

New Version



SIERRA LEONE

19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

Costa Rica

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS

5 May 2014

Mr. Vice-President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica to this 19th Session of the UPR and thanks Costa Rica for its comprehensive national report which was prepared through an inclusive process and which offers a self-critical analysis of the current situation in the country. My delegation further appreciates the submission of Costa Rica's mid-term in 2012.

My delegation commends the initiatives taken by the Government of Costa Rica to protect and promote the rights of older persons and the disabled, and to address the human rights generally through the ratification of treaties passing on legislation and setting up of institutional arrangements for the implementation of its human rights obligations.

Costa Rica provides a good example of the need to divert military spending to development. In this connection, Sierra Leone applauds Costa Rica's strong commitment to eliminate poverty, and its work to advance social development strategies which more effectively address poverty alleviation through targeted local financing schemes.

Sierra Leone is concerned by the high incidence of trafficking in children and would urge Costa Rica to increase the age of sexual consent to 18 and formulate new strategies to reduce the prison population.

Sierra Leone would like to make three recommendations:

- Costa Rica should continue its efforts to combat child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, and further advance strategies to eliminate the discrimination against indigenous, minority children and children of African descent.
- Ratify the ICRMW and the ILO Convention 189.
- Submit its outstanding reports to the CESCR, the HR Committee and CAT

My delegation wishes Costa Rica well.

Mr. President,

I thank you.