



NV

40

**SIERRA LEONE**  
23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UPR

**GEORGIA**

10 November 2015

Mr Vice-President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation of Georgia and thanks them for their presentation.

My delegation notes with interest that Georgia has implemented 98 out of the 136 recommendations which enjoyed its support and is in the process of implementing a further 38 recommendations.

Sierra Leone commends recent developments in Georgia's national legislation which demonstrates their commitment to further promoting and protecting human rights. This includes the establishment of the National Human Rights Action Plan (2014-2015) and the Human Rights Strategy (2014 – 2020), as well as the enactment of the Law on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (2014).

My delegation would however urge Georgia to take steps to improve religious tolerance and to condemn hate speech and acts of violence against religious minorities; to make greater efforts to effectively combat violence against women and to more comprehensively address statelessness; and facilitate the birth registration of Roma people.

Sierra Leone has four recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICPPED.
2. Submit its overdue report to the CESCR and the CAT.
3. Modify its criminal law to criminalize all forms of racial discrimination.
4. Delimit child and early marriage by amending and unifying legislation, in particular, the Civil Code, to define the accepted age of marriage as 18.

Finally, Sierra Leone remains particularly concerned by the reports of a growing number of women being murdered by their spouses, and would therefore urge the government to take further steps to thoroughly investigate allegations and prosecute perpetrators. In addition, greater assistance and protection should be provided to victims of gender based violence.

Sierra Leone wishes Georgia a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr Vice-President.