD. It appreciated the establishment of a national human rights institution, the national strategic plan on gender, the plan on health and social security and the programme on prosperity among others.
66. China appreciated Sierra Leone's strategy to reduce poverty. China acknowledged progress to promote the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, the right to health and development. China called on the international community to continue assisting Sierra Leone in its efforts.
67. Colombia appreciated that the Review Constitutional Committee was considering to incorporate recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It acknowledged efforts to combat EVD and related challenges, and welcomed the adoption of the Law on HIV AIDS of 2011, which includes provisions against discrimination.
68. The Congo acknowledged Sierra Leone's efforts to implement UPR recommendations despite the EVD crisis, and progress regarding its obligations under international instruments. It encouraged legislative reforms in the areas of persons with disabilities, children and age of marriage.
69. Costa Rica acknowledged strategic plans to improve prison conditions, the judicial system, fight against FGM and reduction of teenage pregnancy. It was concerned at allegations of arbitrary detention and excessive use of prison for minor offenses, and at the lack of independence of the Judiciary.
70. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the inclusive process to prepare the national report and attention paid to recommendations received during the first UPR. It encouraged Sierra Leone to continue its efforts to guarantee enjoyment of human rights in its territory.
71. Croatia welcomed the adoption of the Free Health Care initiative for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. Croatia encouraged Sierra Leone to strengthen its legislative framework to fight against torture and to ensure adequate legal protection for women against violence.
72. Cuba acknowledged challenges related to the EVD and its impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. Cuba noted that significant legislation was adopted. Cuba urged the international community to support Sierra Leone in its efforts to improve its health system.
73. Czech Republic appreciated response of Sierra Leone to its advanced questions.
74. Denmark noted the acceptance of recommendations to ratify OP-CAT at the first review and that the national report reflected that Sierra Leone was working toward ratification of this Protocol. It requested an elaboration of the status of these efforts.
75. Djibouti appreciated the positive steps taken in the protection of human rights in spite of the EVD epidemic. It welcomed institutional and legislative reforms, but expressed concern about high levels of violence against women.
76. Egypt commended efforts made in combating EVD and policies to monitor human trafficking. It also noted the adoption of the national health plan, including the coverage of children under the national health insurance.
77. Ethiopia appreciated the steps taken to implement accepted recommendations from the first review. It noted the constitutional amendments for gender equality, youth development and to address corruption; and the successful combat against EVD epidemic.

78. Germany acknowledged efforts to improve compliance with international human rights obligations and engagement with related mechanisms, as well as the strong engagement with the Human Rights Council. Further progress has been hampered because of the EVD crisis.
79. Ghana noted that the Ebola epidemic had passed a success which reflects the commitment of Sierra Leone in attaining the highest possible standards of health. It welcomed implementation of recommendations from the first review and noted that the criminal libel law was yet to be repealed.
80. Honduras paid tribute to Sierra Leone for honouring its UPR commitments in the EVD aftermath. Honduras welcomed progress in strengthening democracy through the 2012 elections, and noted the “A” status of the National Human Rights Commission.
81. Indonesia welcomed the progress made since the first cycle and noted the commitment to advance the right to education. It encouraged the involvement of civil society as a partner to the Government in protecting human rights.
82. Iraq welcomed efforts made by Sierra Leone to ensure compliance with international human rights treaties despite the challenge, among others, posed by EVD which constituted a very serious threat to the integrity of the nation.
83. Ireland called for urgent action to implement accepted recommendations yet to be implemented. It regretted that consensual same-sex relations remained criminalized, and that laws were being used to detain and prosecute journalists.
84. Israel noted the ongoing review of the Constitution, the adoption of new laws, the approval of national plans and the measures taken to combat HIV/AIDS.
85. Jamaica noted the impact of the EVD crisis and commended Sierra Leone for its courageous commitment to human rights in the midst of grappling with the disease. The rebuilding task will be a huge effort.
86. Japan expected Sierra Leone to progressively implement its Post Ebola Recovery Plan. It was concerned by the police harassment of human rights defenders and noted the existence of FGM and domestic violence.
87. Lao People’s Democratic Republic noted the acceptance of a large number of recommendations from the first review and the steps to implement them. It commended Sierra Leone for efforts to promote human rights.
88. Lebanon commended joint efforts for combating EVD by Sierra Leone and international cooperation, and positively assessed GOSL’s engagement in the Constitutional review, in such plans as the Agenda for Prosperity and in the reduction of poverty.
89. Lesotho noted the extent to which Ebola outbreak disrupted efforts to enhance human rights and the paucity of resources, and called on states to extend their support to Sierra Leone to overcome these challenges.
90. Libya noted Sierra Leone genuine desire of cooperating with human rights mechanisms, and welcomed efforts made to ensure follow-up to recommendations made at the UPR first cycle and the enactment of legislation in this regard.

91. The GOSL noted the call for increased gender parity and it was committed to affording women and girls' equal opportunity. Regarding FGM, the GOSL has had increased dialogue with traditional leaders and nationwide consultations on this practice. Alternative sources of income for practitioners have been offered. The delegation clarified that visibly pregnant schoolgirls have not been banned from attending schools, they do attend school and take examinations, but in private classes set for their special circumstances. The Government has established children's commission and child protection departments in each and every local council in the country. Child justice strategy has also been developed and it is taking steps to separate juveniles from adults in detention centers.

92. The Government has enacted the Access to Information Bill and the independent Media Commission Act. Records show that since 2007 no journalist has been convicted and jailed. Beyond that, Sierra Leone have also created an enabling environment for free public speech. The delegation reiterated that the Constitutional Review Committee, amongst other issues, will address citizenship issue.

93. Madagascar paid tribute to the GOSL determination in honouring its commitments through the implementation of numerous reforms related to human rights in the legislative, institutional and normative areas.

94. Malaysia noted the legal and constitutional reforms that had been undertaken and efforts to enhance women's empowerment. It recognized challenges to promote human rights in the aftermath of the EVD outbreak.

95. The Maldives welcomed the adoption of a number of laws. It encouraged Sierra Leone to address the high rates of child mortality, early and forced marriages as a matter of priority.

96. Mexico was pleased to note the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act and the creation of a commission on this issue, measures taken for the fight against gender violence and the Sierra Leone's vote in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the abolition of the death penalty.

97. Montenegro asked whether the delegation could elaborate on Government's plans to combat and criminalize the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, bearing in mind its negative impact on women's physical and mental health.

98. Morocco applauded the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly its recommendations on women representation and welcomed in this regard the provision to establish a quota of 30%. It welcomed the ratification of the CAT and the signing of the Optional Protocol, and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

99. Mozambique commended the success in halting the EVD, and joined those who urged the international community to redouble its multifaceted assistance, so as to help the country to fully get back on its feet in the aftermath of the EVD.

100. Namibia commended Sierra Leone on the implementation of the national Gender Strategic Plan, the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence.

101. The Netherlands welcomed Sierra Leone for the implementation of the Right to Access Information Bill (2013), the HIV/AIDS Commission Act. It noted that the laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations were still in place.

102. The Niger congratulated Sierra Leone for all its efforts to combat the Ebola disease and noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the legislative framework in the field of human rights through the adoption of several laws.

103. Nigeria appreciated Sierra Leone's commitment towards promoting and protecting human rights, and commended the enactment of the Persons with Disability Act of 2011, the Right to Access to Information Act of 2013 and the Sexual Offences Act of 2012.

104. Oman took note of the national report submitted by Sierra Leone, and made recommendations.

105. Pakistan appreciated Sierra Leone's efforts to implement recommendations received in its first UPR and the impediments due to the Ebola crisis. It noted measures taken to promote and protect human rights, particularly of women, children and persons with disabilities.

106. Brazil commended Sierra Leone's efforts in strengthening the independence of its Human Rights Commission, and commended the ratification of CAT and the signature of its Optional Protocol.

107. France welcomed the measures taken by Sierra Leone since its first UPR, and appreciated in particular the adoption of the law on legal aid and the law on sexual violence.

108. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) appreciated Sierra Leone's efforts to improve women's health through the initiative of Free Medical Care for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 5, as well as stepping up efforts to decentralize the educational process.

109. The Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated Sierra Leone for its efforts towards implementing the recommendations received during its first UPR, as well as towards achieving the reform of the justice system.

110. The delegation of Sierra Leone thanked all speakers for their words of comfort and courage, extended to their people during the difficult times of the Ebola. On behalf of the Government, and people of Sierra Leone, the delegation extended deepest appreciation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

111. **The following recommendations will be examined by Sierra Leone which will provide its responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:**

111.1. **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as eliminate definitively the death penalty in all cases (Spain);**

111.2. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland) (Belgium) (Montenegro) (France);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

- 111.3. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);**
- 111.4. **Ratify OP-CAT (Honduras);**
- 111.5. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland);**
- 111.6. **Ratify without further delay the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Denmark);**
- 111.7. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments or Punishments, following its signature in 2003 (Croatia);**
- 111.8. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czech Republic);**
- 111.9. **Take the necessary measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Chile);**
- 111.10. **Continue efforts to ratify the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);**
- 111.11. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Tunisia);**
- 111.12. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 111.13. **Ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture, as well as its Optional Protocol (Portugal);**
- 111.14. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and its optional protocol (Lebanon);**
- 111.15. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW and the OP-CAT (Djibouti);**
- 111.16. **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Djibouti);**
- 111.17. **Ratify the International Convention against Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and ensure their implementation in the country (Cabo Verde);**
- 111.18. **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Burkina Faso);**
- 111.19. **Finalize the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (Slovakia);

111.20. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Belgium) (Ghana);

111.21. Move towards speedy ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including an effective programme for their implementation (Chile);

111.22. Expedite the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Burundi);

111.23. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopt national legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation and implement standards on women's rights in order to ensure that they can enjoy autonomy. (Madagascar);

111.24. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Benin);

111.25. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Montenegro); (Niger);

111.26. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Oman);

111.27. Accelerate the process towards the ratification of ICRMW and OP-CESCR (Philippines);

111.28. Ratify International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);

111.29. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Niger);

111.30. Expedite the process of ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);

111.31. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);

111.32. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);

111.33. Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

111.34. Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Benin);

111.35. Ratify the ILO Conventions No. 169 and 189 (Benin);

111.36. Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);

111.37. Ratify international instruments as previously recommended and supported in the first UPR, as appropriate (Uruguay);

111.38. Step up the ratification procedure of all the international instruments submitted to Parliament (Congo);

- 111.39. Continue efforts in the context of the Constitutional Review Process (South Africa);
- 111.40. Accelerate the Constitutional Review Process (Lesotho);
- 111.41. Expedite the review of the Constitution and make appropriate amendments in order to align the national legislation and policies with regional and international human rights obligations undertaken by the country (Chile);
- 111.42. Speed up the review process of its Constitution, and include special considerations regarding equality between men and women (Israel);
- 111.43. Strengthen efforts to make effective the Constitutional Reform already underway (Niger);
- 111.44. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, emphasising the review and amendment of the constitutional provisions which could discriminate against women, in particular paragraph 4 of Article 27 of the Constitution (Colombia);
- 111.45. Ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, specially by promoting access to justice (Brazil);
- 111.46. Continue to enact specific legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Pakistan);
- 111.47. Ensure that all legal standards are in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and actively fight against the practice of female genital mutilation (France);
- 111.48. Enact legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and conduct awareness-raising programmes in this regard, particularly for parents, women and girls (Poland);
- 111.49. Domesticating the international human rights law (Zambia);
- 111.50. Allocate more resources and double efforts with the aim to conclude the on-going legal reforms to harmonize national laws with international human rights standards and obligations (Malaysia);
- 111.51. Strengthen key human rights institutions with a sharp focus on the protection of women and children (Lesotho);
- 111.52. Provide its National Human Rights Commission with adequate funding in order for it to be able to fulfil its role (Portugal);
- 111.53. Ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission (Egypt);
- 111.54. Continue to advance the work of the National Commission for Human Rights through, among others, developing a comprehensive human rights national action plan (Indonesia);
- 111.55. Incorporate lessons learned from the Ebola crisis in future policies and actions for human rights promotion and protection, including in the Constitutional Review Process (Jamaica);
- 111.56. To continue to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens (Nigeria);

- 111.57. Continue the implementation of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence (2012) all across the country (Azerbaijan);
- 111.58. Take effective measures to further implement the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 111.59. Continue with measures aimed at protecting and respecting civil and political rights (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 111.60. Implement national strategy against corruption in order to fight against its effects that impair the enjoyment of human rights (Morocco);
- 111.61. Submit the belated national reports to the treaty bodies (Egypt);
- 111.62. Take concrete measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice, also by accelerating the constitutional review in the area of gender equality (Slovenia);
- 111.63. Ensure gender equality by including it in the Constitution and enact relevant laws; namely on empowerment of women and gender equality, and combat stereotypes that encourage discrimination against women (Egypt);
- 111.64. Pass law guaranteeing gender equality and take the necessary measures to empower women and society (Oman);
- 111.65. Redouble efforts to implement laws and policies country-wide to promote gender equality (Honduras);
- 111.66. Take measures to enforce laws and policies to promote equality between men and women (Madagascar);
- 111.67. Take temporary special measures to address gender equality and consider reintroducing the gender equality bill to the Parliament (Maldives);
- 111.68. Undertake efforts to combat gender inequality by legislating laws that would ensure gender equality and to enable women to participate in governmental legislative positions in the country (Iraq);
- 111.69. Take all necessary measures to ensure that girls are protected against any discrimination and violence in schools, and that pregnant teenagers enjoy equal access to education (Slovenia);
- 111.70. Eliminate effectively discrimination against women, and develop a comprehensive policy for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women through awareness-raising campaigns in society and in the public administration (Spain);
- 111.71. Continue taking measures to protect women from traditional practices which hinder full realization of their rights; and continue implementing regulations to end all forms of discrimination against them (Pakistan);
- 111.72. Continue efforts to end discrimination and violence against women by taking all necessary measures to guarantee equal and effective access to justice for women and to ensure access to all levels of education (Djibouti);
- 111.73. Put an end to the measures that exclude young pregnant girls from the educational system (Belgium);

- 111.74. Reverse the policy barring pregnant girls from attending schools and sitting state examinations; and encourage girls to return to school after childbirth (Ireland);
- 111.75. End the practice of prohibiting pregnant girls in Sierra Leone from attending schools and taking exams, as required under Article 2 and 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Canada);
- 111.76. Permit teenaged mothers to return to formal education and to sit exams while pregnant and after giving birth, including use of gradual approaches, such as separate classes or sittings; aimed at breaking cycles of poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic abuse (Jamaica);
- 111.77. Step up its efforts to combat discrimination against women and prohibit corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Tunisia);
- 111.78. Continue the efforts to promote parity between men and women (Algeria);
- 111.79. Adopt the bill on gender equality with a view to ensuring gender parity, particularly in the participation to governance and to the nomination of positions within the public sector (Democratic Republic of Congo);
- 111.80. Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults and pass legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 111.81. Repeal sections 61 and 62 of the 'Offences Against the Persons Act 1861' which criminalize consensual same-sex relations (Netherlands);
- 111.82. Repeal legal provisions penalising sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex, in order to respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination among all persons (France);
- 111.83. Make the necessary legal amendments in order to eliminate standards that criminalize and stigmatize LGBTI persons (Argentina);
- 111.84. Encourage adoption of measures to guarantee the human rights of the LGBTI population (Colombia);
- 111.85. Strengthen norms and programmes to combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);
- 111.86. Continue working to destigmatize Ebola and address the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and health workers (Australia);
- 111.87. Implement measures to ensure the full enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities, especially regarding inclusive education (Israel);
- 111.88. Take measures to raise awareness in the population with a view to eliminating stigmatization and discrimination suffered by persons with disabilities (Madagascar);
- 111.89. Foster policies and strategies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities (Mexico);
- 111.90. Continue to implement laws and regulations for protection and promotion of rights of people with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 111.91. Abolish the death penalty (Djibouti);
- 111.92. Abolish the death penalty in law (Germany);

- 111.93. **Abolish officially the death penalty in the country (Portugal);**
- 111.94. **Take further steps aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mozambique);**
- 111.95. **Redouble efforts to address and abolish the death penalty in the context of the review process of the Constitution (Panama);**
- 111.96. **Take the opportunity brought by the review process of the Constitution to include in statute the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland);**
- 111.97. **Introduce into national legislation the abolition of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);**
- 111.98. **Proceed with the legal abolition of the death penalty and ratify the 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**
- 111.99. **Criminalize explicitly torture in the Criminal Code and bring to justice those accused of practicing it (Spain);**
- 111.100. **Review domestic legislation in order to ensure the effective criminalization of all acts of torture, pursuant to the obligations under the CAT (Honduras);**
- 111.101. **Take measures to prevent and prosecute cases of torture and ill-treatment, namely through the adoption, in its legislation of a definition of torture in compliance with the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**
- 111.102. **Define and criminalize the offence of torture in the national criminal statute (Mexico);**
- 111.103. **Include in the national penal legislation a clear definition of torture and ensure its strict criminalization (Egypt);**
- 111.104. **Implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, rehabilitation and support for victims of violence (Slovakia);**
- 111.105. **Implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, combined with rehabilitation and support for victims (Albania);**
- 111.106. **Pass laws prohibiting FGM (Lebanon);**
- 111.107. **Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Maldives);**
- 111.108. **Totally ban the Female Genital Mutilation as opposed to the age limit of 18 age and criminalise the practice (Zambia);**
- 111.109. **Explicitly prohibit all harmful practices against women of all ages, including FGM, child, early, and forced marriage and practices inflicted on elderly women in relation to allegations of witchcraft, and take all necessary measures to enforce the prohibition (Slovenia);**
- 111.110. **Address the issue of female genital mutilation in an appropriate manner through awareness raising programs for parents, women, girls and traditional and religious leaders and suitable legal instruments, as previously recommended in the first UPR and accepted by Sierra Leone (Germany);**

- 111.111. Punish the practice of female genital mutilation and any harmful practices for physical and psychological health of girls and women (Spain);
- 111.112. Explicitly criminalise FGM/C in Sierra Leone's domestic laws to achieve further progress in eliminating this harmful practice (Australia);
- 111.113. Adopt a law prohibiting participation of minor girls in initiation rites (Congo);
- 111.114. Continue to strive for a careful balance between measures taken against harmful traditional practices and respect for traditional cultural and spiritual beliefs (Jamaica);
- 111.115. Adopt pertinent measures for economic empowerment of women, and intensify actions against female genital mutilation and early marriage (Cabo Verde);
- 111.116. Ensure the protection of the rights of women, especially by criminalizing and implementing laws on female genital mutilation, domestic and sexual violence (Botswana);
- 111.117. Prohibit legally female genital mutilation, as previously recommended (Switzerland);
- 111.118. Introduce the total legislative ban of female genital mutilation, to initiate a public discussion and awareness-raising campaign on female genital mutilation as a violation of human rights of girls and women (Czech Republic);
- 111.119. Strengthen the ban on the initiation of women with the view to totally eliminating the practice of FGM in the country (Uganda);
- 111.120. Eradicate the practice of FGM and continue its efforts regarding gender equality (Angola);
- 111.121. Continue the efforts to combat the practice of female genital mutilation (Algeria);
- 111.122. Explicitly prohibit traditional practices that harm the rights of women (Argentina);
- 111.123. Accelerate the efforts directed towards ending the harmful and traumatic practice of female genital mutilation (Croatia);
- 111.124. Take concrete steps to eliminate gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation (Czech Republic);
- 111.125. Continue to take measures to protect and promote the human rights of women, including the introduction of legislation to prohibit FGM (Japan);
- 111.126. Continues its efforts to address violence against women and to speed up efforts to enact the Gender Equality Bill (Namibia);
- 111.127. Adopt measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women (Israel);
- 111.128. Take the necessary steps to combat girls' sexual abuse, in particular at school (Armenia);
- 111.129. Adopt appropriate measures to combat sexual abuse of girls in school, backed-up by the necessary human, technical and financial resources for any mechanisms (Honduras);

- 111.130. Consolidate measures aimed at combating violence against vulnerable groups (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 111.131. Take effective measures to provide adequate legal and other assistance for domestic and international trafficking victims, and intensify efforts to identify and prosecute trafficking cases (United States of America);
- 111.132. Take the necessary measures to adopt and implement the Child Labour Action Plan and provide information on the results achieved (Albania);
- 111.133. Expedite implementation of the National action plan against child labour exploitation (Angola);
- 111.134. Continue national efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of child labour, including through a review of national labour legislations and increase community awareness about this phenomenon (Libya);
- 111.135. Promote efforts to prohibit child labour and eradicate this practice in the country (Oman);
- 111.136. Accelerate reforms within the justice sector in order to improve the conditions of judges and strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Portugal);
- 111.137. Continue to reform the judicial system in order to guarantee its independence and capacity to administrate justice, and speed up efforts to abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);
- 111.138. Continue efforts for the reform of the judiciary, to improve access to justice and fight against the abusive recourse to pre-trial detention (France);
- 111.139. Support the independence of judiciary and combat impunity (Oman);
- 111.140. Fight against impunity of the perpetrators of human rights violations, particularly those perpetrated during the civil war which have not been judged by the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone, as well as those perpetrated by members of the law enforcement agencies (France);
- 111.141. Ensure access to justice for vulnerable groups, especially women and children, whom have been victimized by violence and abuse (Malaysia);
- 111.142. Continue to eliminate barriers to women enjoying effective access to justice and promote knowledge of their rights and provide basic legal assistance (Mexico);
- 111.143. Guarantee all individuals the right to be tried within reasonable time or released, and introduce alternative punishments to the imprisonment (Switzerland);
- 111.144. Take appropriate actions to reduce prison overcrowding, including through a reduction in lengthy pre-trial detention and alternatives to custodial sentences for minor offences (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 111.145. Carry out measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Egypt);
- 111.146. Consider alternatives to prolonged pre-trial detention and provide adequate resources to address poor prison conditions (United States of America);
- 111.147. Ensure adequate allocation of resources towards court infrastructure and capacity building in the Judiciary (Botswana);

- 111.148. **Combat impunity by ensuring prompt, thorough and transparent investigations of all violations against human rights defenders, and the prosecution of perpetrators (Canada);**
- 111.149. **Continue to adopt measures to strengthen the criminal justice system, in order to ensure accountability for crimes committed (Cuba);**
- 111.150. **Prioritise the setting-up of the Independent Police Complaint Board, building on best practices of the Complaints, Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (CDIID) (Jamaica);**
- 111.151. **Ensure that all police officers are aware of and abide by international human rights standards on police use of force (Germany);**
- 111.152. **Take prompt action to prevent harassment by police officers of members of the national Human Rights Commission, human rights defenders and citizens (Japan);**
- 111.153. **Continue supporting the family institution, which is one of the most important units in achieving goals of sustainable development goals in any state (Russian Federation);**
- 111.154. **Amend the Sierra Leone Citizenship Act so that women can transfer their nationality to their children and non-national spouses on an equal basis with men, and include a provision in the new Constitution which grants equal nationality rights to men and women (Canada);**
- 111.155. **Ensure equality of rights between men and women to acquire, transfer, change or conserve nationality and transmit it to children born abroad, as recommended by CEDAW (Colombia);**
- 111.156. **Adopt measures to ensure that women can acquire, transfer, change or preserve their nationality and transfer it to their children born abroad, such that these children could be recognised by law through birth registration (Mexico);**
- 111.157. **Ensure full enjoyment of freedom and equality of religion and worship in the country (Cabo Verde);**
- 111.158. **Develop and enhance laws to protect the freedom of belief, freedom of expression and freedom of the press (Lebanon);**
- 111.159. **Take concrete steps to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression for all, including journalists and human rights defenders, and strengthen protection of journalists and human rights defenders against harassment and persecution (Czech Republic);**
- 111.160. **Uphold the right to freedom of expression, including journalists and human rights defenders, in particular taking steps to ensure that defamation charges are not used to undermine the right to freedom of expression (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 111.161. **Refrain from criminalizing the legitimate activities of human rights defenders and journalists and repeal or amend all laws and policies which restrict their activities and rights (Netherlands);**
- 111.162. **Refrain from arbitrary arrest and the use of criminal libel laws against and harassment of journalists and opposition members (United States of America);**

- 111.163. Repeal or revise the Public Order Act and Criminal and Seditious Libel laws, and guarantee freedom of expression for journalists (Ireland);
- 111.164. Decriminalize defamation in order to make it a civil offense (Belgium);
- 111.165. Take steps to fully and effectively implement the 2013 Freedom of Information Act, including by repealing criminal libel laws and the 1965 Public Order Act (Canada);
- 111.166. Implement a more inclusive governance system that promotes further representation of women into the national institutions (Congo);
- 111.167. Continue efforts to facilitate a greater participation and representation of women in public offices and in higher levels of decision-making positions (Israel);
- 111.168. Pass legislation that promotes further political participation of women in public elections positions (Costa Rica);
- 111.169. Implement recommendations of the 2012 EU election observation mission promoting inclusiveness and transparency of the election process (Czech Republic);
- 111.170. Continue the efforts to end poverty (Lebanon);
- 111.171. Continue to strengthen the programmes of social protection being implemented in order to provide the best possible welfare and quality of life for its people, especially for those most in need (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 111.172. Take the necessary steps to implement the « Agenda for Prosperity » in an effective and timely manner (Azerbaijan);
- 111.173. Take measures to implement policies and programs targeted at reducing poverty and improving the economy including the realization of the Agenda for Prosperity (Malaysia);
- 111.174. Make further improvements in the socio-economic conditions with the view to promoting human rights in the country (Ethiopia);
- 111.175. Address the issue of inadequate water supply in the country urgently, including by providing appropriate temporary measures to communities in rural and urban areas in finding alternative means of water supply (Malaysia);
- 111.176. Continue to implement policies for socio-economic development of its people under SDGs (Pakistan);
- 111.177. Further continue improving health infrastructural institutions to withstand diseases like the Ebola pandemic (Ethiopia);
- 111.178. While expressing appreciation for the efforts undertaken in order to combat Ebola, we urge the Government of Sierra Leone to continue undertaking its efforts aimed at combating this disease and strengthen the health infrastructure and the management of the public health system (Iraq);
- 111.179. Duly implement and follow-up on the National Health Strategic Plan, above all its HIV related provisions, with a view to fighting new infections, discrimination and lethality (Brazil);
- 111.180. Strengthen the health service infrastructure and the restructuring of the public health system (Panama);

- 111.181. Strengthen the health infrastructure throughout the national territory (Senegal);
- 111.182. Continue to take the necessary steps to further strengthen its public health care system (Singapore);
- 111.183. Improve on providing health care facilities to all communities in the country (Nigeria);
- 111.184. Take steps to ensure that free health care can be perpetually made accessible to vulnerable populations enabling them to enjoy high health coverage (Madagascar);
- 111.185. Ensure that vulnerable groups, especially women and children in rural areas have access to quality health care services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 111.186. Strengthen efforts in addressing maternal and child mortality (South Africa);
- 111.187. Make further efforts to build the capacity in both human resources and in the health sector to deal with epidemics and other health challenges, and request the international community to continue to assist Sierra Leone in building the capacity (Uganda);
- 111.188. Continue to advance its poverty reduction strategy and increase investment to health and education to improve national healthcare system and raise education coverage (China);
- 111.189. Enhance the adoption of measures aimed at preventing the teenage pregnancy incidence (Colombia);
- 111.190. Integrate human rights education into the education system and in the military training institutions (Senegal);
- 111.191. Move forward training programmes on human rights for the security forces, and prevent, investigate and sanction cases of violence committed by law enforcement officials (Costa Rica);
- 111.192. Provide more human rights education and training programs for law enforcement officials and agents (Oman);
- 111.193. Ensure that the New Education Sector Plan is well implemented and adequately resourced, in order to raise education standards at all levels in the country (Singapore);
- 111.194. Implement the Education Sector Plan as well as strategies and activities included in the Plan, to improve education management within the period 2014-2018 (Cuba);
- 111.195. Take measures to ensure the provision of the required resources for the full implementation of the new educational system introduced in 2012 (Namibia);
- 111.196. Prioritize universal basic education for the benefit of all Sierra Leonean children (Nigeria);
- 111.197. Promote the completion of education for children, and remove all hindrances and discrimination against children in fulfilling their right to education (Malaysia);

- 111.198. **Strengthen all policies to bolster basic education, including education for girls, adult literacy and education for persons with disabilities (Madagascar);**
- 111.199. **Strengthen measures to ensure that women's access to education is enhanced (South Africa);**
- 111.200. **Continuing education programmes and early warning concerning teen pregnancies and ensure that girls and pregnant teenagers continue their studies during pregnancy (Uruguay);**
- 111.201. **Ensure the rights of all girls to education by inter alia reversing a decision to ban pregnant girls from attending classes and exams (Germany);**
- 111.202. **Promote school enrolment of girls and literacy of women (Angola);**
- 111.203. **Establish a range of measures for the application of the 2014 law on education with a view to ending women and young girls' illiteracy (Democratic Republic of Congo);**
- 111.204. **Promote efforts to fight illiteracy (Lebanon);**
- 111.205. **Engage the civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the UPR recommendations (Poland);**
- 111.206. **Continue to engage its regional and bilateral partners with the view to build capacity and mobilize resources in support of efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations (Philippines);**
- 111.207. **Strengthen efforts in infrastructure development in the country (South Africa);**
- 111.208. **Continue its efforts in implementing the outstanding recommendations from the previous UPR cycle (Ukraine).**
- 112. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, H. E. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara and composed of the following members:

- Dr. Mohamed Gibril Sesay Minister of State 1, MFAIC;
 - Yvette Stevens, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to Switzerland and all United Nations Bodies;
 - Dr. Henry M'Bawa Coordinator JSCO;
 - Ms. Cassandra Labor Legal Expert;
 - Mr Christopher L. Bockarie Human Rights Desk Officer.
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