

**SIERRA LEONE**

**36th Session of the UPR** (2 – 13 November 2020)

**UPR Review of LIBERIA**

2 November 2020 (14:30 – 18:00)

Madam President,

Sierra Leone warmly welcomes and thanks the delegation of Liberia for the presentation of their comprehensive 3rd cycle national report, which was produced following broad consultations.

My delegation commends Liberia's commitments in its National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP 2019-2024) to ratify human rights treaties and conventions it has signed. We also commend Liberia for submitting its first report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2018 and its first report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2019.

Sierra Leone notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Government of Liberia to promote and protect the human rights of women, girls, and all Liberians.

In particular, Sierra Leone commends the Government of Liberia for adopting the Mental Health Policy (2017-2022), the Getting to Best Education Sector Plan (G2B-ESP) (2017-2021), the National Action Plan for Disability (2018-2022), the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD 2018-2023) and Liberia's National Action Plan (LNAP) on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2023) and for enacting the Domestic Violence Act of 2019, the Kamara Abdullah Kamara Act for Press Freedom of 2019, the Local Government Act of 2018, the Land Rights Act of 2018, the Uniform Code of Military Justice Act of 2017, the Liberian National Police Act of 2016, and the Decent Work Act of 2015.

Given the above, Sierra Leone makes the following recommendations to the Government of Liberia:

1. ***Intensify efforts to promptly address incidents of gender-based violence, including sexual assault and rape. Also, promote girls' and women's empowerment leading to their full participation in national decision-making, full integration into the security apparatus, and building an inclusive society where women's rights are protected.***
2. ***Strengthen efforts to bring all prisons in Liberia in full compliance with Liberia's international obligations under the Convention Against Torture.***
3. ***Take all steps to repeal the penal law of 1978 and decriminalise free speech.***
4. ***Continue to maintain the moratorium on the death penalty and work towards its abolition.***

To conclude, Sierra Leone wishes Liberia a successful 3rd cycle review.

Thank you, Madam President.