

**SIERRA LEONE**

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

*Democratic Republic of the People’s Republic of Korea*

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

1 May 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of the DPRK and thanks it for their national report which documents the progress made since the first UPR cycle.

Sierra Leone observes that the DPRK had enacted some national laws which include legislation on higher education, the protection and promotion of child rights, and the protection of person with disabilities.

My delegation urges DPRK to submit its overdue reports to the respective treaty bodies. Furthermore, more should be done to ensure that persons detained in correctional facilities are treated fairly and humanely.

Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

* DPRK should ratify the ICERD, CAT, ICRMW and the CPED, with the aim of enacting them at the national level.
* DPRK should establish an independent NHRI and an effective complaints mechanism.
* DPRK should adopt a moratorium on the death penalty and prohibit public executions.
* DPRK should strengthen cooperation with human rights mechanisms and engage with OHCHR, and avail itself of the Office’s expertise, in order to demonstrate transparency and to adopt measures to better ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Mr. President,

I thank you.