

16th Session Universal Periodic Review

CAPE VERDE

Statement by Sierra Leone

Speaker
Ambassador
Yvette Stevens

Mr. President,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sierra Leone would like to congratulate Cape Verde for its comprehensive National Report, for its achievements in implementing the recommendations of its first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and for the presentation this morning.

Cape Verde has in place a national, regional and international regulatory framework on human rights issues. The constitution of Cape Verde states that the general international or common law is an integral part of Cape Verde's legal system under the principle of automatic reception. In addition, Cape Verde is a party to primary human rights instruments and treaties at the regional and international levels.

The process of drafting the National Report was inclusive and stated with the preparation of a national strategy document on the follow-up of the recommendations of the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Significant achievements since 2008 include:

- Drafting new statutes for the National Human Rights Committee, in conformity with the Paris Principles;
- Developing a framework for cooperation with regional and international human rights mechanisms;
- Adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Becoming a State Member of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- Improvement of child mortality rates and school enrolment rates;
- Progress in promoting gender equality, including the representation of women in Parliament and as Ministers and Judges;
- Passing of a Gender-Based Violence Act;
- Passing of legislation to increase the autonomy and independence of the courts and judiciary;
- Reforming prison services; and
- Supporting persons with disabilities.

However, some actions remain outstanding and Sierra Leone would like to recommend the following:

- Expedite the approval of the new statute of the Human Rights Committee and distribute them widely;

- Accede to international instruments relating to statelessness and to the assistance and protection of displaced persons in Africa;
- Seek technical assistance to prepare all outstanding reports to treaty bodies
- Launch awareness raising programmes on gender equality;
- Intensify efforts to address illegal trafficking in persons and drugs;
- Mainstream climate change in all development activities.