**16th Session Universal Periodic Review**

**CAMEROON**

**Statement by Sierra Leone**

**Mr. President,**

**Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Sierra Leone would like to commend Cameroon for its efforts and achievements since the last Universal Periodic Review in 2009 and for the presentation here this morning. Sierra Leone notes that the process of preparation of the National Report was inclusive, involving all stakeholders.

During the period under review, Cameroon ratified a number of regional and international conventions and protocols, including the OP-CAT and OP-CRC. In addition, it set up institutional mechanisms such as, an inter-ministerial committee to monitor implementation of recommendations for human rights promotion and protection; the steps it took to ensure the independence of its National Human Rights Commission, earned the later to move from a “B” to an “A” classification by the International Coordination Committee of Human Rights. Actions were also taken by Cameroon to address improvements in the agriculture, education, health and adequate housing sectors. Furthermore, training sessions and awareness raising activities addressed children’s rights, violence against women, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups, including pygmies and .

One notable achievement is the drawing up of an Action Plan for human rights promotion and protection, which is aimed at integrating the human rights approach in policies and programmes.

Having examined the background reports, Sierra Leone would like the following recommendations:

* Extend a standing invitation to special procedures to visit Cameroon;
* Launch a Universal Birth Registration strategy to improve the level of birth registration in the country;
* Investigate allegations of human rights abuses by the security forces and take measures to eliminate this practice, if required;
* Seek further assistance for capacity building and technical assistance in the areas identified in the National Report.