

UPR of Sierra Leone
Statement by the Republic of Poland

Mr. President,

The Polish delegation would like to thank the delegation of Sierra Leone for the presentation of their national report. We acknowledge Sierra Leone's efforts undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of UPR.

Poland notes with appreciation some progress made by Sierra Leone in the field of the women's rights, such as the adoption of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence. We also appreciate the activities in the field of right to health including adoption of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.

Nevertheless, there is still a space for further improvement not only in the protection of the women's rights or the right to health, but also in many other areas of human rights.

In this respect, Poland would like to recommend Sierra Leone to enact legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and conduct awareness-raising programmes in this regard, particularly for parents, women and girls.

At the same time, Poland recommends Sierra Leone to ratify Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Poland is convinced that existence of independent national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture at the domestic level is crucial for effective protection and promotion of human rights.

Furthermore, the Polish delegation would like to recommend that Sierra Leone engage a civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the UPR recommendations.

Thank you for your attention.