

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**38th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Sierra Leone**

*Geneva, 12 May 2021*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Sierra Leone for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia commends Sierra Leone for lifting the ban on pregnant girls attending school, replacing it with the Radical Inclusion Policy and Comprehensive Safety Policy, which ensure that all children are able to live and learn in safety and dignity. We call on Sierra Leone to implement The National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage.

Slovenia remains concerned about the fact that despite efforts deployed by the Government, Sierra Leone still has one of the highest rates of Female Genital Mutilation in the word, with an estimated 90% of women and girls having suffered mutilation. We regret the lack of legislation criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* to develop a National Action Plan to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence,
* and to enact a specific law to prohibit Female Genital Mutilation.

Thank you!