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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**38th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of sierra leone**

**12 may 2021**

**zoom**

**(65 Seconds)**

**speaker no: 97**

***Check against delivery***

Madam President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sierra Leone to this UPR Session.

South Africa wishes to respectfully make the following recommendations:

1. Expedite the enactment of the Gender Equality Bill, which provides for a minimum 30% representation of women in parliament, local councils, ministries, departments and agencies.
2. Harmonize laws to prevent and eliminate child marriage and undertake comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns on the negative consequences of child marriage on girls.
3. Develop a National Action Plan to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence and enact a specific law to prohibit Female Genital Mutilation.

South Africa commends the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs on the launch of the six pilot one-stop centres in July 2020 to provide multidisciplinary services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including psychosocial counselling, free medical services and legal assistance.

South Africa wishes Sierra Leone a successful review.

I thank you