**16th Session Universal Periodic Review**

**CUBA**

**Statement by Sierra Leone**

**Mr. President,**

**Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

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

During the period under review, Cuba has concluded most of the recommendations of the first UPR. Particular mention needs to be made of achievements in the areas of women and children’s rights, women’s representation in the in political and public office, right to health, right to education and the right to adequate housing. With the support the United Nations, bilateral donors and NGOs, Cuba has already achieved Goals 1, 2 and three of the MDGs and is working to achieve goals 4 and 5 by 2015.

Cuba has also assisted other countries in meeting their human rights obligations, through the provision of medical doctors, as is the case in Sierra Leone, where Cuba has sent medical specialist to provide support to our free health care programme for children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and is providing specialist training for Sierra Leoneans, for which we are most grateful.

Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

* Consider setting up an independent human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles;
* Fulfil obligations to the human rights mechanisms, including submission of outstanding reports and approving pending visits of Special Rapporteurs;
* Share experiences in disaster risk management with other countries.

Sierra Leone wishes Cuba well.

I thank you.