

**SIERRA LEONE**

**25th Session of the UPR**

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

10 May 2016

Mr President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation from Trinidad and Tobago to this UPR session and thanks them for their comprehensive report.

My delegation notes with interest that in 2014, Trinidad and Tobago enacted into law, the National Policy to Address Refugee and Asylum Matters, and prior to that, the Trafficking in Persons Act in 2013. Equally noteworthy is the establishment of the new Children Act of 2012, and the ratification in 2015 of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Given that there have been no executions in the country since 1999, Sierra Leone urges Trinidad and Tobago to put in place a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it in the near future, and to consider incorporating this abolition in their Constitutional review.

Sierra Leone encourages the government to strengthen efforts to end violence against women, in particular, sexual assault and domestic violence, and to consider putting in place stronger protective policies to end sexual trafficking, especially through thorough investigations, consistent prosecutorial measures and law enforcement training.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify and accede to CAT, ICRMW and the ICPPED.
2. Submit the overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies.
3. Harmonize all its relevant legislation relating to the age of marriage and raise the age of marriage to 18.
4. Introduce more rigorous anti-trafficking laws to better protect women and girls.
5. Set up a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

In conclusion, Sierra Leone wishes the Trinidad and Tobago a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr President.