

UPR24

SIERRA LEONE

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(čas: 1'25"; pořadí: 51)

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone. (We appreciate the response to some of our advance questions).

We have the following **recommendations**:

First, we **recommend** that Sierra Leone ratify the Optional Protocol to the CAT and establish a preventive national mechanism accordingly.

Second, we **recommend** Sierra Leone to take concrete steps to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression for all, including journalists and human rights defenders and strengthen ~~the~~ protection of journalist and human rights defenders against harassment and persecution.

We further **recommend** Sierra Leone to take <sup>concrete</sup> ~~further~~ steps to eliminate gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation (FGM), and ensure protection, redress and rehabilitation of victims. In this regard, we also **recommend** to introduce a legislative ban of FGM, to initiate a public discussion and awareness-raising campaign on the FGM as a violation of human rights of girls and women.

Finally, we **recommend** implementing recommendations of the 2012 EU election observation mission promoting inclusiveness and transparency of the election process.

Thank you.