**UGANDA DELEGATION STATEMENT AT THE UPR OF SIERRA LEONE, GENEVA, MAY 2021**

**Thank you, President,**

Uganda welcomes the delegation of Sierra Leone and commends them for their inclusive approach to the UPR process.

The adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the overall enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms is not unique to Sierra Leone and still requires delicate management by all states. Therefore, the Government’s mitigation measures in response to the pandemic including support packages for livelihoods, provided the much-needed timely relief.

We observe that substantial progress has been made to implement recommendations from previous reviews, notably inclusion of pregnant girls in the main stream education system and the “*Hands Off Our Girls”* campaign. It is apparent that rape of young girls remains a challenge and we encourage the government to strengthen measures to protect girls against all forms of sexual violence.

Uganda wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Continue to make efforts to reduce the length of pre-trial detention.
2. Strengthen mechanisms to protect women and children from domestic and transnational trafficking.

We wish Sierra Leone a successful review.

I thank you.