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**Human Rights Council
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Republic of Sierra Leone**

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone to the second cycle of the UPR.

We commend the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone in strengthening the independence of its Human Rights Commission. We believe this is a key measure to promote the protection of human rights in the country.

The ratification of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and the signature of its Optional Protocol are also commendable. It would be important to step-up efforts for the ratification of OPCAT.

Despite positive developments, we believe there is still room for improvement in many areas. Brazil makes the following recommendations:

(1) Ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, specially by promoting access to justice;

(2) Duly implement and follow-up on the National Health Strategic Plan, above all its HIV related provisions, with a view to fighting new infections, discrimination and lethality.