

**SIERRA LEONE**

**25th Session of the UPR**

**TAJIKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

**Ambassador Yvette Stevens**

6 May 2016

Mr President,

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

The efforts made since the Tajikistan’s UPR cycle is commendable, as evidenced by the National Action Plan aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights and the laws including the Trafficking in Persons and Assistance to Victims Act and the Protection of Children’s Rights Act of 2015.

We note with interest that Tajikistan has a moratorium on the death penalty which has been in place since 2004 and there is a willingness to consider legislation aimed at its future abolition. We welcome the Domestic Violence Law of 2013 and the associated Programme (for 2014 – 2023) aimed at ending domestic violence.

My delegation would encourage Tajikistan to engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholder and promote measures to combat the deep-rooted stereotypes and gender segregation.

Sierra Leone also urges Tajikistan to enforce its legal minimum age of marriage of 18, through taking steps to stop the practice of under-age religious marriages, carried out by mullahs, without a civil marriage certificate.

My delegation has the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICPRD and the ICPPED.
2. Combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and raise the minimum age for hazardous work to 18.
3. In the interest of religious tolerance, lift the bans on religious groups to enable them to practise their religions freely.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes Tajikistan a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr President.