



SIERRA LEONE

Universal Periodic Review Second Cycle – Saudi Arabia

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone would like to congratulate Saudi Arabia for its continued efforts to improve human rights since the first cycle of its UPR in 2009. Progress has been recorded not only in the normative work of passing legislation, but also through the introduction of institutional reforms and development of policies to tackle problems.

According to the National Report, since 2009, Saudi Arabia has acceded to three international human rights conventions and developed institutions to tackle problems of corruption and prevent human trafficking. Moreover, the National Report indicates Saudi Arabia continues to consider, on an ongoing basis, all international human rights treaties to which it is not a party, in particular its accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Sierra Leone, having reviewed the various reports, has the following recommendations to make for the consideration of Saudi Arabia:

- Provide all outstanding reports to Treaty Bodies and respond to long-standing requests for visits by Special Procedures;
- Continue work towards the improvement of women's rights. In particular, incorporate, in law, the principle of equality between men and women;
- Work with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
- Establish training programmes for judges with the Higher Institute for Judges, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, focusing on Saudi Arabia's international human rights obligations;
- Continue valuable work towards reducing the child under-five mortality rate.

Finally, Mr. President, Sierra Leone would like to thank Saudi Arabia for increasing its financial contribution to OHCHR from USD 150,000 per annum without earmarking, to USD 1 million per annum to be continued at that level for a period of five years. Sierra Leone believes that this increase in contribution is a manifestation of Saudi Arabia's intention to adopt a progressive approach to fulfill its human rights obligations.

I thank you.