



4

24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(18 - 29 January 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Sierra Leone

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone and thanks it for the presentation of its national UPR report, highlighting the commitment to the respect and the protection of human rights for all. Portugal particularly welcomes the introduction of a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty in Sierra Leone and, in this context, recommends the official abolishment of the death penalty in the country.

We would like to further offer the following recommendations to Sierra Leone:

- To take measures to prevent and prosecute cases of torture and ill-treatment, namely through the adoption, in its legislation, of a definition of torture in compliance of the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- To accelerate reforms within the justice sector in order to improve the conditions of judges and strengthen the independence of the judiciary;
- To provide its National Human Rights Commission with adequate funding in order for it to be able to fulfill its role;
- To ratify the second Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture, as well as its Optional Protocol.

Thank you, Mr. President.