

**SIERRA LEONE**

**46th Session of the UPR**

**REVIEW OF URUGUAY**

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 **Check against delivery.**

**Mr. President**,

Sierra Leone welcomes and thanks **H.E. Mr. Omar Paganini, Minister of Foreign Affairs** and the distinguished delegation from Uruguay for the presentation of its national report.

Sierra Leone commends Uruguay for its proactive measures to address unemployment, particularly among vulnerable groups such as sex workers, people of African descent and migrants.

We commend the government's leadership in promoting sexual and reproductive rights, which will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of its citizens.. We also welcome Uruguay's commendable policies and legislation to combat racism, racial discrimination and various forms of intolerance.

**We particularly commend Uruguay for establishing the National Council for Racial Equality and People of African Descent, and for the Fifth Open Government Plan (2020-2024) with its commitment to establish an observatory.**

In a spirit of cooperation, we offer the following recommendations for Uruguay's consideration:

1.    Expedite the adoption of legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years.

2.    Take concrete steps, including the adoption of legislation, to address gender-based violence, which particularly affects women of African descent.

3.    Continue to implement forward-looking policies and legislation aimed at eliminating racial discrimination in Uruguayan society.

Sierra Leone wishes Uruguay every success in completing its fourth review cycle.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**