

**SIERRA LEONE**

**19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Cote d’Ivoire**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

29 March 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of Cote d’Ivoire and thanks it for the national report, which shows a strong commitment to meeting its human rights responsibilities in spite of the challenges following the post-election crisis.

My delegation commends the government for the legislative reforms and its willingness to ensure political and institutional reform which is in conformity with international human rights conventions.

We note the efforts to provide social, legal and civil protection through established frameworks. In particular, we are encouraged by the development of a National Development Plan which seeks to address security and the rule of law, as well as the social and economic challenges including poverty alleviation.

Recommendations:

* Cote d’Ivoire should further strengthen mechanisms which facilitates access to justice.
* Cote d’Ivoire should adopt a comprehensive law on the trafficking in persons, including women and children.
* Cote d’Ivoire should submit its backlog of outstanding reports to the concerned treaty bodies and ensure that its NHRI is in conformity with the Paris Principles.

My delegation would like to conclude by wishing Cote d’Ivoire every success in achieving a lasting peace based on national reconciliation and social cohesion.

Mr. President,

I thank you.