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## **SIERRA LEONE**

### **20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

## **SLOVENIA**

### **Statement by Ambassador Yvette Stevens**

**4 November 2014**

Mr Vice-President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of Slovenia and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

My delegation applauds Slovenia for setting up robust legal and institutional frameworks to address human rights, with particular reference to the appointment of a State Secretary for dialogue with civil society. Slovenia's efforts to ensure social rights and the reduction of poverty, in the light of the economic situation are noteworthy.

Sierra Leone would however like to urge Slovenia to ensure the effectiveness of the structures for addressing human rights, particularly as relating to discrimination against women and ethnic minorities.

Sierra Leone would also like to encourage Slovenia to bring the Office of the Ombudsman in line with the Paris Principles. Furthermore, perpetrators of trafficking in persons should be prosecuted and in this

vein, my delegation urges the government to further advance the action plan for countering trafficking in human beings.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICRMW and the CPED.
2. Establish a clear and comprehensive definition of violence against children and prevent and prosecute all forms of violence, including domestic violence.
3. Criminalise all acts of discrimination directed against the Roma persons.
4. Take steps to regularise the situation of residents of origin from other former Yugoslavian republics.

Sierra Leone commends Slovenia for maintaining its level of ODA, in spite of the economic situation and encourages Slovenia to consider increasing its ODA towards 0.7 per cent of GDP target.

Finally, Sierra Leone thanks to Slovenia for its support to the OHCHR and wishes Slovenia a successful completion of its review.

Thank you, Mr Vice-President.