

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 24TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP
(18TH - 29TH JANUARY, 2016):**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
OF SIERRA LEONE ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR.
EBENEZER APPREKU CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AI ON WEDNESDAY
27TH JANUARY, 2016**

N.V ✓

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

Ghana warmly welcomes the presence and participation of the distinguished delegation of Sierra Leone to this session led by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice H.E Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, and commends them for their comprehensive presentation. The people and government of Ghana sympathise with the resilient people of Sierra Leone for the pain and anguish suffered from the tragic Ebola epidemic which undermined the considerable progress made in the post-conflict reconstruction of Sierra Leone. Nonetheless Ghana is pleased that various reports suggest we have passed the worst phase of the Ebola epidemic reflecting the commitment of Sierra Leone to the enjoyment of the right of the population to the attainment of the highest possible standards of health. In this regard, Ghana is pleased that during the opening session of the Executive Board of the WHO this week, the WHO Director General pledged the continued commitment of the WHO to remain engaged in tackling the remnants of the epidemic. Sierra Leone can count on the continued support of Ghana.

Ghana welcomes actions taken by Sierra Leone to implement UPR recommendations accepted during the first cycle review, including the enactment of the Right to Access Information Act 2013, the Sexual Offences Act 2012, the Legal Aid Act 2012 and the Corrections Act 2014.

Ghana is however concerned that the criminal libel law is yet to be repealed. Ghana therefore recommends to Sierra Leone to consider the repeal of the criminal libel law in order to expand the frontiers and space for the freedom of expression in Sierra Leone which is now a democratic society.

Ghana further recommends to Sierra Leone to ratify the following treaties:

- The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Ghana wishes Sierra Leone a successful second cycle review.

I thank you Mr. President.
