



MOTHER EARTH  
FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

# Targeted UPR Recommendation - Sierra Leone 2026

## Freedom of Association

Recommendations:

- Uphold the **right to freedom of association** without undue restrictions, ensuring full compliance with **international human rights standards**.
- Amend any national laws that unduly impede the registration and operation of civil society organizations, including environmental and climate justice groups.
- Ensure that **CSOs** can operate freely, without fear of intimidation or harassment.
- Investigate and prosecute all reported cases of threats or violence against members of associations and organizations.

## Protection of Civil Society Activists, Human Rights Defenders & Journalists

Recommendations:

- Implement measures to guarantee the safety and security of civil society activists, human rights defenders, and journalists working on environmental and climate justice issues.
- Publicly condemn any attacks, threats, or acts of intimidation against activists and journalists, ensuring swift and impartial investigations.
- Provide training to law enforcement and the judiciary on the **rights of human rights defenders** and the importance of protecting civic space.
- Ensure that domestic legislation protects journalists and activists in line with **international standards**.

## Freedom of Expression, Media Freedom & Access to Information

Recommendations:

- Guarantee the **right to freedom of expression** and media freedom, both online and offline, in accordance with **Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**.
- Ensure unhindered access to information related to environmental policies, climate action, and natural resource management.
- b) **Repeal or substantially amend section 44 of the Cybersecurity and Crime Act of 2021** to align with international freedom of expression standards by removing vague and subjective language and introducing narrowly defined offences;
- c) **Institute mandatory annual human rights training** for security forces, prosecutors, and judicial officers from 2026 onward, with specific protection measures for human rights defenders, including **mandatory bail with reasonable and non-punitive conditions**.
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## Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Recommendations:

- Respect and protect the **right to peaceful assembly**, ensuring that environmental and climate justice activists can organize and participate in demonstrations without fear of reprisal.
- Refrain from using excessive force during protests and ensure that law enforcement officials are trained in de-escalation techniques.
- ) **Amend the Public Order Act of 1965**, including repealing Part III on processions, to fully guarantee the right to peaceful assembly
- Investigate and prosecute any instances of violence or unlawful interference with peaceful assemblies.

## State Engagement with Civil Society

Recommendations:

- Establish and maintain regular and meaningful consultations with civil society organizations, including environmental and climate justice groups, on policy issues related to human rights and the environment.
- Ensure that civil society organizations can participate effectively in decision-making processes at all levels.
- Provide financial and technical support to civil society organizations working on environmental and climate justice issues.
- Protect the rights of civil society organizations to seek and receive funding from domestic and international sources.

## Natural Resource Governance & Climate Action

Recommendations:

- ) **Establish a publicly accessible online beneficial ownership registry** for all private companies, particularly in the extractive sector, detailing shareholding structures and annual profits;
- b) **Guarantee Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** of affected communities before land is leased to investors;
- c) **Review the Mines and Minerals Act 2022 and the Mines and Mineral Development and Management Corporation Act 2023** to ensure compliance with the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**;
- d) **Enact and enforce legislation banning the importation and use of single-use plastic packaging**, including at customs and ports of entry—encouraging States such as **Rwanda** to make this recommendation as a best-practice example;
- e) **Support the petition before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**, filed by civil society through the Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU), seeking an **advisory opinion on States' obligations in the context of the climate crisis**.
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*In summary, these recommendations underscore the importance of protecting fundamental freedoms, fostering state engagement with civil society, ensuring access to UN special procedures, and promoting responsible natural resource governance and climate action.*



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