



SIERRA LEONE

19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

Equatorial Guinea

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS

5 May 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone would like to welcome the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to the 19th Session of the UPR Working Group and thank it for the presentation of its national report, which was prepared as a result of an inclusive process.

My delegation commends Equatorial Guinea for the many efforts to ensure the full adherence to human rights norms in spite of the challenges to its realization not least of which is the dissemination of human rights norms across its various mainland and island regions. Sierra Leone particularly applauds actions taken to address gender discrimination.

Sierra Leone is encouraged by the reform of the Constitution in 2012 as well as the judicial developments which have facilitated access to justice.

Recommendations:

- Equatorial Guinea's should consider revising the law on customary marriage with a view to guarantee equal succession rights to woman and establishing a minimum age of 18 for marriage.

- Advance efforts to impose a formal moratorium on executions with a view to acceding to the relevant conventions (optional protocol of the ICCPR-OP)
- Submit its overdue reports to the respective treaty bodies.

Finally, Sierra Leone would like to note the high Gross National Income per capita in Equatorial Guinea and would like to urge it to devote increased resources to poverty alleviation.

My delegation would like to conclude by wishing Equatorial Guinea a successful completion of its second cycle of the UPR process.

Mr. President,

I thank you.