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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO**

**THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

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

**ITALY**

**4 November 2019**

**Mr President,**

Sierra Leone thanks the delegation of Italy for the presentation of the national report, which offers a comprehensive overview of the efforts taken by the government to implement the recommendations from the 2nd cycle.

Sierra Leone is encouraged by the positive developments that took place since the 2nd cycle UPR review. In this context, we would like to commend Italy for the adoption of Law no. 47/2017, which provides a progressive legal framework for the protection of unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

We commend in particular the establishment of an independent National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (CAT). However, the definition of torture introduced in the national law is not consistent with the CAT. It is also noteworthy that Italy has acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness through Law no. 162 of 29 September 2015. We also welcome the new Action Plan against racism, xenophobia and intolerance, which proposed measures to combat hate speech and racist violence.

However, Italy has yet to implement accepted recommendations to establish a NHRI, in line with the Paris Principles, and to strengthen the National Office against Racial Discrimination, a recommendation given by Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone would like to offer the following recommendations to the Government of Italy:

Establish an independent national human rights institution that promotes the effective exercise of fundamental rights, including those of beneficiaries of international protection;

Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

Take concrete steps in order to ensure the implementation of the new Action Plan against racism, xenophobia and intolerance, including by allocating the necessary financial and human resources;

Finally, strengthen the mandate and status of the National Office against Racial Discrimination in accordance with the Paris Principles

I thank you