

**Responses to Recommendations**

**SIERRA LEONE**

Review in the Working Group: 5 May 2011  
 Adoption in the Plenary: 22 September 2011

**Sierra Leone’s responses to recommendations (as of 06.01.2012):**

<b>In the Report of the Working Group:</b>	<b>In the Addendum:</b>	<b>During the plenary:</b>	<b>Summary:</b>
101 recs. accepted (among which 57 are considered as already implemented or in the process of implementation); 28 pending	Out of the 28 pending, 25 were accepted (“subject to constitutional review” or “in principle”) and 3 rejected	No additional information provided	Accepted: 126 Rejected: 3 No clear position: 0 Pending: 0

**List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/18/10:**

A - 80.1. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Spain);

A - 80.2. Examine the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina);

A - 80.3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and present the most delayed reports, particularly on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and on the two International Covenants (Costa Rica);

- A - 80.4. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish an independent national mechanism to monitor places of deprivation of liberty (France);
- A - 80.5. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (United Kingdom);
- A - 80.6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW as well as the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women (Belgium);
- A - 80.7. Consider ratifying pending treaties such as OP-CEDAW and ICRMW (Nigeria);
- A - 80.8. Ratify the ILO Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health (Hungary);
- A - 80.9. Develop national plans of action on children and on human rights (Australia);
- A - 80.10. Consider instituting a human rights training programme specifically for its army and police forces (Uganda);
- A - 80.11. Submit its outstanding reports in a step-by-step manner and make use of the reviews of the respective treaty bodies to improve its human rights situation (Japan);
- A - 80.12. Catch up with the accumulated delays in submitting reports to treaty bodies and, to do so, request appropriate assistance from the OHCHR (Algeria);
- A - 80.13. Improve the situation with implementation of its reporting obligations to the United Nations human rights bodies (Ukraine);
- A - 80.14. Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedures (Spain);
- A - 80.15. Take further initiatives towards protecting and promoting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable population (Nepal);
- A - 80.16. Strengthen actions to promote and protect rights of women and child (Bangladesh);
- A - 80.17. Continue its measures to further improve the human rights of women (Azerbaijan);
- A - 80.18. Make additional efforts to enhance the role of women in public life and ensure that these efforts are combined, for girls, with the abolition of female genital mutilation, whether it is consented to or not (Senegal);
- A - 80.19. Deepen the measures to change traditional practices and stereotypes that violate the civil, political, social and economic rights of women and prevent them from having a situation of equality with regard to men/having equality with men (Argentina);
- A - 80.20. Take all necessary measures to prevent women and girls from suffering from harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages and teenage pregnancies (Slovenia);
- A - 80.21. Further improve the health care in connection with birth delivery and address other causes of maternal mortality and address other causes of maternal mortality and other related issues such as early marriages, lack of reproductive information, unsafe abortions and female genital mutilation (Sweden);
- A - 80.22. Train law enforcement officials to deal with sexual violence cases (Brazil);
- A - 80.23. Intensify its efforts to protect the rights of the child, especially children in poverty, victims of child prostitution and children with disabilities; undertake a comprehensive review of national legislation to guarantee full implementation of the principle of non-discrimination as well as adopt a national strategy to mitigate against such a situation, as recommended by the Committee of the Rights of the Child in 2004; take all necessary measures to put an end to the practice of child soldiers (Spain);

A - 80.24. Strengthen measures of prevention and fight against phenomena affecting the rights of the children, particularly child labour and violence against children (Morocco);

A - 80.25. Undertake efforts to enforce the prohibitions on child labour, especially in its worst forms (Poland);

A - 80.26. Take measures to tackle the exploitation of children, including domestic work, hazardous labour, especially in the mining sector, commercial sex and trafficking, starting with the ratification of the ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138 and the ILO Convention No. 182 on Worst Form of Child Labour (Slovenia);

A - 80.27. Amend the 2007 law on the rights of the child for a uniform and increased minimum age for work, and ensure, through dissuasive or repressive measures, notably within the framework of a law on human trafficking, that arduous work similar to the worst forms of exploitation is not given to this vulnerable category of people (Senegal);

A - 80.28. Urgently address, the anomaly - accepted by the Government - regarding citizenship status for residents of non-African descent (Ireland);

A - 80.29. Develop a shelter system for victims of trafficking (United States);

A - 80.30. Pay particular attention to the improvement of prison conditions (Algeria);

A - 80.31. Take effective measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons and lengthy pre-trial detention as well as strengthen the judicial system including for juvenile offenders (Austria);

A - 80.32. Take steps to strengthen legal aid programmes and speed up the scheduling of trial dates and provide for better living conditions in both prisons and detention centres (United States);

A - 80.33. Improve the working conditions of judges and prosecutors, especially of prosecutors, in order to further strengthen their independence, and fill vacant positions for judges and prosecutors (Switzerland);

A - 80.34. Continue to take effective measures to push forward the poverty alleviation strategy and ensure people's basic human rights, such as the right to subsistence and the right to development (China);

A - 80.35. Continue with the support and cooperation of the international community to fight poverty (Bangladesh);

A - 80.36. Continue to apply programmes and measures to improve the enjoyment of the right to education and the right to health (Cuba);

A - 80.37. Maintain the efforts to guarantee equal access to education, particularly for women and children (Chile);

A - 80.38. Continue to ensure that programmes, services and support for HIV-prevention will reach the general population (Netherlands);

A - 80.39. Resolve the discriminatory provisions against women in relation to HIV prevention (Netherlands);

A - 80.40. Continue disseminating information and materials to the public on HIV prevention (Netherlands);

A - 80.41. Strengthen its programmes and adopt further measures in the field of HIV/AIDS (Turkey);

A - 80.42. Seek technical and financial assistance from the international community in order to deal with the poverty, unemployment and food insecurity (Azerbaijan);

A - 80.43. Consider requesting technical assistance from the High Commissioner for Human Rights to fulfil the complex task of presenting the reports to the treaty bodies (Chile);

A - 80.44. Call on the international community to support Sierra Leone's efforts through development assistance, technical assistance and capacity-building (Nigeria).

**81. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Sierra Leone which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

A - 81.1. Explicitly prohibit by law and criminalize the use of children in hostilities by the armed forces and the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by non-State armed groups (Poland);

A - 81.2. Explicitly prohibit by law and criminalize the use of children in hostilities by armed forces and the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by non-State armed groups (Slovenia);

A - 81.3. Adopt and implement a national plan for children that includes legislative measures, such as the prohibition of the use of children in armed conflicts (Costa Rica);

A - 81.4. Looking to the 2012 elections and within the context of the exploitation of Sierra Leone's natural resources, bring to the forefront a consensual approach and permanently bear in mind respect for human rights, in order to reinforce national reconciliation (Senegal);

A - 81.5. Set up the TRC Follow-up Committee and continue to implement all of the TRC recommendations (Austria);

A - 81.6. Formally establish the Follow-up Committee recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and task it to monitor and report to Government and civil society on the further implementation of the Commission's recommendations (United Kingdom);

A - 81.7. Implement fully the recommendations from the TRC (Australia);

A - 81.8. Continue the work in the field of the promotion of the rights of women and adopt all the recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in this area (Portugal);

A - 81.9. Redouble the efforts to ensure that women are represented in political life and implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in that regard (Morocco);

A - 81.10. Continue to work to strengthen national human rights mechanisms (Nepal);

A - 81.11. Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland);

A - 81.12. Allocate the resources required for the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission to carry out its core statutory functions (Australia);

A - 81.13. Strengthen the work of the Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

A - 81.14. Give adequate resources to the Human Rights Commission to enable it to discharge faithfully the onerous duty of protecting and promoting human rights in Sierra Leone (Ghana);

A - 81.15. Acknowledge and enhance the important role of women in peacebuilding and in the decision-making process. (Indonesia);

A - 81.16. Continue to strengthen its efforts and its track on socio-economic and political reforms in the bid to enhance the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms (Nigeria);

A - 81.17. Maintain efforts to promote and protect the rights of children, young people, persons with disabilities and women, and seek to overcome the low representation of women (Cuba);

A - 81.18. Implement further policies to ensure gender equality and the promotion of the rights of women and children throughout society (South Africa);

- A - 81.19. Investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for rape and other forms of gender-based violence (Norway);
- A - 81.20. Adequately staff Family Support Units in police stations to address violence against women (Austria);
- A - 81.21. Ensure that Family Support Units are located at police stations tasked with investigating and providing support to victims of sexual violence, and are adequately staffed and resourced so as to be able to carry out their mandate (Hungary);
- A - 81.22. Raise awareness by the poor and marginalized population of the legal provisions of the Domestic Violence Act; open investigations into all complaints lodged relating to domestic violence; and prosecute all cases and provide victims to appropriate services, especially the possibility to benefit from a free medical report and legal aid (Switzerland);
- A - 81.23. Intensify its efforts to combat domestic violence including rape and work against the impunity for this violence; take measures such as awareness-raising and training of the police officials in the judicial system and medical officers (Sweden);
- A - 81.24. Take all appropriate measures to address violence against women effectively and more specifically to eliminate FGM, including by making its performance a criminal offence (Austria);
- A - 81.25. Introduce an effective system towards the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) and develop governmental policy in this regard (Japan);
- A - 81.26. Facilitate an inclusive national dialogue on female genital mutilation and put in place, in cooperation with tribal chiefs, religious leaders and women's groups, effective measures to eliminate the practice (Canada);
- A - 81.27. Abolish FGM and as a first step support those initiatives from within the country which call for prohibiting FGM at least for minors of under 18 years age (Germany);
- A - 81.28. Adopt legislation to prohibit FGM and, at the same time, promote an open dialogue on this issue (Switzerland);
- A - 81.29. Fully prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation, as it represents a clear human rights violation (Portugal);
- A - 81.30. Specifically prohibit, sanction and effectively prevent the practice of female genital mutilation for children under the age of 18 (United Kingdom);
- A - 81.31. Spread information about the negative consequences of female genital mutilation, also in cooperation with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies (Italy);
- A - 81.32. Remove obstacles preventing women having effective access to justice and adopt appropriate measures to promote basic legal assistance and knowledge of women's rights, including the right to obtain redress in the courts (Mexico);
- A - 81.33. Implement measures to ensure girls' and women's access to all levels of education and ensure a higher level of women's participation in public life (Norway);
- A - 81.34. Review the current maternity health-care policies and introduce necessary changes to ensure pregnant women's access to medical facilities throughout the country (Norway);
- A - 81.35. Improve access to confidential family planning services and sexual and reproductive health services (Norway);
- A - 81.36. Put in place effective measures to implement the Child Rights Act and protect children from sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour (Canada);

- A - 81.37. Continue its endeavours to reduce the illiteracy rates and eradicate forced labour, especially child labour (Azerbaijan);
- A - 81.38. Monitor the reintegration of former child combatants, particularly girls, with the aim to ensure that appropriate assistance is provided and suitable measures are implemented (Japan);
- A - 81.39. Take effective measures to ensure local courts and traditional leaders operate in compliance with human rights obligations and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including by ensuring adequate access to human rights training and by reviewing the appointment procedures for local and traditional leaders (Canada);
- A - 81.40. Deter police officers, whatever their rank, from excessive use of force or acts of corruption, theft, extortion and other abuses; investigate abuses involving the police; hand down disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrators or prosecute them (Switzerland);
- A - 81.41. Take the necessary steps to ensure that victims of human rights violations and their families have access to full reparation in the form of restitution, compensation, satisfaction and rehabilitation (Canada);
- A - 81.42. Strengthen domestic judicial and criminal law and its effective enforcement, with respect to the accountability and corresponding sanctions of those found responsible of grave/serious human rights violations during the internal conflict in Sierra Leone, while respecting due process (Ecuador);
- A - 81.43. Shed full light on the serious human rights violations committed during the armed conflict and during the 2007 elections by the police and the security forces and incorporate into domestic law the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);
- A - 81.44. Investigate, prosecute and punish all those allegedly responsible for political-ethnic violence during and after the 2007 elections (Canada);
- A - 81.45. Uphold the right to freedom of expression and assembly (Netherlands);
- A - 81.46. Take necessary measures to ensure the independence and credibility of the bodies that will have primary jurisdiction over validating polling results in the 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, as well as to ensure the appropriate level of security at the polls sufficient for all voters to freely exercise their franchise (United States);
- A - 81.47. Take steps to eliminate child labour and forced labour and enhance respect for the rights of workers, particularly those in the mining sector. Ways to accomplish these objectives include amending the current labour laws to align with the internationally recognized fundamental worker rights, and taking measures to effectively enforce the labour laws (United States);
- A - 81.48. Intensify policies for job creation and programmes for the social reintegration of young people, especially those who were child soldiers during the civil war (Mexico);
- A - 81.49. Mobilize the necessary resources for the successful implementation of national programmes in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, such as the second poverty reduction strategy, Agenda for Change, and the health and education strategies (South Africa);
- A - 81.50. Strengthen the efforts to guarantee to all the population of Sierra Leone access to basic social services within the framework of the MDGs (Ecuador);
- A - 81.51. Allocate more financial resources to improve access to and quality of education in the country. (Indonesia);
- A - 81.52. Give special attention particularly to the education of girls and women (Turkey);
- A - 81.53. Incorporate human rights education and awareness training into the school curriculum through cooperation with and assistance from the international community (Indonesia);
- A - 81.54. Seek the assistance of the ILO to combat child labour (Brazil);

A - 81.55. Engage the civil society in the UPR follow-up process (Poland);

A - 81.56. Continue consulting with civil society in the follow-up to UPR (Austria);

A - 81.57. Strengthen the capacity to investigate, punish and prosecute complaints presented against public security forces and reinforce the autonomy of the Directorate of Complaints, Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (CDIID) office in charge of punishing corrupt practices and abuse in the use of force (Mexico).

**82. The following recommendations will be examined by Sierra Leone which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2011. The response of Sierra Leone to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at that session:**

A - 82.1. Accede to/or ratify the following international instruments: the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ecuador);

A - 82.2. Sign the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Portugal);

A - 82.3. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which prohibits the death penalty in all circumstances (France);

A - 82.4. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to abolishing the death penalty as soon as possible (Belgium);

A - 82.5. Continue to adapt the legislation to ensure the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, in particular, expressly prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation (France);

A - 82.6. Introduce reforms of domestic laws and regulations aiming at the eliminating all forms of discrimination against women (Ecuador);

R - 82.7. Bring its legislation into conformity with its commitment to equality and non-discrimination for all by prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);

R - 82.8. Repeal all provisions which may be applied to criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults (Norway);

R - 82.9. Repeal all provisions criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults (Netherlands);

A - 82.10. Enact the Freedom of Information bill, and repeal laws that provide criminal penalties for libel (United States);

A - 82.11. Adopt concrete measures to implement the National Gender Plan and the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) and consider the opportunity of adopting a national strategy to combat violence against women (Algeria);

A - 82.12. Establish a strategy to seek the elimination of practices of discrimination against women and eliminate female genital mutilation (Costa Rica);

A - 82.13. Adopt a national strategy for the elimination of violence against women (Norway);

A - 82.14. Establish a de jure moratorium on the application of the death penalty aimed at its definitive abolition in line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (France);

A - 82.15. Enact legislation as soon as possible to abolish the death penalty (Ireland);

- A - 82.16. Establish a moratorium on the application of death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition in legislation and, in this case, sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);
- A - 82.17. Abolish the death penalty completely (Austria);
- A - 82.18. Formally remove the death penalty from the statutes (Germany);
- A - 82.19. Adopt measures to abolish the death penalty (Argentina);
- A - 82.20. Consider legislative measures to abolish the death penalty (Brazil);
- A - 82.21. Ensure that the commutation of the death penalty continues to be part of the Constitutional review process (Chile);
- A - 82.22. Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- A - 82.23. Establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and support the General Assembly resolution on the moratorium on the use of death penalty (Portugal);
- A - 82.24. Formalize its present de facto moratorium on executions with a view to legislating to abolish the death penalty soon (United Kingdom);
- A - 82.25. Introduce necessary reforms to fully abolish the death penalty (Ecuador);
- A - 82.26. Establish as soon as possible an Independent Police Board and undertake an information campaign to inform the public that such a body has been created and to outline its role and functions (Ireland);
- A - 82.27. Increase the annual budget as well as set up mechanisms to investigate ways to improve education management and teaching methods (Hungary);
- A - 82.28. Intensify its efforts in the name of gender equality; amend the legal provisions that establish a system of patronising gender promotion and protection for gender reasons; and develop a comprehensive policy in favour of gender equality, including awareness campaigns in areas of society and public administration (Spain).

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