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SIERRA LEONE

19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS

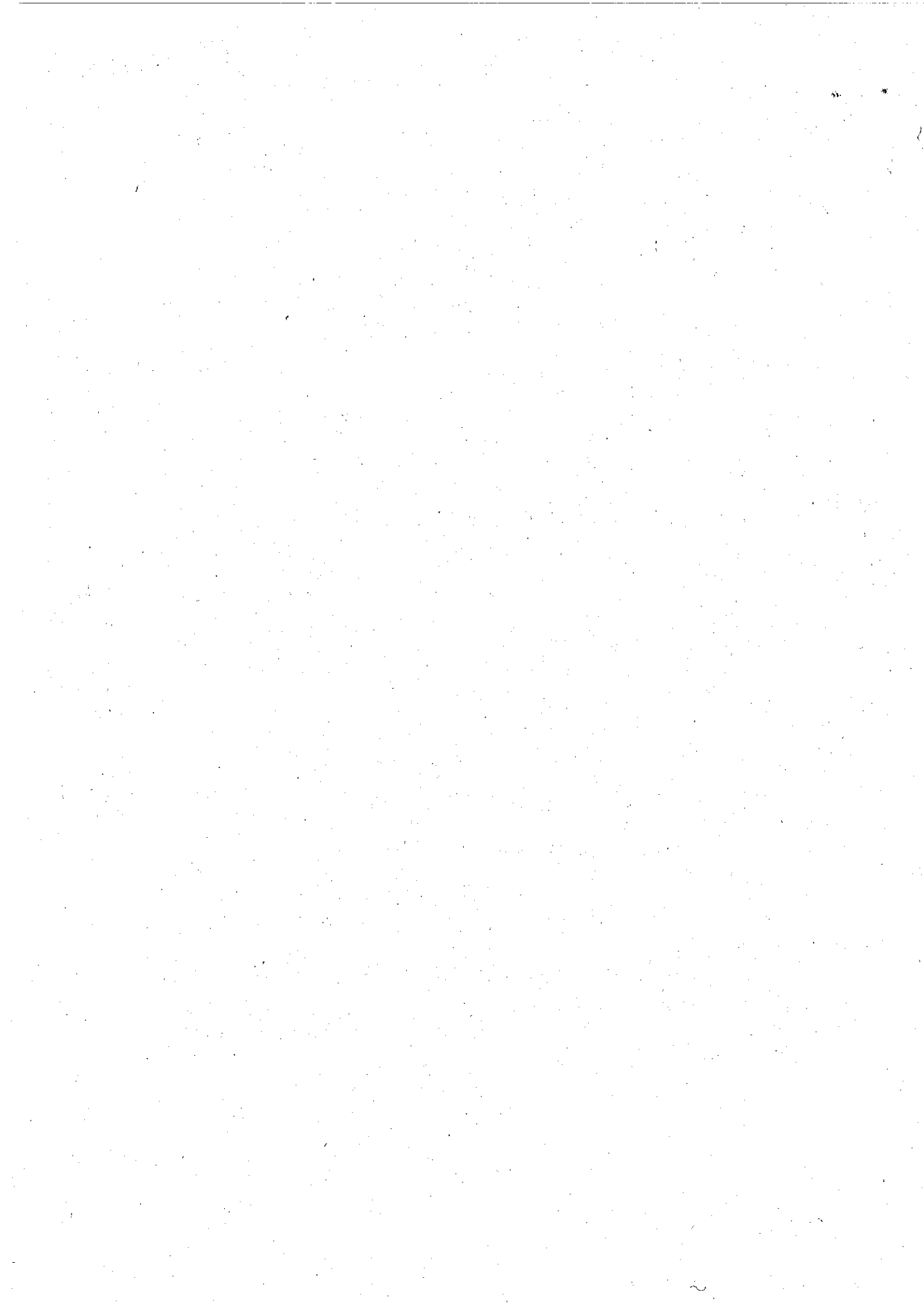
28 March 2014

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone commends the delegation of Norway for the presentation today and would like to thank Norway for the frank and comprehensive national report and for the role it is playing to enhance human rights both nationally and globally.

My delegation would especially like to commend Norway on its policy on international development, to "fight poverty and bring about social justice"; its generous contribution of overseas development assistance and for its promotion of debt relief for poor countries. Sierra Leone would like to encourage Norway to maintain this commitment and support, thus continuing to contribute to the promotion of human rights internationally.

My delegation would like to acknowledge the commendable steps taken by Norway to address human rights issues in general, and in particular, its efforts to combat the scourge of domestic violence and to effectively address incidents of gender-based violence including sexual abuse.



My delegation however remains concerned about reports of hate speech and hate crimes perpetuated against minority groups and asylum seekers and immigrants.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone would like to make the following recommendations:

- Norway should establish a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Norway should seriously consider ratifying the International Convention of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as well as the optional protocols for the ICESCR and the CRC.
- Norway should consider further strategies aimed at effectively addressing the situation of undocumented asylum seekers and the return of foreigners to States in internal armed conflict or generalized violence on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. President,

I thank you.

