

**SIERRA LEONE**

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

Dominica

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

1 May 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of the Commonwealth of Dominica and thanks them for their oral update and presentation.

My delegation is however concerned by the absence of a national report (as required in paragraph 8 of Resolution 5/1) which would have facilitated more detailed observations on the progress made since the first cycle of Dominica’s UPR report in 2009.

While Sierra Leone understands that it is difficult for a small island nation to prepare national reports, Dominica as a State party should nevertheless uphold this reporting obligation as it would otherwise adversely affect, in a broader sense, the implementation and promotion of human rights norms in the country.

This said, my delegation commends Dominica on the extensive reviews it has undertaken with regard to establishing legal frameworks and administrative measures aimed at reforming its national laws.

In addition, Sierra Leone notes that Dominica has achieved the following:

* Since 1986, Dominica has put in place a self-imposed moratorium on the death penalty, and that the last execution was carried out in 1986, with no death sentences being handed down since that time.
* Since 2005, a universal and free access to primary and secondary education has been adopted.
* After its first UPR cycle in 2009, Dominica established a standing invitation to the special procedures mechanism.

My delegation would like to encourage Dominica to submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies and provide further information on their ongoing progress with regard to the implementation of the recommendations accepted made during its first UPR cycle.

Sierra Leone would also urge Dominica will implement a national health plan which incorporates an HIV/AIDS prevention programme, combat the high incidents of gender-based violence, develop and harmonize to a domestic protection framework for stateless persons and accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Finally, Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

* Dominica should ratify the ICERD, the CAT and the ICRMW.
* Dominica should seek technical assistance in order to further advance the dissemination of human rights in the country.
* Dominica should establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Sierra Leone wishes the delegation of Dominica a positive outcome in its review.

Thank you, Mr. President.