

SIERRA LEONE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

**Mr. President,**

My delegation would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Mexico and congratulate the delegation on presentation of a comprehensive national report. We applaud the participatory efforts made during the compilation of the report and commend the progress made since the previous review on 10th February 2009.

Notably, we welcome the entry into force of constitutional amendments related to human rights and remedy of *amparro*, the Pact for Mexico signed in 2012. The People’s Health Insurance Scheme of 2012, Women Justice Centres, the Opportunities Programme and the Scholarship Project for Indigenous Students in Higher Education are commendable.

While Sierra Leone is welcomes the achievements registered by Mexico, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

* Expedition of the process of amending Article 57 of the Code of Military Justice to ensure that human rights violations committed by armed forces against civilians are tried in civilian courts;
* Provision of sufficient resources and capacity building for the Citizens Relations Unit to address dangers of a heavy military presence on the streets designed to curb organised crime;
* Designing and strengthening programmes to address human rights inequalities suffered by indigenous communities and afro-descendants;
* Enactment and enforcement of laws to reduce incidences of violence against women and girls.

Sierra Leone wishes Mexico success in ensuring the best human rights standard for its people.

I thank you.