

**SIERRA LEONE**

**25th Session of the UPR**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

2 May 2016

Mr President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and thanks them for their oral presentation and today’s update.

My delegation notes with interest how Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has since its last UPR cycle sought to further improve human rights standards nationally. Two notable examples include the establishment of a poverty reduction strategy, and in 2015, the Domestic Violence Act. Equally notable is the establishment of a national action plan to end gender based violence.

As a Small Island Developing State, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has expressed the fact that it faces various technical and financial constraints, however, Sierra Leone is encouraged by the progress made to address some of the development issues, including through the Zero Hunger Initiative.

Nevertheless, Sierra Leone would urge Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to strengthen its regional collaboration efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons. In addition, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines should expedite legal reforms with regard to the enactment of the child justice laws and raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18. My delegation would also like to encourage Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to maintain its de facto moratorium on the death penalty, with a view of abolishing it.

My delegation has the following recommendations:

1. While commending Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for ratifying most of the major human rights treaties, encourages it to ratify ICPPED and the ILO Conventions 169 and 189.
2. Submit long overdue reports to CESCR, CERD, CAT and CPRD.
3. Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18.
4. Continue to seek the needed technical assistance to enable it to meet its various human rights commitments

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes Saint Vincent and the Grenadines a successful completion of its UPR.

Thank you, Mr President.