

ADVANCE QUESTIONS FOR SIERRA LEONE
SECOND BATCH

BELGIUM

- Belgium welcomes the fact that Sierra Leone has adhered to the principal UN human rights instruments. We see that your country has not as yet signed or ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Can the delegation inform us whether there are plans to proceed to ratification of these instruments?
- Belgium very much welcomes the moratorium which is in place for the death penalty in Sierra Leone. Can the delegation inform us on progress made towards the abolition of the death penalty in its internal legal order and - in order to confirm this commitment at an international level - to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- Finally we understand that a review of criminal procedures is under way and we would like to hear what progress is being made in the enactment of a Criminal Procedure Bill and whether all measures are being taken to ensure that the reform is fully in line with international human rights standards.

NETHERLANDS

➤ HIV/AIDS

- Could the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) elaborate on the progress made following the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Commission Act and indicate what further steps will be taken to end marginalization of those affected by virus diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and EVD (Ebola Virus Disease).

➤ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- Could the GoSL elaborate what steps have been taken, following the NL recommendation made during the previous UPR, to repeal all provisions criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults?

➤ Freedom of opinion and expression

- Could the GoSL elaborate on steps taken to adjust the Public Order Act 1965 in order to ensure freedom of opinion and expression?

➤ Business and Human Rights

- Could the GoSL elaborate on the safeguards implemented to ensure the rights of workers and the steps taken to adopt the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?

SWITZERLAND

- What steps has Sierra Leone taken to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- The UK notes that some of the 126 recommendations agreed by the Government after the first UPR cycle in 2011 were subject to the completion of the review of the 1991 Constitution. How will the Government ensure that the Constitutional Review is completed by the agreed timescale to allow for the recommendations to be implemented?
- What measures will the Government of Sierra Leone take to ensure that defamation charges do not undermine the right to Freedom of Expression?
- What further measures are the Government of Sierra Leone taking to prohibit the practice of Female Genital Mutilation?
- What steps will the Government take to prohibit arbitrary arrest or detention and to ensure that all detained persons enjoy legal guarantees of a fair and prompt trial in compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- What steps will the Government take to adopt a definition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in domestic legislation that is compliant with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?