

**SIERRA LEONE**

**47th Session of the UPR**

**REVIEW OF REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA**

Monday, 11 November 2024

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Sierra Leone welcomes and thanks **Ambassador Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica,** and the distinguished delegation from the Republic of Costa Rica for presenting its national report.

My delegation commends the Republic of Costa Rica for its unwavering dedication to human rights and its engagement with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including its standing invitation to all Special Procedures, which is highly commendable.

We welcome Costa Rica’s National Development and Public Investment Plan 2023-2026, emphasizing sustainable development and other critical priorities within a comprehensive framework for national progress. Costa Rica’s leadership in launching Latin America and the Caribbean's first strategy to counter hate speech and discrimination is especially noteworthy.

We further applaud the recent amendment to Article 181 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which renders evidence obtained through torture, ill-treatment, or similar methods inadmissible, reinforcing Costa Rica's commitment to human rights protections.

In a constructive spirit, we recommend the folllowing:

* Strengthen initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy rates and support adolescent health.
* Take concrete steps to combat gender-based violence, particularly against women and girls, to ensure their safety and protection.
* Formulate and implement a strategy to address poverty, inequality, and exclusion and other factors related to climate change.
* Implement measures to address and mitigate food insecurity.

Sierra Leone wishes the Republic of Costa Rica a successful fourth-cycle review.

**Thank you, Mr President**.