

**SIERRA LEONE**

26th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

**TOGO**

**STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE**

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Mr President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes to the high-level delegation from Togo and thanks them for their comprehensive report and for the detailed update on human rights developments in their country.

My delegation applauds the progress made in the domestic legal framework since the first UPR, in particular the adoption of a law on legal aid, the revision of the Personal and Family Code, the ratification of the ICPED, and the adoption of a new Criminal Code.

Similarly, the creation of the *Plan sectorial de l’education* (2010-2020) and the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence are very encouraging developments.

It is furthermore commendable that Togo’s NHRI has enjoyed an A status since its first review cycle. Sierra Leone encourages the government to ensure closer collaboration with it, and to provide it with additional resources.

Sierra Leone would also encourage the government to intensify efforts to ensure gender equality, including equal rights as regards ownership of property acquired during marriage, and the equal participation of women in decision-making processes.

Furthermore, Togo should enforce free and compulsory birth registration for all and ensure that the children who are currently without one are not denied access to free education, health and social services.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICRMW.
2. Submit the overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies.
3. Thoroughly investigate and prosecute cases of sexual harassment and rape of girls in schools.
4. Strengthen actions aimed at ending child, early and forced marriage.

To conclude, Sierra Leone wishes the Togo a successful completion of its national review process.

Thank you, Mr President.