

16th Session Universal Periodic Review

BANGLADESH

Statement by Sierra Leone

Ambassador
Yvette Stevens

Mr. President,

Délégates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sierra Leone would like to commend Bangladesh for its tremendous achievements since the last Universal Periodic Review in 2009 and for the presentation here this morning.

During the period under review, Bangladesh passed no less than 196 Parliamentary Acts, most of which address the political, socio-economic and cultural rights of the people. The most 18 significant ones of these, are listed in the National Report. It also adopted eight new policies covering Child Rights, Child Labour Elimination, Education, Domestic Worker Protection, Labour, Skill Development, Women Development and Children.

The Human Rights Commission has been set up through an Act of Parliament. In addition it ratified four main Conventions, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families. Progress was also achieved in the consolidation of democracy, ensuring justice and the rule of law, transparency and governance, right to life and liberty human rights education and awareness, economic social and cultural rights and groups in need of protection.

Having studied the background reports, Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

- Consider ratifying the conventions on refugees and stateless persons and passing national legislation on refugees and stateless persons;
- Improve cooperation with human rights mechanisms:
 - Seek cooperation of OHCHR to prepare its outstanding reports to treaty bodies;
 - Approve pending requests for visits by special procedures and consider extending a standing invitation for such visits
- Continue and intensify its efforts to promote human rights in all areas (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights);
- Pay particular attention to ensure that disaster management plans are continuously reviewed to ensure that the poorest sectors of the population are adequately protected from the tropical cyclones, particularly in the light of climate change.

Sierra Leone wishes Bangladesh well in its quests for ensuring the best human rights standard for its people.

I thank you.