

**SIERRA LEONE**

**23rd Session of the UPR**

**Saint Lucia**

5th November 2015

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation of Saint Lucia to this Second Cycle of the UPR and thanks them for the report.

My delegation applauds the efforts that are being made to ensure the economic and social rights in Saint Lucia. In particular, we commend the efforts by the Government of Saint Lucia to improve the dire water supply situation in the country.

Sierra Leone acknowledges the willingness of the Government to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in Saint Lucia and the attendant challenges. We note further certain guarantees by legislation and policies in particular, the National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) whose mandate is to act as an advisory body in child protection matters as well as to coordinate and report on the implementation of the CRC. Act 41/199 of the Laws of Saint Lucia, article 14 of which reads: “Subject to available resources, all persons are entitled to receive an educational program appropriate to their needs” has been overlooked as there several reports on exclusion of children with learning disabilities. We urge that these children and youth be included in all educational programs.

Further, my delegation commends Saint Lucia on the enactment of the Police Complaints Act which has brought about the Police Complaints Commission and the Police Complaints Unit which are responsible for providing an open and transparent process in the handling of police complaints. My delegation encourages Saint Lucia to the speedily implement the “**Use of Force Policy for the Royal Saint Lucia Police**

My delegation encourages Saint Lucia to domesticate the CRC and to activate the mandate of the NACPC to guarantee the minimum age of criminal liability, to deal with discrimination against children born out of wedlock, juvenile justice and corporal punishment; and further ratify article 43 (2) of the CRC, OP – IC.

Sierra Leone would like to enquire from the delegation of Saint Lucia, the role that civil society actors play in addressing human rights issues and their interaction with the government on such issues.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the core human rights conventions including ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT and OP-CAT.
2. Set up a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles;
3. Investigate fully the reported extrajudicial killings by the Police and bring any persons found guilty to justice.
4. Seek financial and technical assistance from international sources, including the OHCHR for implementing international human rights obligations and for facilitating human rights training and education.

Sierra Leone wishes Saint Lucia every success in the UPR process.

Mr. President, I thank you.