

**SIERRA LEONE**

**25th Session of the UPR**

**GREECE**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

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Mr President,

Sierra Leone welcomes the delegation from Greece and thanks them for their presentation.

In 2010, Greece’s National Human Rights Commission achieved “A” status and the Government submitted a voluntary mid-term report in 2014. Greece has also contributed financially to the OHCHR between 2011 and 2014.

The current migration and refugee crisis remains a major concern. While it is understandable that inter-regional agreements within the EU preclude ratifying the ICRMW, Sierra Leone would however urge Greece to seek other ways to more effectively protect the human rights of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers. Greece should seek to implement policies at the regional level and thus, we concur with the need for a review of the EU asylum policy.

Recommendations:

1. Implement stricter policies aimed at ending racial violence as perpetuated against migrants and foreigners.
2. Provide human rights training to law enforcement officials to end incidents of police brutality and excessive use of force.

My delegation remains concerned by the acute economic recession and the austerity measures making life extremely difficult for its citizens, which disproportionately affects women and youth. We commend extreme poverty mitigation strategies through the implementation of a national minimum income scheme.

The ministerial declaration of 2014 is equally noteworthy as it provides protection to victims and eyewitnesses of racist crimes. My delegation however believes more can be done to criminalise and prevent racist attacks.

Finally, Sierra Leone wishes Greece a successful UPR process.

Thank you, Mr President.