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## SIERRA LEONE

19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS

28 March 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of Albania and thanks them for their report which provides a comprehensive overview of their efforts to promote human rights at the national level.

My delegation notes with interest the ongoing efforts aimed at protecting the rights of the child, in particular, the recent amendments to their Law "On the Protection of the Rights of the Child" which is in compliance with the provisions of the CRC.

My delegation commends Albania on its incorporation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights into their national legislation, particularly for the amendments to the Criminal and Penal Codes, in compliance with the obligations deriving from the international conventions to which Albania is a Party. Sierra Leone would also like to congratulate Albania on its successful Parliamentary elections of 2013 which we are confident, will further efforts to fully integrate human rights norms into national policy.

My delegation would like to encourage Albania to advance strategies aimed at the social integration of all minority groups including the Roma, and the Egyptian community, so as to more effectively ensure their enjoyment of the fundamental freedoms. Albania's efforts to address the problem of blood feuds, needs to be intensified

In conclusion, Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

- Albania should allocate additional resources in order to further strengthen the work of the Ombudsman (People's Advocate) Office.
- Albania should strengthen monitoring mechanisms which address incidents of forced child labour and further combat the trafficking of children.
- Albania should take steps to improve the situation of asylum seekers and refugees through, *inter alia*, resisting from detention of unaccompanied children, providing identification documents for refugees and ensuring their access to social assistance, implementing integration programmes and housing as well as refraining from detention of asylum seekers, except as a last resort.

Mr. President,

I thank you.