

**SIERRA LEONE**

**Universal Periodic Review Second Cycle – Malaysia**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

**Mr. President,**

**Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation from Malaysia and would like to commend Malaysia for its comprehensive National Report and for its achievements in implementing the recommendations of its first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Sierra Leone would like to draw attention to extensive law reforms that have been introduced in Malaysia since 2009. In particular, Sierra Leone welcomes steps taken by the Government of Malaysia to repeal, and/or amend, legislation that conflicts with basic human rights standards. Sierra Leone also welcomes commitments of the new Prime Minister, Najib Abdul Razak, to the rule of law, upholding respect for human rights and widening democratic space.

Other achievements include: free education for primary and secondary schools; implementation of the eKasih initiative for socio-economic transformation; ratification of CRC, CRPD and CEDAW. Moreover, the Malaysia is in the process of formulating a National Human Rights Plan as a commitment to streamlining the promotion and protection of basic rights for its population.

Sierra Leone, having reviewed the various reports, makes the following recommendations:

* Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
* Fully cooperate with international bodies by submitting long overdue reports on CEDAW and CRPD.
* Take steps to address increasing trends in early, forced and child marriage, by ensuring proper limits on the circumstances in which those under 18 years of age can marry;
* Consider comments of the Special Rapporteur on health regarding the negative impact that the Trans Pacific Partnership agreements would have on access to medicines.
* Ensure the protection of indigenous peoples’ rights, in particular regarding ownership of ancestral or native customary lands and education.

Sierra Leone wishes Malaysia well.

I thank you.