

**SIERRA LEONE**

**Universal Periodic Review Second Cycle – Jordan**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

**Mr. President,**

**Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation from Jordan and would like to commend Jordan for the progress it has made since the first cycle of the UPR in 2009. Over the past four years, positive steps have been taken towards the promotion and protecting of human rights. Sierra Leone recognizes these efforts and encourages the Government of Jordan to continue with reform.

Sierra Leone would like to draw particular attention to the achievements registered since the previous UPR including: enactment of over 30 laws related to improvement of human rights; positive response to requests from special rapporteurs; amendment of nearly one third of the 42 articles of the Constitution, implemented legislation that has a bearing on human rights and the building of institutions capable of protecting human rights.

Sierra Leone is, however, concerned about Jordan’s reservations on international human rights treaties; as well as issues relating to religious freedom and customary practices including honour crimes.

Sierra Leone would like to recommend the following:

* Enshrine equality before the law for all persons within the Jordanian jurisdiction, including the amendment of the Personal Status Act to address discrimination against women in relation to inheritance, right to work, divorce and guardianship;
* Provide the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights, and other relevant institutions, with adequate human, technical and financial resources so that they can properly fulfill their mandate;
* Establish operational mechanisms to receive complaints of racist acts, investigate them and issues sanctions and compensation commensurate with their seriousness;
* Work towards the elimination of early, forced and child marriage, in particular taking steps to further limit the circumstances in which those under 18 years of age can marry

Sierra Leone wishes Jordan well.

I thank you.