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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO**

**THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

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

**Islamic Republic of Iran**

**8 November 2019**

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran and thanks it for the comprehensive national report just provided.

We commend Iran for the positive strides made with respect to poverty reduction and the economic development of rural areas. We are also very much impressed by the developments in the area of education, including the high rate of enrolment of children in primary and secondary schools. We note as well the positive steps taken to draft a bill for a National Human Rights Institution and we encourage the Government to expedite its creation.

Sierra Leone has a long and very fruitful relationship with Iran; and in a constructive spirit, we note an important remaining challenge with respect to ensuring greater gender-sensitive initiatives both in law and practice.

**My delegation recommends that Iran:**

Expedites the adoption of the pending draft bill entitled the Comprehensive Provision of Women’s Security Against Violence and exercise due diligence in preventing and punishing gender-based violence in line with international norms; and

Fully cooperate with, and engage in, a substantive and constructive dialogue with the United Nations special procedures

My delegation wishes Iran a successful review outcome.

**Thank you**