

**SIERRA LEONE**

**25th Session of the UPR**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

6 May 2016

Mr President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation of Papua New Guinea and thanks them for their national report and oral update.

Particularly noteworthy achievements since the last UPR include the criminalisation of domestic violence through the Family Protection Act; the amending of the criminal code to criminalise acts of trafficking in persons; the adoption of the Child Protection Act of 2015 and the Free Education Policy, as well as taking legal and institutional initiatives to address violence against women. There is however a great need to translate these legal frameworks into concrete actions. Sierra Leone also notes that Papua New Guinea issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders.

Given the implications of climate change to small island countries, Sierra Leone notes with satisfaction, the lead role played by Papua New Guinea in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and encourages Papua New Guinea to continue to seek financial assistance for mitigation and adaptation measures.

My delegation notes that a number of the recommendations from the last UPR, which were accepted by Papua New Guinea, including the setting up of the National Human Rights Institution, still remain outstanding and would urge Papua New Guinea to take steps to implement them, seeking external assistance, wherever necessary. In addition, Sierra Leone urges Papua New Guinea to pay greater attention to the provision of basic services to indigenous peoples in rural areas.

My delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the core international human rights instrument, including the CAT, ICRMW and ICPPED.
2. Submit its overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee, CESCR, CRC, CRPD, CERD and CEDAW.
3. Thoroughly investigate allegations of excessive use of force by police officers, and in this vein, ensure that law enforcement officials have the appropriate human rights training.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes Papua New Guinea a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr President.