

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Julia Imene-Chanduru, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue on the Universal Periodic Review of Sierra Leone, 12 May 2021**

**Thank you Madam President,**

Namibia warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Sierra Leone and thank them for submitting a comprehensive national report which clearly sets out the advances Sierra Leone has made in promoting and protecting human rights since its last review.

Namibia particularly applauds Sierra Leone for the measures taken to protect the rights of women and girls, which include the reversal of policies that prevent pregnant girls from going back to school and the declaration that sexual violence constitutes a national emergency.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue we recommend the following 2 recommendations for consideration by Sierra Leone:

1. Adopt and implement legislation that prohibits female genital mutilation in all its forms;

2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

We wish the delegation of Sierra Leone a successful review.

**I thank you Madam President.**