

**Statement delivered by Loudon MATTIYA**

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**Review of Sierra Leone**

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**Thank you, Madam President.**

The Republic of Malawi warmly welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone commends Sierra Leone for the comprehensive report delivered today.

Malawi applauds Sierra Leone for its efforts in implementing the recommendations accepted in the second cycle and for its reforms in the Justice sector including the enactment of the Sexual (Amendment) Act of 2019 which increased the punishment for conviction for rape or sexual offences of minors.

In a constructive spirit, Malawi makes the following four recommendations to Sierra Leone:

1. ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearance;
2. develop a national action plan to address sexual and gender- based violence and increase efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation by enacting specific legislation to prohibit it;
3. reduce overcrowding in the country’s correctional services and improve detention conditions in line with minimum international standards; and
4. pass the Criminal Procedure Bill into law in order to reduce prolonged pretrial detention periods.

We wish Sierra Leone a successful review process.

I thank you, Madam President.