**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Sierra Leone,**

**38th Session, May 12, 2021**

The United States warmly welcomes the Sierra Leonean delegation to Geneva.

We recommend that Sierra Leone:

1. Allocate increased budget resources to address harsh and life-threatening prison conditions including overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and lack of clean water and health care.

1. Investigate and hold accountable officials involved in corrupt practices while improving transparent governance.

1. Allocate increased budget resources to address sexual and gender-based violence, improving access to services and justice for survivors.

1. Repeal the 1861 law which criminalizes same-sex sexual activity between men.

We commend the signing into law of the Public Order Amendment Act which decriminalizes seditious libel and slander.  However, we are concerned about reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement, often with impunity.