

**SIERRA LEONE**

**22nd Session of the UPR**

**ANDORRA**

Statement by Ambassador Yvette Stevens

7 May 2015

Mr President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the high-level delegation of the Principality of Andorra and thanks them for the comprehensive update.

Andorra has, through its constructive and participatory efforts, shown its commitment to the full realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country since its last UPR cycle four years ago.

In particular, my delegation would like to commend Andorra for the steps taken so far to advance the promotion of the rights of children, as evidenced in their consistent voluntary contributions to various United Nations programmes since 2010. Similarly, we note their prohibition of corporal punishment in their national laws.

Other notable achievements include the National Youth Forum which enables young persons in Andorra to take part freely in political, social and economic life.

Sierra Leone is however concerned that discrimination against women persists as well as a significant equality gap with regard to labour market access.

Incidents of racial intolerance are also a cause for concern. In this regard, my delegation would like to encourage the Government of Andorra to address this issue and also to implement effective policies to further protect female migrant workers and refugees.

My delegation would further encourage the government of Andorra to become a signatory to the Palermo Protocol. Similarly, Andorra should also consider establishing an independent national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles.

In addition, Sierra Leone would encourage Andorra to establish laws which clearly prohibit the recruitment or participation of children under 18 in any armed conflict. The government should also seek to comprehensively address discriminatory practices against children with disabilities, and in this respect, increase their access to education and vocational training.

Furthermore, my delegation urges Andorra to enact legislation on asylum seekers and refugees which is consistent with international standards

Sierra Leone has the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICESCR, ICRMW and the ICCPED.
2. Submit its overdue reports to the two treaty bodies.
3. Raise the minimum age of marriage from 14 to 18.
4. Thoroughly investigate cases of hate crimes and fully prosecute those responsible for acts of incitement to violence.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes the Principality of Andorra a successful completion of this second review cycle.

Thank you, Mr President.