**16th Session Universal Periodic Review**

**DJIBOUTI**

**Statement by Sierra Leone**

**Mr. President,**

**Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Sierra Leone would like to congratulate Djibouti on its achievements since the last Universal Periodic Review and for the presentation here this morning.

Sierra Leone is pleased to note the inclusive process used in the preparation of the National Report and the progress made since the first cycle of the UPR in 2009, notably:

* Ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
* Passing of An Act establishing juvenile courts;
* Drawing up of a National Strategic Action Plan for Children in Djibouti;
* Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol
* Setting up of a legally binding National Gender Policy;
* Undertaking public awareness campaigns on violence against women;
* Adoption of a National Education Plan and increase in school enrolment rates;
* Dramatic increase in the number of Ministry of Health staff;
* Reporting to Treaty Bodies.

In spite of these successes however, some actions still need to be taken and Sierra Leone would like to recommend the following:

* Revision of the National Human Rights Commission to ensure that it is in conformity with the Paris principles;
* Issuance of standard invitation to United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders;
* Continuation and intensification of public awareness campaigns against harmful traditional practices;
* Elaboration of a comprehensive strategy to address trafficking, particularly of women and children;
* Taking steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, in relation to marriage, family relations and succession.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone would like to note that Djibouti would need intensified support from various stakeholders in the implementation of its human rights obligations. Sierra Leone wishes Djibouti well.

Thank you.