



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session
Universal Periodic Review of Sierra Leone
Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation from Sierra Leone and appreciates its efforts to implement recommendations from its first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2011.

Australia congratulates Sierra Leone on achieving stable government and sustained peace since the cessation of armed conflict in 2002, and its commitment to social and economic development through the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity.

Australia commends Sierra Leone's efforts to combat the Ebola virus. **Australia recommends Sierra Leone continue working to destigmatise Ebola and to address the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and health workers.**

Australia welcomes Sierra Leone's steps towards abolishing the death penalty, including the current moratorium on executions. Australia remains concerned that the death penalty is still in the laws of Sierra Leone as the penalty for treason, aggravated robbery and murder. **Australia recommends Sierra Leone proceed with the legal abolition of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia commends Sierra Leone on its ratification of the Maputo Protocol and congratulates the Government on its actions, to date, to address the high incidence of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in Sierra Leone. **Australia recommends that FGM/C be explicitly criminalised in Sierra Leone's domestic laws to achieve further progress in eliminating this harmful practice.**