

Questions and recommendations by Finland to Liberia

4th May 2015

(26)

Chair,

Finland notes with satisfaction the positive development of Liberia in maintaining the peace and stability of the society. Finland wishes to raise two concerns with respect to access to justice and violence against women and make the following recommendations:

- 1) Finland recommends that the Government of Liberia would assure the sustainability of the regional justice and security hubs and that they are clearly taken into account in the budgeting process and included in the final national budget 2016.
- 2) Finland recommends that the Government of Liberia builds the capacity of existing institutions and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) units to monitor in particular violence against women - including sexual violence and female genital mutilation/cutting - in order to prevent violence, protect victims and fully gather evidences, investigate and prosecute these crimes.

First, we note that in Liberia the establishment of five regional justice and security hubs is in process, but the lack of capacity, both professional and logistical, remains a challenge. The judiciary system needs to better cover the entire country and to ensure access to justice and the rule of law and guarantee the right to a fair and timely trial.

Secondly, we take positive note that Liberia has taken initiatives and established new structures and laws to address the high numbers of violence against women, including sexual violence and female genital mutilation/cutting. We encourage Liberia to continue with its efforts to end violence against women.

Thank you.