

**SIERRA LEONE**

**23rd Session of the UPR**

**NAURU**

3 November 2015

Madam Vice-President,

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

My delegation commends the Government of Nauru for the various laws which have been put in place since the last cycle to strengthen human rights promotion and protection, as evidenced by the enactment of the Refugee Act 2012 and the amended Education Act of 2015. Similarly, we applaud the creation of the Division of Child Protection Services (2015) and the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005 – 2015). My delegation also notes with appreciation, that Nauru has extended a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders.

Given the regional sensitivities to climate change, Sierra Leone applauds the commitment shown in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as well as in establishing sustainable strategies to ensure food security for its people.

While my delegation notes the expressed lack of capacity and budgetary resources needed to fully implement some of their previously accepted recommendations, as well as its human rights obligations, still, my delegation urges Nauru to seek the external funding needed, from regional and international sources, including OHCHR, to enable it to do so.

Sierra Leone also encourages to Government of Nauru to continue its efforts to implement its stated priorities of: submission of long overdue human rights treaty body reports, the realisation of a dedicated human rights body, the drawing up a stand-alone legislation on eliminating violence against women, developing stand-alone disability legislation and addressing climate change issues.

Sierra Leone has the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICCPR and ICERD signed since 2001, as well as the ICESCR, ICRMW and ICPPED.
2. Pass legislation increasing the legal age of marriage to 18.
3. Amend its constitution with a view to abolishing the death penalty.
4. Actively seek funding to mitigate the harms from environmental degradation and adapt to the effects of climate change.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes Nauru every success in completing this second cycle.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.