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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO**

**THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

**34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**THE GAMBIA**

**5th November 2019**

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation of The Gambia and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

Sierra Leone commends The Gambia for the steps that it has taken to implement the recommendations of its last UPR including the ratification of a series of human rights treaties. My delegation positively notes The Gambia’s decision to re-join the Rome Statute which shows a renewed commitment to the ICC, and of prosecuting the perpetrators of the most serious crimes committed over the last two decades.

My delegation further applauds the current government’s commitment and determination in embracing reform as it relates to the rule of law, human rights and the administration of justice. Sierra Leone positively notes the measures taken to address transitional justice mechanisms, particularly the establishment of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission and the Commission of Inquiry. In this context we encourage the government to take concrete steps to implement the recommendations of the commission with a view to end impunity

My delegation notes with gratitude that almost all of the recommendations submitted by Sierra Leone have been duly implemented.

In a constructive spirit, my delegation further recommends the following:

1. Take further steps to eradicate all draconian laws aimed at stifling freedom of expression and other media laws.
2. Speed up repealing all discriminatory provisions in the Criminal Code
3. Expedite the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act

Sierra Leone wishes The Gambia every success in its 3rd Review Cycle.

I thank you.