

Sierra Leone

Mid-term Implementation Assessment



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
<http://www.upr-info.org>



Introduction

1. Purpose of the follow-up programme

The second and subsequent cycles of the review should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the development of the human rights situation in the State under review.

A/HRC/RES/16/21, 12 April 2011 (Annex I C § 6)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process takes place every four and one half years; however, some recommendations can be implemented immediately. In order to reduce this interval, we have created a follow-up process to evaluate the human rights situation two years after the examination at the UPR.

Broadly speaking, *UPR Info* seeks to ensure the respect of commitments made in the UPR, but also, more specifically, to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their opinion on the commitments. To this end, about two years after the review, *UPR Info* invites States, NGOs, and National Institutions for Human Rights (NHRI) to share their comments on the implementation (or lack thereof) of recommendations adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC) plenary session.

For this purpose, *UPR Info* publishes a Mid-term Implementation Assessment (MIA) including responses from each stakeholder. The MIA is meant to show how all stakeholders are disposed to follow through on and to implement their commitments. States should implement the recommendations that they have accepted and civil society should monitor that implementation.

While the follow-up's importance has been highlighted by the HRC, no precise directives regarding the follow-up procedure have been set until now. Therefore, *UPR Info* is willing to share good practices as soon as possible and to strengthen the collaboration pattern between States and stakeholders. Unless the UPR's follow-up is seriously considered, the UPR mechanism as a whole could be adversely affected.

The methodology used by *UPR Info* to collect data and to calculate the index is described at the end of this document.

Geneva, 28 March 2014



Follow-up Outcomes

1. Sources and results

All data are available at the following address:

http://followup.upr-info.org/index/country/sierra_leone

We invite the reader to consult this webpage since all recommendations, all stakeholders' reports, as well as the unedited comments can be found at the same internet address.

18 stakeholders' reports were submitted for the UPR. 29 NGOs were contacted. UN agencies were not contacted. The Permanent Mission to the UN was contacted. The National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) was contacted as well.

23 NGOs responded to our enquiry. The State under Review did not respond to our enquiry. The NHRI did respond to our enquiry.

The following stakeholders took part in the report:

1. **NHRI:** (1) Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL)
2. **NGOs:** (1) CSO UPR Monitoring Group Sierra Leone (CSOUPRMGSL) (2) Equal Rights Trust (ERT) (3) Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN) (4) World Vision Sierra Leone (WVSL) (5) Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD)

IRI: 23 recommendations are not implemented, 57 recommendations are partially implemented, and 44 recommendations are fully implemented.



2. Index

Hereby the issues that the MIA covers:

rec. n°	Rec. State	Issue	IRI	page
12	Algeria	Technical assistance,Treaty bodies	partially impl.	page 25
30	Algeria	Detention conditions	fully impl.	page 35
112	Algeria	National plan of action,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 85
2	Argentina	Enforced disappearances,International instruments,Labour,Migrants,Women's rights	-	page 22
19	Argentina	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 54
119	Argentina	Death penalty	fully impl.	page 46
9	Australia	National plan of action,Rights of the Child	not impl.	page 81
51	Australia	Justice	partially impl.	page 40
56	Australia	NHRI	fully impl.	page 84
31	Austria	Detention conditions,Justice,Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 37
49	Austria	Justice	partially impl.	page 38
64	Austria	Women's rights	not impl.	page 67
68	Austria	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 68
100	Austria	Civil society,UPR process	fully impl.	page 30
120	Austria	Death penalty	not impl.	page 46
17	Azerbaijan	Women's rights	fully impl.	page 52
42	Azerbaijan	Development,Poverty,Right to food,Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 16
81	Azerbaijan	Labour,Rights of the Child	fully impl.	page 74
16	Bangladesh	Rights of the Child,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 48
35	Bangladesh	Poverty	fully impl.	page 12
6	Belgium	International instruments,Women's rights	not impl.	page 24
105	Belgium	Death penalty,International instruments	not impl.	page 33
22	Brazil	Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 57
98	Brazil	Labour,Rights of the Child,Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 77
121	Brazil	Death penalty	fully impl.	page 46
70	Canada	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 70
80	Canada	Labour,Rights of the Child,Trafficking	partially impl.	page 73
83	Canada	Human rights education and training,Justice	fully impl.	page 42
85	Canada	Justice	partially impl.	page 44
88	Canada	Elections,Public security	not impl.	page 45
108	Canada	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	not impl.	page 48
37	Chile	Right to education,Rights of the Child,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 14
43	Chile	Technical assistance,Treaty bodies	-	page 29
122	Chile	Death penalty	fully impl.	page 46
34	China	Development,Poverty	fully impl.	page 11



3	Costa Rica	CP rights - general, Detention conditions, ESC rights - general, International instruments, Racial discrimination, Torture and other CID treatment	partially impl.	page 23
47	Costa Rica	Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 63
113	Costa Rica	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 78
36	Cuba	Right to education, Right to health	fully impl.	page 12
61	Cuba	Disabilities, Rights of the Child, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 65
86	Ecuador	Justice	partially impl.	page 45
94	Ecuador	Development	fully impl.	page 17
102	Ecuador	International instruments	partially impl.	page 31
107	Ecuador	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 78
126	Ecuador	Death penalty	not impl.	page 46
4	France	Detention conditions, International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	partially impl.	page 23
87	France	Elections, Human rights education and training, International instruments, Justice	partially impl.	page 30
104	France	Death penalty, International instruments	not impl.	page 32
106	France	International instruments, Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 33
115	France	Death penalty, Justice	fully impl.	page 46
71	Germany	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 71
118	Germany	Death penalty	not impl.	page 46
58	Ghana	NHRI	partially impl.	page 84
8	Hungary	International instruments, Right to health	not impl.	page 25
65	Hungary	Justice, Rights of the Child, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 40
128	Hungary	Right to education	fully impl.	page 19
57	Indonesia	NHRI	partially impl.	page 83
59	Indonesia	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 65
95	Indonesia	Right to education	fully impl.	page 17
97	Indonesia	Human rights education and training, Right to education, Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 18
28	Ireland	Minorities	partially impl.	page 20
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127	Ireland	Justice	partially impl.	page 47
75	Italy	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	fully impl.	page 71
11	Japan	Treaty bodies	partially impl.	page 25
69	Japan	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 69
82	Japan	Rights of the Child, Women's rights	fully impl.	page 75
76	Mexico	Justice, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 42
92	Mexico	Development, International humanitarian law, Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 76
101	Mexico	Corruption, Human rights violations by state agents, Justice	partially impl.	page 45
24	Morocco	Labour, Rights of the Child	fully impl.	page 59
53	Morocco	Justice, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 64
15	Nepal	Minorities	fully impl.	page 19



54	Nepal	NHRI	partially impl.	page 82
38	Netherlands	HIV - Aids	fully impl.	page 14
39	Netherlands	HIV - Aids,Women's rights	-	page 61
40	Netherlands	HIV - Aids	fully impl.	page 15
89	Netherlands	Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,Freedom of opinion and expression	partially impl.	page 8
110	Netherlands	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	not impl.	page 48
7	Nigeria	International instruments,Labour,Migrants,Women's rights	-	page 25
44	Nigeria	Technical assistance	fully impl.	page 81
60	Nigeria	General	fully impl.	page 85
63	Norway	Women's rights	partially impl.	page 67
77	Norway	Right to education,Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 71
78	Norway	Right to health,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 72
79	Norway	Right to health,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 73
109	Norway	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	not impl.	page 48
114	Norway	Women's rights	fully impl.	page 79
25	Poland	Labour,Rights of the Child	fully impl.	page 60
45	Poland	Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 62
55	Poland	NHRI	fully impl.	page 83
99	Poland	Civil society,UPR process	fully impl.	page 30
52	Portugal	Justice,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 63
73	Portugal	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	not impl.	page 68
103	Portugal	Death penalty,International instruments	not impl.	page 32
124	Portugal	Death penalty	fully impl.	page 46
18	Senegal	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 52
27	Senegal	Labour,Rights of the Child,Trafficking	partially impl.	page 61
48	Senegal	Elections,Environment,Justice	-	page 38
20	Slovenia	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 55
26	Slovenia	International instruments,Labour,Rights of the Child,Trafficking	fully impl.	page 28
46	Slovenia	Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 62
62	South Africa	Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 66
93	South Africa	ESC rights - general,Poverty,Right to education,Right to health	not impl.	page 17
1	Spain	International instruments	not impl.	page 21
14	Spain	General	not impl.	page 26
23	Spain	International humanitarian law,Rights of the Child,Treaty bodies	partially impl.	page 27
117	Spain	Death penalty,International instruments	partially impl.	page 34
129	Spain	Human rights education and training,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 80
21	Sweden	Rights of the Child,Torture and other CID treatment,Women's rights	fully impl.	page 55
67	Sweden	Impunity,Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 41
33	Switzerland	Justice	not impl.	page 37
66	Switzerland	Justice,Rights of the Child,Women's rights	partially impl.	page 41



72	Switzerland	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	fully impl.	page 71
84	Switzerland	Corruption, Human rights violations by state agents	partially impl.	page 43
123	Switzerland	Death penalty, International instruments	not impl.	page 34
41	Turkey	HIV - Aids	fully impl.	page 16
96	Turkey	Right to education, Rights of the Child, Women's rights	fully impl.	page 77
10	Uganda	Human rights education and training	partially impl.	page 9
13	Ukraine	Treaty bodies	fully impl.	page 26
5	United Kingdom	Detention conditions, International instruments, Torture and other CID treatment	partially impl.	page 24
50	United Kingdom	Civil society, Justice	not impl.	page 39
74	United Kingdom	Rights of the Child, Torture and other CID treatment, Women's rights	partially impl.	page 68
125	United Kingdom	Death penalty	fully impl.	page 47
29	United States	Trafficking	not impl.	page 35
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91	United States	Labour, Rights of the Child	partially impl.	page 75
111	United States	Freedom of opinion and expression	partially impl.	page 9



3. Feedback on recommendations

CP Rights

Recommendation n°89: *Uphold the right to freedom of expression and assembly (Recommended by Netherlands)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSO UPR Monitoring Group Sierra Leone (CSOUPRMGSL) response:

The government has enacted the Access to Information Act but not yet repealed the Public Order Act. We recommend that the government repeals all libel laws and the Public Order Act of 1965.

Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) response:

Freedom of expression is guaranteed by Section 25 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone], however, is yet to repeal the Seditious Libel provisions in the Public Order Act 1965.

Incidents in Bumbuna in April 2012 posed both a threat to the right to freedom of expression and assembly. The HRCSL conducted a public inquiry into the incident.

World Vision Sierra Leone (WVSL) response:

There are still limitations for children. They can hardly go on holidays in areas practicing secret societies if they are not initiates.

Recommendation n°90: *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 (Recommended by United States)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In 2007, the National Electoral Commission did not have full mandate to invalidate the elections results according to the 2002 Electoral Act. However the 2012 Electoral Act has now given the mandate to the Commission to invalidate polling results which they did in 2012 elections. Police is responsible to investigate and prosecute all election related violence in Sierra Leone. During the 2012 elections a number of police arrests, investigations and prosecutions were carried out. However, the CSO UPR Monitoring Group that monitored the 2012 elections reported some political interference as a result of political pressure from higher authorities. Some charges were dropped for electoral offences due to political reasons while others served longer arbitrary arrests without charge or trial until the government intervened. We recommend special security arrangements be made to involve all stake holders in policing the 2018 elections.

HRCSL response:

Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections were held on 17th November 2012. Polling Day was observed to be peaceful with a high voter turnout. Many activities were conducted ahead of the polls to ensure that election-related rights were respected and used responsibly by all citizens, including training and other engagements with election officers, political parties, civil society, general population and vulnerable groups. A National Consultative Conference on Human Rights and Elections was held in Freetown in May 2012 on the theme “Making Rights Real in the 2012 Elections”.

Recommendation n°111: *Enact the Freedom of Information bill, and repeal laws that that provide criminal penalties for libel (Recommended by United States)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has enacted the Access to Information Act but not yet repealed the Public Order Act. We recommend that the government repeals all libel laws and the Public Order Act of 1965.

HRCSL response:

In 2011, the MoIC [Ministry of Information & Communication] forwarded a Bill entitled “the Right to Access Information Bill” to Parliament. The Bill went through the first and second readings and was subjected to the Legislative Committee Stage in Parliament. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee, after debate on the Bill, was mandated to take on-board all concerns, additions and corrections for inclusion in the Bill and subsequent presentation to the House for enactment. The MoIC has requested the Clerk of Parliament to include the FOI [Freedom of Information] Bill in the agenda of the next Parliamentary session.

In the case of the repeal of laws that provide criminal penalties for libel, the current Constitutional review process it is hoped will address the issue.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Enacted.

Comment: A closely related legislation, the Achieves Act, is not yet enacted. This leaves a big gap. Record keeping [is] very poor, especially in government circles.

ESC Rights

Recommendation n°10: *Consider instituting a human rights training programme specifically for its army and police forces (Recommended by Uganda)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Police and army are conducting human rights trainings during their normal police and military trainings which last for a limited period. We recommend that all police and



military officers undergo quarterly human rights trainings as a key criterion for promotion to higher ranks.

Equal Rights Trust (ERT) response:

Sierra Leone has training programmes for police forces in regards to human rights which have continued as the government of Sierra Leone received assistance for the Human Rights Section (HRS) of UNIPSIL [United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone], a UN technical advisor and a number of UN Civilian Police advisors.

HRCSL response:

The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs] is collaborating with the International Rescue Committee, UNDP, and AMNET-SL [Advocacy Movement Network – Sierra Leone] in providing trainings and awareness raising drives on SGBV [sexual and gender-based violence] for the law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders including the local councils and service providers for SGBV cases.

The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity of RSLAF [Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces] has conducted series of sexual harassment sensitisation tour to brigades and battalions across the force to discuss the RSLAF Sexual Harassment Policy. Gender Durbars have also been conducted at brigades, battalions, units and other departments across the RSLAF to discuss gender issues, including women empowerment, to build their capacity to address GBV [gender-based violence] issues. The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity has also trained Gender Focal Point persons for all formations and units to advise commanders and assist them in dealing with GBV matters. Gender-Based Violence and Teenage Pregnancy Workshops have been conducted in military barracks and communities. The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity is also networking with gender stakeholders, institutions and civil society groups to share experience, best practices and lessons learnt to build capacity to deal with GBV issues within the force.

The RSLAF continues to benefit from US Government sponsored courses for top and middle level ranking military officers in Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights. The US Government has also offered training courses to the RSLAF in the areas of HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development, Gender Based Violence and Women's Health. Participants for such courses were drawn from both male and female military officers.

The RSLAF Peace Support Operation Policy creates the provision for training of personnel on the Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights issues as a condition for pre-deployment.

WVSL response:

No yet in place. Police brutality is evident in most crisis and violent situations. Many have resulted in deaths by gunshots by police.

Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN) response:

Human rights training has not been integrated into the mainstream training curriculum/agenda of the army and police forces. However, there has been some level of training done by: ICRC, DCI, ODHR-SL, UNICEF and IRC on general human rights, SGBV, juvenile justice, IHL, child rights and child protection before, during and after conflict. Negotiations are going on by human rights and child protection organisations.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by China)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has developed [Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 3] called Agenda for Prosperity geared towards making Sierra Leone a middle-level income country by 2035 requiring a total budget of \$5.747bn where \$3.20bn is expected from donor partners. The government has committed \$0.463bn meaning there is a funding gap of \$2.077bn. This effort, however, needs national effort to avoid future politicisation. We recommend that Government solicits input from all facets of society to ensure non-politicisation and national ownership.

ERT response:

The government and the UNDP have signed an action plan for 2013-2014 for the achievement of development goals. The government has continued to join forces with NGOs and INGOs to further alleviate poverty and ensure basic human rights generally through workshops focused on capacity building at the community level. These include partnerships to increase female education with NGOs such as Ibis and other IGOs like the World Bank. Furthermore, the government has published a strategic document, the Agenda for Prosperity for 2013-2035. This document contained strategic actions and goals the Sierra Leone government hope to implement in order to create effective measures to propel poverty alleviation in Sierra Leone.

HRCSL response:

The poverty rate declined from 66.4% in 2003 to 52.4% in 2011 (Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey). The incidence of poverty declined in the three provincial regions – Northern (from 80.6 to 61.0%), Southern (from 64.1% to 55.4%) and Eastern (from 86.0% to 61.3%) but increased in the Western Area (from 20.7% to 28.0%) likely due to large numbers of economic migrants moving to the Western region.

In 2012 the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] adopted the third Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) called “Agenda for Prosperity” (AFP). The long term vision of Sierra Leone as reflected in the Agenda for Prosperity is a Sierra Leone that by 2035 becomes an inclusive, green, middle-income country. Education (free and compulsory education), health (health care and delivery system within 10km from every village) and good governance feature prominently in the AFP.



The AFP was prepared with broad consultations from all stakeholders and is summarized under 8 strategic pillars namely: economic diversification, managing natural resources, accelerating human development, international competitiveness, labour and employment, strengthen social protection systems, and gender equality and women's empowerment. The total costs for the implementation of all programmes across the 8 pillars in the Agenda for Prosperity is estimated at US\$5.747bn. Donor partner commitments are estimated at US\$3.20bn and GoSL allocation is US\$0.463bn leaving a funding gap of US\$2.077bn. A Secretariat for the Agenda for Prosperity has been established at the MOFED [Ministry of Finance and Economic Development].

HRDN response:

The government has done nothing to improve on the lives of its citizens as they continue to provide wrong information to the international community and the media that Sierra Leone has experienced 37% growth rate. Development is not reflected on the lives of citizens as the average common man cannot afford to get at least one meal a day.

Recommendation n°35: *Continue with the support and cooperation of the international community to fight poverty* (Recommended by Bangladesh)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government aggressively markets the Agenda for Prosperity to the international community there by embarking on improving its human rights and democratic credentials.

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°34]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°34]

Recommendation n°36: *Continue to apply programmes and measures to improve the enjoyment of the right to education and the right to health* (Recommended by Cuba)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has developed [Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 3], called Agenda for Prosperity, geared towards making Sierra Leone a middle-level income country by [2035]. The agenda includes education, health and social needs.

HRCSL response:

The equivalent of Le 250,000 (approx. 77USD) is spent per girl per year for girls' secondary education. This includes school fees and in-kind assistance such as uniforms and school materials for the girls. This program has now reached a significant number of girls in Junior Secondary School 1 (JSS1).

Approximately 160 primary and 30 junior secondary schools were constructed during the period 2008 to 2012. Between 2007/8 and 2010/11 school year there was a 6%



increase in primary school enrolment and between 2004/2005 and 2010/11 school year there was an approximately 20% increase in female enrolment at the primary school level.

Programmes and measures to improve enjoyment of the right to education are being expanded. This can be clearly seen by higher GER [Gross Enrolment Ratio] values for girls at all levels of schooling and improved gender parity values. As reported by the School Census Report and the 2013 Country Status Report on Education, parity has been achieved at the pre-primary level and is almost achieved at the primary. Gender parity is increasing rapidly at the junior and senior secondary levels and enrolment is increasing at a remarkable rate:

- Pre-primary GPI: 1.04 (2010); 1.08 (2011)
- Primary GPI: 0.94 (2010); 0.98 (2011)
- Junior Sec. GPI: 0.80 (2010); 0.89 (2011)
- Senior Sec. GPI: 0.59 (2010); 0.73 (2011)

Those who are not enjoying the right to education come in for much attention in the ESP [Education Sector Plan] in the section on 'access, equity and completion'. The ESP and IP [Implementation Plan] spell out strategies and activities to provide schooling / learning opportunities for out-of-school children, the disabled, children of the very poor, those in remote rural areas and the 'under-served' in general. Planned interventions include: constructing additional fully-functional and equipped classrooms to accommodate current and projected demand; construction of additional classrooms for inclusiveness; reducing the cost of schooling to parents and households; providing accelerated primary education for older children and youth between the ages of 10 to 15 years-old; etc.

The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] is cognizant of the fact that education is the key to development and has reflected this view in some key pillars of the Agenda for Prosperity [AFP] (Accelerating Human Development; Labour and Employment strategy; Social Protection and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment). In the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment pillar of the AFP, measures are being put in place to ensure that women's access to education is enhanced especially the retention of girls and the adult literacy. Special programmes, such as scholarship schemes for girls doing sciences and technology and free tuition for girls up to junior secondary school level, are intended to contribute to gender parity.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Free Health Care for Pregnant Women, Lactating mothers and under-fives. Free tuition for kids up to JSS3 level.

Comment: Challenges of drug shortages, supply delays, pilfering experienced in the Free Health care scheme. For Education exorbitant extra school charges, mushrooming of Private schools with no play grounds. Poor environment and sanitation. University fees increased by over 50%, but the government paid the increase.

HRDN response:

The Free Health Care is supposed to address this aspect but it is just in theory, but the reality is that there is no free health care effectively operating in the country. The government failed to respond to the call of civil society organisations to make the Free Health Care a Law and to criminalised those that [are] in breach of the law.

Recommendation n°37: Maintain the efforts to guarantee equal access to education, particularly for women and children (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°36]

ERT response:

The government has expanded school feeding plans in order to ensure that poverty does not prevent school access for children and women. Furthermore the government has continued to pay examination fees at various levels of education in attempts to assure access to education. Additionally, the government has published an Education Sector Capacity Development Strategy, which includes sections that focus on the assurance of equal access to education for women and children.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°36]

Recommendation n°38: Continue to ensure that programmes, services and support for HIV-prevention will reach the general population (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps in providing services and preventing HIV. For instance the government has established National HIV/AIDS Secretariat in 2002 under the direct supervision of the Office of the President. The secretariat has developed a policy of non discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS. The secretariat has provided Anti-retroviral drugs for HIV patients, HIV test kits and conducted sensitisation on Mother to Child Transmission supporting and collaborating with CSOs and Local Government. Government has also enacted the HIV/AIDS Commission Act 2011. However government does not have programs tailored to reach some vulnerable groups. For instance, visually, speech and hearing impaired who are sexually very active considering their life style of depression and discrimination. We recommend that government designs specialized programs targeting these vulnerable groups.

ERT response:

In honour of World Aids Day, the Sierra Leone government's National Aids Secretariat (NAS), in collaboration with partners, targeted 80,000 people for free HIV/AIDS test across the country within a week period. The government signed a grant for work with aids worth 55 million (USD).

HRCSL response:

Aggressive campaign on HIV prevention has been conducted. Testing sites increased from 556 in 2011 to 689 in 2012, and pregnant women tested increased from 138,00 in 2011 to 224,000 in 2012. Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage for Prophylaxis is 74%. Early infant diagnosis has also been scaled up to all district hospital. Strategic plan for EMTCT [Eradicating Mother to Child Transmission] has been developed. There has been an improvement on male condom branding by facilitating a MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] between UNFPA [United Nations Populations Fund] and Aids Healthcare Foundation.

The 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act was passed and made it an offence to deny a person access to any employment or educational institution because of his or her HIV status. The anti-stigmatization law is being enforced. HIV positive personnel are serving in the RSLAF [Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces], SLP [Sierra Leone Police], Prisons and other forces. Several workplaces have adopted the National HIV and AIDS policy and developed theirs. Orientations on the 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act have been held.

Importantly, part VIII sub-section 2 of the 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act stipulates that a woman is not liable to conviction because of transmission of HIV to her child before or during birth of the child or through breast feeding of that child.

Awareness raising activities on radio and TV, as well as the integration of HIV/AIDS in other programmes (e.g. Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning), as well as in religious (Sierra Leone Inter Religious AIDS Network) and private sector initiatives (Business Coalition against AIDS in Sierra Leone) are yielding results. Awareness level in the country is over 90% (BSS2011).

In terms of investment for Anti-Retro Viral drugs (ARVs), about 20,000 people are in need of ARVs and only 40% are receiving treatment. Based on these projections, the Global Fund has approved 6.5 Million \$ for the next three years to procure ARVs. It has also approved of 2 Million \$ for the procurement of HIV test kits. The MOHS [Ministry of Health and Sanitation] is now putting together a resource mobilization plan to raise funds for HIV and AIDS programmes sustainability after 2015.

Recommendation n°40: *Continue disseminating information and materials to the public on HIV prevention (Recommended by Netherlands)*

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has established the National AIDS Secretariat and enacted the 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act. However, government does not have programs tailored to reach some vulnerable groups. For instance, visually, speech and hearing impaired who are sexually very active considering their life style of depression and discrimination. We recommend that government design specialized programs targeting these vulnerable groups in service delivery and awareness raising.



ERT response:

The government received a 55 million (USD) grant to address prevention and response to HIV/AIDS and to strengthen health systems in Sierra Leone. In December 2012, a partner organisation, the Aids Healthcare Foundation, working in collaboration with the government, tested 46,559 people for HIV, in addition the government works with the said organisation to provide services to those with HIV. In 2013 the government received a 6 million euro grant from Germany for a sexual reproductive health programme, which will focus on fighting HIV, reducing HIV Stigma, spreading awareness about women's reproductive health, and addressing FGM.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°38]

Recommendation n°41: *Strengthen its programmes and adopt further measures in the field of HIV/AIDS* (Recommended by Turkey)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has made tremendous effort in this area but more needs to be done to target vulnerable groups and communities. We recommend that government designs specialized programs targeting rural communities and vulnerable/marginalised groups, eg. persons with disabilities, slums, etc.

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°40]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°38]

Recommendation n°42: *Seek technical and financial assistance from the international community in order to deal with the poverty, unemployment and food insecurity* (Recommended by Azerbaijan)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has developed a 23 years development plan (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 3 called Agenda for Prosperity) with 8 pillars covering health, education unemployment, gender etc. We recommend government to engage all national stakeholders to gain ownership and lobby the international community to fund the agenda.

ERT response:

The government of Sierra Leone has partnered with the international community for many projects aimed at addressing poverty, unemployment and food insecurity. These include partnerships with: the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UNICEF, the IMF and various foreign government sources.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°34]



Recommendation n°93: *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 (Recommended by South Africa)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has developed [Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 3], called Agenda for Prosperity, with 8 pillars covering health, education, etc. We recommend dissemination and funding the agenda and development of an effective implementation plan.

HRCSL response:

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June 2010 approved a new programme, the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) for Sierra Leone, with the objective to improve economic growth by accelerating investments in infrastructure and developing an accessible financial sector. The economic recovery programme was also supported by other multilateral and bilateral development partners including the ADB [Asian Development Bank], DFID [Department for International Development], EU [European Union] and World Bank.

To mobilize adequate resources for the implementation of projects and programmes highlighted in the Agenda for Prosperity, the GOSL [Government of Sierra Leone] will explore traditional and non-traditional sources of funding including:

- Intensify domestic revenue mobilisation
- Broaden and deepen development partner support
- Access funding through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
- Prioritise Public-Private partnership (PPP)
- Explore carbon trading
- Explore issuance of Diaspora bonds
- Intensify and broaden corporate social responsibility
- Access to internal capital markets

Recommendation n°94: *Strengthen the efforts to guarantee to all the population of Sierra Leone access to basic social services within the framework of the MDGs (Recommended by Ecuador)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government Agenda for Prosperity covers all of the MDG [Millennium Development Goals] but lack role out implementation.

HRCSL response:

See progress on recommendation [n°34, n°36, n°21, n°38, n°22].

Recommendation n°95: *Allocate more financial resources to improve access to and quality of education in the country (Recommended by Indonesia)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has developed [Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 3], called Agenda for Prosperity, with 8 pillars covering health, education, etc. We recommend dissemination and funding the agenda and development of an effective implementation plan.

HRCSL response:

The education envelope increased in the period 2004 to 2012 from Le 247 billion to Le 407 billion. In the period 2010 to 2012, the envelope increased from Le 337 billion to Le 407 billion corresponding to increase from 26% of domestically generated resources to 28%.

A new GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] Education Sector Plan (ESP) has just been prepared and endorsed by development partners in education. One of the 3 main areas covered by the ESP is 'system strengthening'. Strategies and activities to improve education management in the period 2014 to 2018 are detailed under 'system strengthening'. The implementation plan derived from the ESP spells out how education management is to be improved.

Issues to do with teaching are covered under 'quality and relevance' in the ESP. On the issue of improving teaching methods, the ESP highlights the need to improve the teaching of reading in the early grade and includes the training of teachers to teach reading as part of a project to be funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). In-service programs for teachers which would also help teachers with needed pedagogy are also detailed in the ESP and IP [Implementation Plan].

WVSL response:

Progress made: General increase in National Budget.

Comment: Inadequate. Still many teachers are not paid in time. Approval of Teachers very slow and almost [half] of our teachers, especially in the rural areas, are untrained and unqualified. Scores of others are community teachers meaning not paid by government and most times are paid in kind by communities and sometimes the pupils by doing house chores and farming work for teachers.

Recommendation n°97: Incorporate human rights education and awareness training into the school curriculum through cooperation with and assistance from the international community (Recommended by Indonesia)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Ministry of Education is to collaborate with the Human Rights Commission for Sierra Leone on this. We therefore recommend the Ministry of Education to work with Human Right Commission for Sierra Leone to develop human rights Curriculum for joint funding from government and the international community.

ERT response:

The government, in partnership with UNICEF, continued efforts to include human rights education and awareness into school curriculum. During the summer 2012



holiday, 500 practicing teachers (294 male, 206 female) were trained on gender, human rights (including child rights), health, the environment, civics and democracy (including peace education). This programme is known as the Emerging Issues teacher training programme.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°95]

Recommendation n°128: *Increase the annual budget as well as set up mechanisms to investigate ways to improve education management and teaching methods (Recommended by Hungary)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD) response:

The Educational Sector in Sierra Leone has gone through a number of reforms over the period. At the moment, though it's still facing tremendous challenges, it is hoped that the new system of "6344" system would work.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government increases budget to education every academic year. However, there is still a huge burden on parents to pay extra charges for their students/pupils even when government has a policy prohibiting payment of extra charges. We recommend Government to set up effective complaint and redress mechanisms to eradicate this burden from parents.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°95]

Minorities

Recommendation n°15: *Take further initiatives towards protecting and promoting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable population (Recommended by Nepal)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

YPPD response:

Young people constitute more than half of Sierra Leone's population, reducing vulnerability and marginalization is a challenge for these set of category alone.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has enacted the Persons with Disability Act 2011 and has established the National Commission for Persons with Disability. The Commission has developed a five year strategic Plan (2014- 2018). However the commission lacks the necessary funds to implement all the activities in the plan. We recommend that the government allocates funds to the Commission for implementation of its plan and also seek international assistance to improve standard of living of vulnerable [groups] including the aged, persons with disabilities, albinos, etc.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has passed the Disability Act 2011, the Sexual Offences Act 2012, the Local Court Act 2012 and the Legal Aid Act 2012. There is a National Gender Strategic Plan, a four-year (2010 to 2013) to fight sexual and gender-based violence, while promoting reproductive health, reproductive rights, and broader human rights, and ensuring that women were aware of their rights under the Devolution of Estates Act and the Sexual Offences Act. Many issues remain, whereby the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups are not protected: the rights of women; issues with Sierra Leone's strict citizenship requirement, which disenfranchises some ethnic minorities; a lack of enforcement of the protections of children from sexual abuse (including FGM); and continued discrimination based on sexual orientation and HIV status. The government has done little to protect or provide services for those who would be at risk for trafficking or had been trafficked. In many cases, where protections do exist, they do not extend to rural communities, which are still governed by communal law.

HRCSL response:

The Persons with Disability Act was enacted in 2011 and in the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities 2012.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Legislations on HIV and Disability in place and Commission for PWDs set.

Comment: More efforts needed to make related structures functional. Still more resources needed. Scores of PWDs in the country side are yet to be reached.

Recommendation n°28: *Urgently address, the anomaly - accepted by the Government - regarding citizenship status for residents of non-African descent (Recommended by Ireland)*

IRI: partially implemented

YPPD response:

There are massive Constitutional Reform processes currently going on in Sierra Leone especially on the 1991 Constitution. Not too sure how Citizenship is going to be clear.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps towards citizenship for residents of non-African descent. We recommend that government refers this issue to the Constitutional Review Committee.

ERT response:

No action has been taken.

HRCSL response:

Will be looked into by the Constitutional Review Committee.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Constitution Review Committee at work.

Comment: Issue supported by many Sierra Leoneans. However many are not in support of dual Citizenship for certain categories of people. Fear of domination of both the economic and political sectors of society.

International Instruments

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: not implemented

YPPD response:

As a country, Sierra Leone now has a Commission established for Persons with Disabilities, there are 3 Gender Acts, The Domestic Violence Act, Devolution of Estates Acts & Registration and Customary Marriage Acts. There is also a Referral Protocol on Gender Based Violence.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government accepted these recommendation(s) but subject to the constitutional review. In 2013, Government has established eighty member 1991 Constitutional Review Committee (CRC). We recommend government to include these recommendations in the Terms of Reference of the CRC.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has neither signed nor ratified the Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

HRCSL response:

OP-CAT - Signed [26 Sep 2003]. Awaiting Cabinet approval for ratification.

OP-CEDAW - Signed (08/09/2000) but not ratified. The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] has put the OP-CEDAW on its work plan to pursue its ratification by 2014.

OP-CESCR - No action yet.

OP-CPED - Signed (06/02/2007) but no ratified.

HRDN response:

The OP-CEDAW was signed by the government on 8th September 2000 but not ratified. The political will to fast-track the process is completely lacking.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Argentina)

IRI: -

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°1]

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has not ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

HRCSL response:

ICRMW - Signed (15/09/2000) but not ratified.

OP-CPED - Signed (06/02/2007) but no ratified.

OP-CEDAW - Signed (08/09/2000) but not ratified. The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] has put the OP-CEDAW on its work plan to pursue its ratification by 2014.

HRDN response:

ICPED was signed on 6th February 2007 but not ratified, ICRMW signed 15th September 2000 but not ratified and OP-CEDAW signed 8th September 2000 but not ratified. Lack of political will and commitment to ratify these treaties.



Recommendation n^o3: *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 (Recommended by Costa Rica)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

YPPD response:

Through the Child Rights Coalition in Sierra Leone, the Optional Protocol has been a very serious advocacy concern. This group has done a lot in ensuring the profile of the protocol is created and equally generating wider government interest for prioritization.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government is in the process of signing this convention after cabinet approval but the process is very slow. Government has sent outstanding reports on CEDAW to the Committee.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

Sierra Leone has not presented its delayed report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (due in 2006) or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (due in 1998).

Sierra Leone has presented its delayed report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (due in 2002, submitted in 2013) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (due in 1997, submitted 2012).

HRCSL response:

OP-CAT - Signed [26 Sep 2003]. Awaiting Cabinet approval for ratification

The initial reports on the ICCPR and on the CAT were submitted in 2012. The report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) was also submitted in 2012. In 2013, the 6th report on the CRC was submitted.

HRDN response:

No political will to further discuss the treaty for its ratification.

Recommendation n^o4: *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 (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In progress, but very slow. Government allows CSOs and Human Rights Commission to monitor places of deprivation. The commission has a practice to share information while the International Committee of the Red Cross which has more unhindered access to deprivation centers do not share information with CSOs and the general public. We recommend government to develop information sharing policy on deprivation centers through the Sierra Leone Prison Department.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has signed (September 2003) but not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

HRCSL response:

OP-CAT - Signed [26 Sep 2003]. Awaiting Cabinet approval for ratification.

Recommendation n°5: *Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Recommended by United Kingdom)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

YPPD response:

Advocacies going on at the national level.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°1]

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has signed (September 2003) but not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°4]

Recommendation n°6: *Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW as well as the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women (Recommended by Belgium)*

IRI: *not implemented*

YPPD response:

Much has been done on this in terms of advocacy but little in terms of practice.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°1]

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

Sierra Leone has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women.

HRCSL response:

OP-CEDAW - Signed (08/09/2000) but not ratified. The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] has put the OP-CEDAW on its work plan to pursue its ratification by 2014.

HRDN response:

Government is not sincere to fulfill its international obligations; as a result, the government does not make genuine commitment to create space for women to enjoy their rights to the fullest.

Recommendation n°7: Consider ratifying pending treaties such as OP-CEDAW and ICRMW (Recommended by Nigeria)

IRI: -

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°1]

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has signed but not ratified any additional treaties.
Sierra Leone has neither ratified OP-CEDAW nor ICRMW.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°6]

ICRMW - Signed (15/09/2000) but not ratified.

Recommendation n°8: Ratify the ILO Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health (Recommended by Hungary)

IRI: *not implemented*CSOUPRMGSL response:

Little progress has been made. More needs to be done at cabinet level to allow ratification.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has not ratified ILO Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Japan)

IRI: *partially implemented*

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Recommendation n°12: Catch up with the accumulated delays in submitting reports to treaty bodies and, to do so, request appropriate assistance from the OHCHR (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *partially implemented*CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has submitted initial reports on ICCPR, CAT, CRC and ACHPR. Government has also invited Special Rapporteur on Religion in 2013. However more



reports and visits of special procedures are still pending. We recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be capacitated by the government and the international community to fulfill this obligation.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has submitted its delayed reports on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (due 2002, submitted in 2013); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (due in 1997, submitted in 2012). In addition the Human Rights Council of Sierra Leone has offered to assist the government in filling these reports.

HRCSL response:

The initial reports on the ICCPR and on the CAT were submitted in 2012. The report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) was also submitted in 2012. In 2013, the 6th report on the CRC was submitted.

Recommendation n°13: *Improve the situation with implementation of its reporting obligations to the United Nations human rights bodies* (Recommended by Ukraine)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°12]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°12]

A conference was held by Human Rights Council of Sierra Leone to review the progress of UPR implementation by the Government of Sierra Leone with a matrix for implementation of UPR recommendations adopted for 2013 -2015.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°12]

Recommendation n°14: *Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedures* (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has also invited special rapporteur on Religion in 2013. More visits of special procedures are still pending. We recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be capacitated by the government and the international community to fulfill this obligation.

ERT response:

According to [OHCHR records](#) Sierra Leone extended an open and standing invitation to all special procedures on 7 April 2003. However, a new invitation has not been extended since the 2003 invitation.

HRCSL response:

Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion visited Sierra Leone in 2013. The SR preliminary report was very positive and the SR said she will share her findings with countries that have problems with that.

More special procedures are going to be invited before 2015.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps such as National Child and Family Welfare policy, National Child Justice Strategy, the Alternative Child Care Policy. However, effective implementation of these policies is hardly visible in communities. We recommend that government speedily establish the Child Right Commission to monitor day to day implementation of these policies. The government has also established the National Commission for Persons with Disability with an operational office in Freetown. The Commission is however seriously underfunded. We recommend that government allocate the required resources to the Commission and engage the international community assist raise the funds needed to protect the rights of children with disabilities.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 provides more protection to children from sexual abuse. Additionally, in June 2011, Sierra Leone ratified the ILO's Minimum Age Convention and Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. In 2013, the government inaugurated a dedicated Ministry of Youth Affairs to boost opportunities for education, training and business creation among youths. In 2012, the government published a [report on the Status of youth in Sierra Leone](#) providing a baseline and recommendations for action. The only measures in place to put an end to the practice of child soldiers remained the Child Rights Act 2007, which made 18 the minimum age for military recruitment, and jurisprudence by the Special Court, which ruled the recruitment and use of child soldiers to be a war crime. The Child Rights Act 2007 is still not comprehensive and allows for children to begin "light work" at the age of 13.

HRCSL response:

The National Child Welfare Policy has been developed to provide the vision to guide the strengthening of Child Protection System. The Alternative Care Policy has been developed for proper care and protection of children separated from their families and care givers. Child Welfare Departments have been established in the Local Councils and Child Welfare Committees have been established nationwide with responsibility to promote child rights awareness. The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social



Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] and Child Protection Partners have carried out Family Training and Reunification for all groups of vulnerable [children] separated from their families at District and National level. Pillar 6 in the Agenda for prosperity makes provision for the support of children in poor households. Members of the National Commission for children have been nominated and awaiting the appointment of the Chairman by H.E. the President. Sensitization on the Child Rights Act carried out by the Ministry and Partners. MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] signed with chiefs and Family Support Unit (FSU) to report and assist child abuse care. Child Protection Committees set up at national, regional and district level to coordinate and monitor child protection activities.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Slovenia)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken some positive measure under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and National Security. The Ministry in collaboration with other ministries has set up Child Labour Technical Committee (comprising the Ministry of Labour, Youth and that of Education). The Ministry of Labour has also conducted National Child Labour Survey. A specialised unit called Child Labour Unit has been established under the Ministry of Labour. However this ministry is among those like that of Social Welfare that is highly underfunded to carry out its mandate. We recommend that the Ministry of Labour be allocated the necessary funding to carry out its mandate.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has Ratified ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention) (10 June 2011) and ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Form of Child Labour) (10 June 2011), but has instituted few, if any mechanisms to prevent the continuation of child labour. There remain few implemented programs to enforce laws designed to stop the exploitation of children.

HRCSL response:

[...]

Part 8, Articles 125 to 136 of the Child Rights Act 2007 addresses the employment of children and it sets the age for full time employment and apprenticeship as 15 years, prohibits child labor at night, and sets the minimum age for light work at 13 years and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years.

The ILO Child Labour Conventions 138 (Minimum Age Convention) and 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention) were ratified in June 2011 through support provided by TACKLE Project in Sierra Leone.

Following the ratification of Convention 138, a Minimum Age for Work Declaration was made: 15 years for non hazardous work, and 18 years for hazardous work.



A list of hazardous employment/work for children under 18 years in Sierra Leone is also been developed, championed by the Child Labour Unit of the MLSS [Ministry of Labour and Social Security]. Consultations were held at Regional level, and a validation of document completed. It now needs cabinet approval.

A workshop on the formulation of a National Action Plan against Worst Forms of Child Labour (as an obligation under ILO Convention 182) was organized in August 2012. A draft NAP [National Action Plan] has already been developed.

A Child Labour National Technical Steering Committee was formed in the MLSS. The committee comprises of tripartite partners (Employers and Workers Organisations), with key Ministries such as Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Ministry of Youths and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, etc.

A Child Labour Unit was created at the MLSS to ensure that actions following the ratification of Conventions 138 and 182 are met. Its mandate includes taking the lead in national efforts to enhance the local capacity to address child labour, to ensure the integration of child labour into national policies and programmes, formulate action plans on the development and wellbeing of children and monitoring of workplaces. Two main Action Programmes (APs) implemented through TACKLE support in Sierra Leone have been completed. The first, titled “Community Responses to Child Labour” was implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The project withdrew and prevented 1,500 children from child labour through educational support. The second AP was implemented by a local NGO called Community Action for Rural Empowerment (CAREM). It targeted 200 direct child beneficiaries withdrawn of prevented from child labour through education support in 10 primary schools.

A National Child Labour Survey (which is the first in Sierra Leone) is being conducted in order to get a clearer picture of the [child labour (CL)] situation in the country. Data has already been collected and is being analysed. The draft report is expected by end of September 2013.

Awareness raising activities on child labour have also been supported through mini-programmes implemented by various partners.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: -

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government should engage the UN mission to facilitate this process.

ERT response:

There has been no publicized request for technical assistance by the government to the High Commissioner for assistance in presenting reports to the treaty bodies.



However, the Human Rights Council of Sierra Leone has offered to assist the government in filing these reports.

HRCSL response:

The initial reports on the ICCPR and on the CAT were submitted in 2012.

The report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) was also submitted in 2012.

In 2013, the 6th report on the CRC was submitted.

Recommendation n°87: *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 (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government together with the United Nations set up a tribunal called the Special Court for Sierra Leone to try those [who] were primarily responsible for the atrocities committed during the eleven years civil war. The Special Court indicted 13 persons but prosecuted nine while four did not complete their trials. The government also set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that investigated the causes of the war and recommended measures to avert such conflict. The government is a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC and has signed the four Geneva conventions. However government has not domesticated the Rome Statute and the Geneva Convention in whole. Security forces can, therefore, not be accountable under Sierra Leone except by ICC. This is because Sierra Leone is a dualist state. The Sierra Leone police and Army provided security for the 2007 elections and no serious human rights violations were recorded amounting to international crimes. We recommend that government domesticates all international human rights and humanitarian laws dealing with armed conflict, as a legacy of both the TRC and Special Court

HRCSL response:

GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has domesticated International Humanitarian Law and laws and institutions are in place.

Recommendation n°99: *Engage the civil society in the UPR follow-up process (Recommended by Poland)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

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Recommendation n°100: *Continue consulting with civil society in the follow-up to UPR (Recommended by Austria)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has shown very limited interest in the follow-up of the UPR recommendations except that through the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission, CSOs have engaged government in two follow-up national conferences. CSOs and Human Rights Commission have held a national follow-up conference in 2011 and mid-term review conferences in 2013 which called on the CSO, HRCSL and



government to form National UPR Follow-Up Committee as an outcome of a resolution of the mid-term review conference. We recommend that government allocates resources to UPR lead ministries and the Human Rights Commission to carry out the resolution of the UPR Mid-term Review Conference.

HRCSL response:

With a view to promote awareness on the UPR process and strategize the implementation of the recommendations, a National Conference on the UPR was held in Freetown on 14th and 15th November 2011 with the theme “Developing a Roadmap and Strategies for the Implementation of UPR Recommendations”. The Conference was organised by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice (AG&MJ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) with technical support from the United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). In that occasion, 200 participants representing government, civil society, local community stakeholders and international partners examined the outcome for the Sierra Leone UPR and discussed recommendations, agreed on strategies, priorities and lead actors towards the implementation of UPR recommendations.

In 2013, a Mid-Term Review Conference was held to review progress in implementation of the UPR recommendations. Civil society was involved in the organization of the Review Conference and actively participated in its deliberations.

Recommendation n°102: 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 (Recommended by Ecuador)

IRI: partially implemented

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has neither acceded to nor ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

[...]

Sierra Leone has neither acceded to nor ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Sierra Leone has neither acceded to nor ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

HRCSL response:

OP-CEDAW - Signed (08/09/2000) but not ratified. The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] has put the OP-CEDAW on its work plan to pursue its ratification by 2014.



OP-CAT - Signed [26 Sep 2003]. Awaiting Cabinet approval for ratification.

OP-CRPD - Signed (30 March 2007) but not ratified. Although not directly related to the OP-CRPD, it is worth noting the progress in implementation of the CRPD through the promulgation of the Persons with Disability Act in 2011 and the establishment of the National Commission for Persons with Disability in 2012.

Rome Statute - Signed (17/10/1998). Ratified (15/09/2000).

OP-CESCR - No action yet.

Second OP-ICCPR - No action yet. However, H.E. the President formally announced the existence of a moratorium to the death penalty at the UN General Assembly in 2011.

Recommendation n°103: *Sign the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Recommended by Portugal)*

IRI: not implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has taken some positive steps such pardoning death [...] [row] prisoners, signing the UN moratorium on death penalty. However government has subjected the abolition to the Constitutional Review process. We recommend that government includes this UPR position in the Terms of Reference of the CRC [Constitutional Review Committee].

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has not signed the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

HRCSL response:

No action yet. However, H.E. the President formally announced the existence of a moratorium to the death penalty at the UN General Assembly in 2011.

Recommendation n°104: *Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which prohibits the death penalty in all circumstances (Recommended by France)*

IRI: not implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

HRDN response:

Although there is an unofficial moratorium on the death penalty, the government is not sincere to fulfill its obligation on this treaty as many a time the death penalty is used to silence the opposition. (Hope to see what the constitutional review committee will bring).

Recommendation n°105: *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 (Recommended by Belgium)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°103]

HRDN response:

The government has no intention to abolish the death penalty as soon as possible, however wait to see the outcome of the Constitutional Review Committee.

Recommendation n°106: *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 (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Sierra Leone has enacted four gender laws most of them domesticated relevant provisions in CEDAW. Also the state has enacted the Child Right Act 2007, partially domesticating the CRC. Both Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act and the Child Right Act expressly prohibit FGM. However there are gaps in the ages. The Child Rights Act prohibit FGM below 18 while registration of customary marriage below 16. We Recommend government harmonises the two laws to expressly prohibit FGM.

ERT response:

Some steps have been taken. The Sexual Offences Act 2012 created greater legal protections for women from sexual-based violence, provides for harsher penalties for sexual abuse, and criminalises rape within marriage. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicitly prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice



continues. Community level advocacy in combination with UN support is working towards eliminating this practice. There remains, however, no comprehensive and effective legislation which fully implements CEDAW.

HRCSL response:

Sierra Leone has a dual legal system. The government of Sierra Leone as part its commitment signed and ratified CEDAW on the 21st September and 11th November 1988 respectively without reservation. Since then, Sierra has fulfilled its reporting obligations with no outstanding backlog of reporting. The government, through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, has facilitated the partial domestication of CEDAW through Statutory Instruments like the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2009; Domestic Violence Act 2007; Devolution of Estates Act 2007; Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2005; Sexual Offences Act 2012 among others.

On the issue of FGM, it is culturally entrenched in the Sierra Leone culture but efforts are been made to address the prevalence of the practice. One of the flagship projects in the Agenda for Prosperity especially Pillar 8 on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' is the enactment of law against underage initiation rites of passage for girls. It is hoped that this can be an entry point for the elimination of the practice in the long run. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed at local level with the Soweis to eliminate under-18 initiations.

Recommendation n°117: 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 (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has not taken any proactive measure to sign and ratify the protocol but has subjected it to the Constitutional Review process.

HRCSL response:

De facto moratorium has been in place for more than 10 years. A formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty was declared by H.E. President to the UN General Assembly in 2011. In 2012, Sierra Leone for the first time voted in favour of the General Assembly Resolution on the moratorium/abolition of the death penalty. The abolition of the death penalty requires a review of the Constitution. In this regard, the Constitutional Review process has been formally launched on 30th July 2013 and the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has committed to address this issue in the review process.

Recommendation n°123: Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Recommended by Switzerland)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has not taken any proactive measure to sign and ratify the protocol but has subjected it to the Constitutional Review process.

Justice

Recommendation n°29: *Develop a shelter system for victims of trafficking* (Recommended by *United States*)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government is not proactive about shelter system for victims of trafficking. Only one shelter is available in Freetown, which is not completed and well furnished for the victims. We recommend that government speedily allocate funds to complete the Freetown safe home and construct more safe homes for victims of trafficking in collaboration with the international community like UN HABITAT.

ERT response:

The government continues to rely solely on NGOs to care for most, if not all victims of trafficking.

HRDN response:

Child protection agencies through the Child Protection Committee are working to complement government efforts in this area.

Recommendation n°30: *Pay particular attention to the improvement of prison conditions* (Recommended by *Algeria*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has put in place prison strategic plan 2012 - 2014 aims to improve the terms and conditions of service for prison staff. The Government is also about changing Prison Department to correctional center to change the conditions and treatment of inmates of prison. However, there is very small number of staff of prison officers. Most of the conditions do not comply with International minimum standards of persons in detention. The Human Rights Commission has made several recommendations to government to address prison conditions, Example, Pademba Road Prison was meant for 300 inmates but, now hosts more than 1,400 inmates. All the prisons are overcrowded. Governments' plan to construct new prisons is not feasible. There are still evidences of pre-trial detainees, juvenile and convicted victims in the same detention centers.

HRCSL response:

Correctional Services Bill has been approved by Cabinet and is being prepared to be taken to Parliament. When enacted, the Bill will transform the SL Prisons Department into the SL Correctional Services and the move the focus from punishment to rehabilitation of inmates.



Prison Strategic Plan for 2012-2014 focuses on four core outcomes: to enhance inmates' welfare; to improve systems and procedures; to improve on public perception; to improve on terms and conditions of service of officers.

Achievements in 2012-2013 include: induction training for 300 new recruit; update of the Prison Officers Training School curriculum; training of trainers on gender and equal opportunities; popularization of Robben Island Guidelines on Torture, Prevention and Needs of inmates; 4 officers participating in international trainings; Prison library opened at Freetown Central Prison with support by AdvocAid and UNIPSIL [United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone]; upgrade of conditions of services which has motivated the staff.

Plans are underway in reconstruction and extension of the fencing of Kabala Prison, Barricading Port Loko and Kono Prison to separate male from the female wing. Relocation of the Freetown Central Prison to Masanki and construction of another prison at the Special Court Detention Centre for Pre-Trial will soon be undertaken by Government.

Plans are also on the way to construct a saloon at the Freetown Female Prison for inmates to acquire skills in hair dressing and a prison show room at the Prison Lower Barracks for the display of finished products from the workshops.

With regard to juvenile offenders, the National Child Justice Strategy (developed in 2006) was revised and updated into the National Child Justice Strategy (2013-2017) with a five year plan to coordinate the implementation of child Justice reforms achieved over the years. The strategy identifies key strategic outcomes and set out a concrete set of activities needed for incremental reform of the child justice system in line with the broader justice sector reform plans. The outcomes include measures to prevent juvenile delinquency and violence, diversion, rehabilitation and reintegration. Other measures include monitoring of juvenile courts and other courts to ensure that the rights of children are maintained and adhered to as offenders and victims and advocacy is also done at this level; monitoring of Police stations/cells, effective monitoring of the two Remand Homes and one Approved school for the care and protection of children that are in custody; construction of two holding places in two police stations for child offenders; Legal Aid provide by PNLA (pilot national legal aid).

The revised Criminal Procedure Act, which is completed and awaiting approval, will also introduce alternative sentencing and reduce backlog and overcrowd in prison.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Budgetary provision to refurbish some prisons.

Comment: Prisons were meant to house some 300 inmates but now have up to 1300. In the entire country there are Remand Homes in only two cities. This means children who fall foul of the law are kept in adult cells, awaiting trial. Also many cases are adjourned too many times and at times forgotten. There are many people languishing in jails for very minor crimes. Generally the justice system is not trusted



and mostly controlled by those in governance. It is the case of who pays the Piper calls the tune. The bulk of people in jail are poor people who cannot afford services of lawyers to defend them.

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The conditions in prisons are still very poor and prison officers refuse access to monitor the prisons. For instance, the Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone was refused access to monitor the prison. Juvenile offenders are still found in the cells with adults while in pre-trial detention. There is only one Remand Home and one Approved schools in juveniles but both based in Freetown. We recommend that government replicates the construction of Remand Homes and Approved Schools in all the 12 district headquarter towns. To this end we encourage government to seek international assistance especially with UN HABITAT.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°30]

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by United States)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has piloted the legal Aid scheme and has passed the Legal Aid Act 2012. However seems to be no effective implementation of the Law. There are still persons in illegal detention throughout the country due to lack of legal representation. To this end we encourage government to seek international assistance in finding good remedy to this issue.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°30]

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Switzerland)

IRI: not implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The entire Judiciary is still faced with poor working condition. Judges, prosecutors and court officials always complain to CSOs about poor working conditions in the Judiciary making the bench mostly vacant and difficult to be filled. The Judiciary relies on the Executive Branch (Ministry of Finance) for funding and the president for appointment and suspension of court officials. Hence, undermining their independence.

HRCSL response:

Plans are under way to improve the working conditions of both the Judiciary and the Law Officers department.

VWSL response:

Progress made: Projects in place to support Justice sector funded by International donors.

Comment: Judges and Magistrates are poorly paid and this is recipe for accepted bribes to give wrong judgements on cases. Very few districts have resident Magistrates so many people do not have access to justice through the courts. They are left at the mercy of local courts that deal mainly with customary laws that are not coded and thus vary from area to area.

Recommendation n°48: 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 (Recommended by Senegal)

IRI: -

CSOUPRMGSL response:

There was some procedural improvement in the 2012 election especially in the campaign, celebration days and the Biometric system of voting. However, it was marred by some human right challenges. Example, no provision was made for the visually, speech and hearing impaired by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) before and during polling day. There was halt to all Vehicular movement except for Government and election observer. This led to some citizens not voting. The result of the election clearly indicated: (a) ethnic and regional divide, (b) political and ethnical divide in Disable homes and till date, the Government has not put mechanisms in place to foster national reconciliation. For instance there was still post election division in house of Jesus (DPO Organization) until the CSO UPR Monitoring intervened but Lakka village is still experiencing this division till date as a result of the 2012 election. We recommend that government fully implement this recommendation before the 2018 election in particular National Reconciliation Committee.

HRCSL response:

Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections were held on 17th November 2012. Polling Day was observed to be peaceful with a high voter turnout. Many activities were conducted ahead of the polls to ensure that election related rights were respected and used responsibly by all citizens, including training and other engagements with election officers, political parties, civil society, general population and vulnerable groups. A National Consultative Conference on Human Rights and Elections was held in Freetown in May 2012 on the theme "Making Rights Real in the 2012 Elections".

Recommendation n°49: Set up the TRC Follow-up Committee and continue to implement all of the TRC recommendations (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Nine years after the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] report was submitted, no follow up committee for the full implementation is established. Although the Human Right Commission for Sierra Leone is expected to follow up on some of the recommendations but, is not capacitated to monitor the full implementation.

HRCSL response:

[Part 1] No progress.

[Part 2] Quite a good number of TRC recommendations have been implemented through reforms in the public sector, security sector and judicial sector. There has also been progress in promoting human rights, gender equality, youth development, addressing corruption, law reform, ratification of treaties, presidential apology to women for harms they suffered and reparation to victims recommended by the TRC.

However, the implementation of the TRC recommendations is still incomplete. Among the imperative TRC recommendations, key ones are yet to be implemented, including the repeal of seditious libel laws, the abolition of the death penalty, the repeal of sections of the constitution (27(4)(d) and (e) which are discriminatory against women, the enactment of the 30% quota for women, the repeal of provisions that make race a requisite for citizenship, and the establishment of the TRC Follow-up Committee.

Among the recommendations under the “work towards” category, important ones have not been implemented, such as the separation of the offices of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice and the enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill.

With regard to the recommendations under the “seriously consider” category, the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has yet to dismantle the OSD (paramilitary branch of the Sierra Leone Police) and create a Gender Commission, among others; a number of recommendations under the “call on” category are also awaiting implementation.

On 30th July 2013 the Constitutional Review process was formally launched by H.E. the President. A Constitutional Review Committee has been established and the Secretariat of this Committee has also been set up.

Recommendation n°50: 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 (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: not implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

No action has been taken on this recommendation

HRCSL response:

No progress



Recommendation n°51: *Implement fully the recommendations from the TRC (Recommended by Australia)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Although some of the TRC recommendations are been implemented, but, they are not linked to the TRC.

HRCSL response:

[See part 2 of response to recommendation n°49]

WVSL response:

Progress made: Through NACSA the reparations is being undertaking. Some statutory efforts have been made.

Comment: Very little provision is made to address the Victims of War. The support for the perpetrators was done speedily and now 12 years on the victims are still to be properly attended to. There is not a clear provision in the current budget to adequately meet the required actions for the TRC recommendations.

Recommendation n°65: *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 (Recommended by Hungary)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Family Support Units are fairly staffed but lack the necessary resources to provide assistance to SGBV [sexual and gender-based violence] victims/survivors.

ERT response:

NGOs and CBOs provide outside support and capacity building opportunities, but there are still a limited number (estimated to be 44) of Family Support Units across Sierra Leone, most staffed by poorly trained officers. Such FSUs continue to be considered under resourced in terms of staff, training, and availability, due to the limited number of units.

HRCSL response:

The Family Support Unit (FSU) deals with sexual and gender based violence [SGBV] committed against women and children. The Moyamba Division has been the pilot division for the FSU, sponsored by the then Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP). All divisions now have FSU.

Saturday Courts sittings to focus exclusively on cases of SGBV have helped to prosecute and punish those responsible for SGBV in a more timely manner.

The Rainbow hospital located at Ascension town, in Kingtom, provides free medical treatment for SGBV victims. These provisions are yet to be replicated in other regions and divisions of the country. However, a National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence was approved and signed by all relevant MDA's in 2012.



Recommendation n°66: *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 (Recommended by Switzerland)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Although Sierra Leone has enacted the Domestic Violence Act 2007 and Sexual Offences Act 2012 but, there are gaps between the Act and the UN convention on ending violence against women. It also important to note that the Act is not popularized. The government has also developed a National Referral Protocol in 2012 for victims/survivors of SGBV. However, there is no mechanism in place for popularisation and implementation. We recommend the Government to review the Acts to be in compliance with the above mentioned UN conventions and seek assistance from the International Community to popularize and implement the National referral Protocol for victims/survivors of SGBV.

ERT response:

The government partnered with UNFPA to hold workshops for local social workers and traditional leaders on prevention measures for domestic violence, as well as health care and psychosocial support for victims of SBV.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°65]

Recommendation n°67: *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 (Recommended by Sweden)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government through the police and in collaboration with CSOs, UN Agencies, INGOs has put in place mechanisms to combat domestic violence. However, there is limited awareness amongst judicial and medical officials. We recommend that government design awareness programs on Domestic Violence focusing on the Judiciary and medical officials. Most cases reported by persons with disabilities including visually, speech and hearing impaired never access justice as result of lack sign language interpretation and the use of Braille. Such cases therefore, go unpunished. We recommend that police officer, medical officers in the judicial system be trained on the use of sign language and be included in the police and medical curricula.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 created greater legal protections for women from sexual-based violence. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM [Female Genital Mutilation] to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to



the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicitly prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Community level advocacy in combination with UN support is working towards eliminating this practice.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°65]

WVSL response:

Progress made: Act reviewed and passed in 2012.

Comment: Yet to come up with deterrent measures on the ground. Cultural and traditional trappings do entrench the perpetration of domestic violence.

Recommendation n°76: 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 (Recommended by Mexico)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

There is no legal barrier for women access to justice. However due to strong customary and traditional norms especially in the rural areas women barred to effectively access justices. E.g. forced marriage, inaccess to property as widow, etc.

HRCSL response:

Access to justice and equality before the law is a fundamental human right. To promote access to justice without discrimination, the GoSL passed into law the Legal Aid Bill in 2012. Mechanisms are now being put in place for the effective implementation of the Legal Aid Act 2012 with government and civil society actors fully involved.

Through our advocacy campaigns in collaboration with our women rights' activist, the Judiciary has established special court sittings (mostly on Saturdays) to adjudicate on domestic and sexual gender-based violence cases. The MSWGCA is collaborating with its partners for the awareness raising and sensitization of policies and laws aimed at enhancing their knowledge on their rights and how to hold duty bearers accountable.

The enactment of the Local Courts Act 2011 also contributes to improve access to justice.

Recommendation n°83: 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 (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has repealed the Local Court Act of 1965. The new Act has made provision for equal opportunity for women to serve as a Local Court Chairperson and that the Chief Justice now appoints Court Chairpersons instead the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. However limited effort is made by Government to raise awareness in communities informing women of these rights. This is responsible for the low number of women serving as Court Chairperson in Local Courts. We recommend that Government take intensive awareness raising amongst women in communities.

HRCSL response:

The Local Courts Act 2011 has moved the jurisdiction of Local Courts from the Min of Local Government to the Judiciary. Plans are now underway to do extensive training, including on Human Rights for all Local Court Personnel.

Recommendation n°84: 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 (Recommended by Switzerland)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The police has always admitted that they are force for good due to trainings they have undergone. They have also established a disciplinary unit called CDIID-Complain Discipline, Investigation, Information Department. This unit is responsible to discipline all misconduct in the Police force. However, there are challenges in this Unit especially when a complain involves a senior police officer.

HRCSL response:

The MOD/RSLAF [Ministry of Defence/Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces] has reintroduced the Court Martial System and a Legal Department to strengthen the armed forces' capacity to prosecute, defend and punish personnel found guilty. The US Government has offered a Judge Advocate General's course to the RSLAF to train a legal officer in prosecutorial skills required to function effectively at court martial proceedings. The RSLAF Sexual Harassment and Fraternisation Policies have been endorsed by the Defence Policy Committee (DPC). These policies serve as guide to all on their behaviour and also prescribe punishment for those who infringed on the policies. The MOD/RSLAF has set up a Sexual Harassment Board with two Brigadiers as member. The board investigates sexual harassment incidents and proffer recommendations. The MOD/RSLAF has also set up a GBV desk in the office of the directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity and a welfare office at HQ Joint Force Command to address GBV related issues.

While the Independent Police Complaint Board is being operationalised, the Complaints, Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (CDIID) monitors the excesses of police personnel in the execution of their duties aiming at building their



image with the public. When the need arises, the CDIID also prosecutes personnel for misconduct based on the Discipline Regulations of 2001. Penalties to misconducts if proven on the balance of probabilities include dismissals, suspensions, reduction in rank, fines, evictions from barracks, corrective training, reprimands and warning letters, etc. In 2011, a total of 1589 cases were brought before the CDIID, resulting in, among else, 55 suspensions, 379 warning letters, 29 dismissals, 18 struck off, 4 reduced in rank, and over 500 corrective training.

WVSL response:

Progress made: There are structures to deal with police excesses like the CDIID.

Comment: Police brutality is manifested each time there is a crises or violent situations, many leading to civilian deaths from police guns. Virtually very little satisfactory conclusions have been reached on these cases.

Recommendation n°85: 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 (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In Sierra Leone, there is no mechanism for restitution, compensation, satisfaction and rehabilitation for victims / survivors of human right violation and their families. For example the Bumbuna riot between the police and the land owners resulted into the death of a woman and many injuries sustained. The Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone investigated and proved that there were human right violations but, till date no restitution, compensation, satisfaction and rehabilitation for the victims /survivors. Also in Grafton, over a land dispute between two communities a Journalist was killed, a wife of a disable was beaten and detained with a broken leg for three days by the police and over 17 disable persons were arrested and detained for over seventeen days without charge in violations of the national constitution. It is dishearten that there is no provision for restitution, compensation, satisfaction and rehabilitation for these victims / survivors and their families for human rights violation. We recommend to the government to include in the terms of reference of the constitutional review committee restitution, compensation, satisfaction and rehabilitation for these victims / survivors and their families of human rights violations in the new constitution.

ERT response:

The National Commission for Social Action created in the aftermath of the war in Sierra Leone continued to provide reparations for human rights violations during the conflict. For example, In 2012 the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) began a new round of cash payments to 10,753 victims of gross human rights violations suffered during Sierra Leone's decade long conflict that ended in 2002.

HRCSL response:

The six-year Reparation Programme is due to expire in 2014. The Government, which has the primary responsibility to fund the programme, provided only Le 300,000,000 (Three Hundred Million Leones) as operational and administrative



support to the programme, and made no contribution to the Victims' Trust Fund. Sustainability of the Victims' Trust Fund therefore remains a concern.

The UN Peace Building Fund provided Le 3,719,400,000 (Three Billion Seven Hundred and Nineteen Million Four Hundred Thousand Leones) to the programme. This money was used to provide micro grants of approx 75USD each to 12,398 beneficiaries.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women provided nearly 700 Hundred Million Leones for screening of 354 beneficiaries who had been victims of sexual violence and for training in various life skills and thematic issues.

Recommendation n°86: Strengthen domestic judicial and criminal law and its effective enforcement, with respect to the accountability and corresponding sanctions of A/HRC/18/10 19 those found responsible of grave/serious human rights violations during the internal conflict in Sierra Leone, while respecting due process (Recommended by Ecuador)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has repealed the Criminal Procedure Act 1965 re-enforcing domestic justice system. Government has also enacted the Legal Aid Act to provide pro-bono assistance for Indigents . However the implementation of the act and full application of the new Act is a serious challenging to the government making.

HRCSL response:

GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has domesticated International Humanitarian Law and laws and institutions are in place.

Recommendation n°88: Investigate, prosecute and punish all those allegedly responsible for political-ethnic violence during and after the 2007 elections (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: not implemented

ERT response:

No one has been prosecuted for violent conduct during elections.

Recommendation n°101: 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 (Recommended by Mexico)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The CDIID though with logistical and financial challenges has taken positive steps in ensuring that police officers are disciplined. For instance the CDII has enforced demotion, termination etc of senior police officers. The CDIID directorate is partially autonomous as it is 100% police officers and obtains authority from senior police officers. We recommend that an independent CDIID directorate be created comprising CSOs and reputable senior citizens.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°84]

Recommendation n°115: *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 (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°116: *Enact legislation as soon as possible to abolish the death penalty (Recommended by Ireland)*

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°118: *Formally remove the death penalty from the statutes (Recommended by Germany)*

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°119: *Adopt measures to abolish the death penalty (Recommended by Argentina)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°120: *Abolish the death penalty completely (Recommended by Austria)*

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°121: *Consider legislative measures to abolish the death penalty (Recommended by Brazil)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°122: *Ensure that the commutation of the death penalty continues to be part of the Constitutional review process (Recommended by Chile)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°124: *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 (Recommended by Portugal)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°126: *Introduce necessary reforms to fully abolish the death penalty (Recommended by Ecuador)*

IRI: *not implemented*CSOUPRMGSL response:

Sierra Leone is among countries in the world that has not carried out death penalty for more than ten years and also has signed the UN Moratorium on death penalty. The President was also awarded by Hands Off Cane in 2012 for not executing death penalty and pardoning convicts on death role. However there are still convicts on death role at the Maximum Pademba Road Prison. Also, government has made public pronouncements expressing intension to abolish death penalty but has always



referred the final decision to people's opinion. Although Government is in the process of reviewing the 1991 constitution, no reference was made specifically to expunge the death penalty currently in the 1991 constitution. We recommend that government include in the TOR [Terms of Reference] of CRC [Constitutional Review Committee] the abolition of death penalty

HRCSL response:

De facto moratorium has been in place for more than 10 years. A formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty was declared by H.E. President to the UN General Assembly in 2011. In 2012, Sierra Leone for the first time voted in favour of the General Assembly Resolution on the moratorium/abolition of the death penalty. The abolition of the death penalty requires a review of the Constitution. In this regard, the Constitutional Review process has been formally launched on 30th July 2013 and the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has committed to address this issue in the review process.

Recommendation n°125: *Formalize its present de facto moratorium on executions with a view to legislating to abolish the death penalty soon* (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has made pronouncements to abolish [...] [death penalty] but translating these pronouncements such as requesting the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) to abolished death penalty is yet a challenge. We recommend government to include in the TOR of CRC to abolish the [...] [death penalty].

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°115]

Recommendation n°127: *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* (Recommended by Ireland)

IRI: *partially implemented*

YPPD response:

Tough the Judiciary especially the Police is facing challenges, there is been the establishment of independent Police Partnership Boards. This has in a lot of ways helped to equally generate wider ownership of communities and stakeholders.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Cabinet has approved the bill to establish an Independent Police Board but information about the status of the bill is not reaching the public. We recommend that government intensifies public information on the status of Independent Police Board Bill.

HRCSL response:

Cabinet has approved the establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Board and the Bill has been passed into law. The Board will be dealing with serious complaints from members of the public against police officers and shall be



independent of police interference. The MIA [Ministry of Internal Affairs] has undertaken a nationwide information campaign covering all 12 districts of the country and the Western Area.

WVSL response:

Progress made: The Current police Board is headed by the Vice President. Bulk of its members appointed from government functionaries.

Comment: Decisions are mostly in the interest of the government and not the people. We often hear the phrase “Orders from Above” Meaning the remote controls from people in high places.

HRDN response:

This is on the process and is ongoing with less or no consultation with civil society and wider community.

SOGI

Recommendation n^o108: *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* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n^o109: *Repeal all provisions which may be applied to criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n^o110: *Repeal all provisions criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

No measure has been taken by the state

ERT response:

Sierra Leone rejected this recommendation and has taken no action.

Women & Children

Recommendation n^o16: *Strengthen actions to promote and protect rights of women and child* (Recommended by Bangladesh)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In 2007, Government legislated three gender laws (The Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2007, Domestic Violence Act 2009 and Devolution of Estate Act 2007). In 2012, the government also legislated the Sexual Offences Act 2012. Similarly the government has legislated the Child Right Act 2007, signed and ratified the CRC and its two optional protocols. These laws now protect women and children's rights to properties, sexual, physical and economic abuse or violence. However the implementation of relevant provisions in these laws remain a huge challenge. For instance these laws provide the protection of women and children victims of sexual and gender based violence and that they have right to transportation and safe homes. Unfortunately it is mostly CSOs, local and international NGOs that provide services meant to be provided by government. Also the CRA 2007 provides for the establishment of Child Right Commission through the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs. This commission is still in the process and not yet formally established. Therefore, even though government has promulgated laws protecting the rights of women and children, mechanism to ensure their implementation is a serious challenge. Similarly there are limited number of courts in the rural areas e.g. in the southern region there is only one (1) roving High Court Judge covering the entire four districts in the southern region. This is leading to alleged perpetrators been released on bail fearing delayed detention. Victims are most times angry seeing alleged perpetrators roaming about freely; this plays a major factor that makes the family compromise to settle the case out of court and request for compensation than awaiting long court trials. We therefore request the international community to assist government recruit more judges to make access to justice achievable, build and support safe homes for victims/survivors of SGBV.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 includes provisions on the protection from sexual abuse and harassment. The Act also establishes 18 as the age of consent and specifically prohibits spousal rape. There is a National Gender Strategic Plan (which is designed to provide health information and services to rural women). The Child's Rights Act 2007 includes provisions for family courts and importantly is interpreted by some implicitly to include protections for those under 18 from FGM. Overall, however, there has been little concrete action.

HRCSL response:

[Part 1]

The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] provided leadership and coordination in the development and implementation of these two documents. Most of the activities in both documents have been implemented by the MSWGCA and its partners.

As for the National Gender Strategic Plan, the Ministry undertook a mid-term review to assess progress in terms of implementation and those not implemented will be rolled over as part of implementation in the Agenda for Prosperity. In the case of the sister resolutions on 1325 and 1820, the Ministry has transformed the National Taskforce for the development of the SiLNAP [Sierra Leone National Action Plan] on



1325 and 1820 into a National Steering Committee for full implementation. The Ministry has concluded a second phase of the Gender and Security Sector Reform Project aimed at building the capacity of stakeholders and rural women for their engagement in security sector apparatus at the local level. Additionally, the MSWGCA developed and launched the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence in 2012.

[Part 2]

Several efforts are being made by the government especially through the MSWGCA in raising awareness on gender equality issues across the country. As set out in the Agenda for Prosperity especially pillar 8, government has identified flagship projects to undertake. These include the development and passage of a minimum 30% quota for women in governance at all levels; the establishment of the Women's Commission and the development of a comprehensive policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Ministry has begun initiating actions on these flagship projects and intends to accomplish them before the end of 2014.

The National Child Welfare Policy has been developed to provide the vision to guide the strengthening of Child Protection System. The Alternative Care Policy has been developed for proper care and protection of children separated from their families and care givers. Child Welfare Departments have been established in the Local Councils and Child Welfare Committees have been established nationwide with responsibility to promote child rights awareness. The MSWGCA and Child Protection Partners have carried out Family Training and Reunification for all groups of Vulnerable separated from their families at District and National level. Pillar 6 in the Agenda for prosperity makes provision for the support of children in poor households. Members of the National Commission for children have been nominated and awaiting the appointment of the Chairman by H.E. the President. Sensitization on the Child Rights Act carried out by the Ministry and Partners. MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] signed with chiefs and Family Support Unit (FSU) to report and assist child abuse care. Child Protection Committees set up at national, regional and district level to coordinate and monitor child protection activities.

[Part 3]

The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has taken affirmative action for the improvement of women's participation in public life through the appointment of several women in key leadership positions in the country. Positions including Chief Justice, Solicitor General Commissioner General of National Revenue Authority, Commissioner of Law Reform Commission, Auditor General, Commissioners of National Elections Commission including the Chief Electoral Commissioner, Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Government, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, Heads of Chanceries, Executive Secretaries, Commissioners of Human Rights Commission, Heads of Agencies and Parastatals among others. Government as enshrined in the Agenda for Prosperity is working on the enactment of the minimum 30% quota for women in governance at all levels.



[Part 4]

The equivalent Le 250,000 (approx. 77USD) are spent per girl per year for girls' secondary education. This includes school fees and in-kind assistance such as uniforms and school materials for the girls. This program has now reached a significant number of girls in Junior Secondary School 1 (JSS1).

Approximately 160 primary and 30 junior secondary schools were constructed during the period 2008 to 2012. Between 2007/8 and 2010/11 school year there was a 6% increase in primary school enrolment and between 2004/2005 and 2010/11 school year there was an approximately 20% increase in female enrolment at the primary school level.

Programmes and measures to improve enjoyment of the right to education are being expanded. This can be clearly seen by higher GER [Gross Enrolment Ratio] values for girls at all levels of schooling and improved gender parity values. As reported by the The School Census Report and the 2013 Country Status Report on Education, parity has been achieved at the pre-primary level and is almost achieved at the primary. Gender parity is increasing rapidly at the junior and senior secondary levels and enrolment is increasing at a remarkable rate.

- Pre-primary GPI: 1.04 (2010); 1.08 (2011)
- Primary GPI: 0.94 (2010); 0.98 (2011)
- Junior Sec. GPI: 0.80 (2010); 0.89 (2011)
- Senior Sec. GPI: 0.59 (2010); 0.73 (2011)

Those who are not enjoying the right to education come in for much attention in the ESP in the section on 'access, equity and completion'. The ESP [Education Sector Plan] and IP [Implementation Plan] spell out strategies and activities to provide schooling / learning opportunities for out-of-school children, the disabled, children of the very poor, those in remote rural areas and the 'under-served' in general. Planned interventions include: constructing additional fully-functional and equipped classrooms to accommodate current and projected demand; construction of additional classrooms for inclusiveness; reducing the cost of schooling to parents and households; providing accelerated primary education for older children and youth between the ages of 10 to 15 years-old; etc.

The GoSL is cognizant of the fact that education is the key to development and has reflected this view in some key pillars of the Agenda for Prosperity [AFP] (Accelerating Human Development; Labour and Employment strategy; Social Protection and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment). In the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment pillar of the AFP, measures are being put in place to ensure that women's access to education is enhanced especially the retention of girls and the adult literacy. Special programmes, such as scholarship schemes for girls doing sciences and technology and free tuition for girls up to junior secondary school level, are intended to contribute to gender parity.

[Part 5]

Access to justice and equality before the law is a fundamental human right. To promote access to justice without discrimination, the GoSL passed into law the Legal Aid Bill in 2012. Mechanisms are now being put in place for the effective



implementation of the Legal Aid Act 2012 with government and civil society actors fully involved. Through our advocacy campaigns in collaboration with our women rights' activist, the Judiciary has established special court sittings (mostly on Saturdays) to adjudicate on domestic and sexual gender-based violence cases. The MSWGCA is collaborating with its partners for the awareness raising and sensitization of policies and laws aimed at enhancing their knowledge on their rights and how to hold duty bearers accountable. The enactment of the Local Courts Act 2011 also contributes to improve access to justice.

VWSL response:

There is yet no clear cut stance of government on what strategy.

Recommendation n°17: *Continue its measures to further improve the human rights of women* (Recommended by Azerbaijan)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has signed and ratified CEDAW since 1988 and submitted all reports in compliance with its reporting obligation. The government has also established a specialised ministry called Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs for the promotion and protection of the rights of women in Sierra Leone. Furthermore it has presently designed its 5 year development plan (2013 -17) called the Agenda for Prosperity in which one of its eight pillars is dedicated to promoting the rights of women. However the financial and human capacity of this ministry is very weak considering the challenges it has. Over the years the ministry has relied on UN agencies working on women and children in Sierra Leone e.g. UNICEF, UN women, UNFPA etc. This means that most of the programmes planned for the ministry are hardly attended to, due to human and financial constraints. We therefore recommend the international community and the government to allocate more resources and provide technical support to the ministry to improve the human rights of women in Sierra Leone

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has passed the Sexual Offences Act 2012 (see above), a National Gender Strategic Plan. A UNFPA project continues to give legal counsel in four regions to address rights and impacts of three gender acts (Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act; Domestic Violence Act and the Devolution of Estates' Act.

Proposed legislation to ensure representation of 30% of women in parliament has yet to pass.

HRCSL response:

[See Parts 1-3 and Part 5 of the response to recommendation n°16]

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Senegal)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government of Sierra Leone has for the first time appointed women in senior government and administrative positions. Example the Chairperson of National Electoral Commission, the Chief Justice of the Judiciary, Auditor General and also to diplomatic missions. However there is no policy to guide government on enhancing public and political participation of women. Also the government has included in the Registration of Customary and Divorce Act a criminal offence for any practice of FGM on children under the age of 16 indicating that there is no total ban on the practice of FGM as long as the practice is legalised above 16. Also since the issue is highly culturally sensitive, politicians are not willing to take serious action so that they do not lose their political base. We recommend that all women in high level positions including senior politicians be free to fight the abolition of FGM.

ERT response:

Information on the governmental actions towards furthering impactful and concrete efforts on a national level to enhance the role of women is scarce. Instead various news sources detail NGO, and civil society organisation workshops at a community based level, due to the fact that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs is often underfunded and understaffed. Projects undertaken to enhance the role of women in public include efforts of the UN to spread awareness about women's health in rural areas. The long promised Gender Equality Bill still has not been passed hindering efforts to enhance the role of women in public life. In regards to FGM, 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Many rural women remained unaware of their rights due to the prevalence of customary law.

HRCSL response:

The issue of FGM is culturally ingrained in our society. The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] intend to use the enactment of law against underage initiation rites of passage for girls as the entry point. On the issue of early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancy, government enacted the Child Rights Act 2007 to address some of these issues. Additionally, government has developed and launched a National Strategy for the reduction of teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone (2013-2015). The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs is in the process of finalizing the National Child and Family Welfare Policy which will contribute immensely in addressing these menaces.

[See Part 3 of response to recommendation n°16]

The GoSL is currently working on the minimum 30% quota for women in governance and the appointment of women in leadership positions is a clear manifestation of governments' determination to increasing women's representation in public life.

WVSL response:

Progress made: Much improvement.

Comment: However on the political front there is yet no legislation to guarantee women occupy many positions in public life. In politics, parties hardly give symbols to women to stand for parliamentary or councillor positions.

Recommendation n^o19: *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* (Recommended by Argentina)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps such as signing MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] with all traditional leaders called Soweï to stop FGM, a practice that is such stereotypic cultural practice in Sierra Leone. The government has also prepared a national agenda called Agenda for Prosperity which dedicated to improving socioeconomic and political status of women in the country. Also the four gender laws give protection to women and equality in the areas of divorce, marriage, sexual and gender based violence. However these laws are not popularised in rural areas where vulnerable women are in majority. Also women participation in all development plans and political activities are very limited to urban areas. Hence traditional practices especially exclusion of women in decision making which are common in remote areas continues to persist unrecorded. We recommend that government develop a National Gender policy against all traditional practices that are not gender sensitive in fulfilment of its international obligation of gender participation and equality. We also call on government to codify all traditional laws into new constitution under review.

ERT response:

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs still receives little funding and most capacity building exercises to ensure the protection of women's rights and equality are often not the product of government, but multiple civil society groups, NGOs, and IGOs. Government officials attend and support these conferences, but little impactful legislative change has been documented. Female Parliamentarians have called for change, but have not been able to pass legislation to ensure gender equality.

HRCSL response:

Several efforts are being made by the government especially through the MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] in raising awareness on gender equality issues across the country. As set out in the Agenda for Prosperity especially pillar 8, government has identified flagship projects to undertake. These include the development and passage of a minimum 30% quota for women in governance at all levels; the establishment of the Women's Commission and the development of a comprehensive policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Ministry has begun initiating actions on these flagship projects and intends to accomplish them before the end of 2014.



Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Slovenia)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In 2007, Government legislated the Registration of Customary and Divorce Act and the Child Right Act (CRA) 2007. Both laws prohibit early marriage, FGM, harmful traditional practices, forced marriage and teenage pregnancies. However there are a lot of contradictions between the two laws. While the CRA 2007 prohibits early marriage at 18, customary marriage accepts below 18 if the parents consent. More so there is no harmonised policy on the implementation of these laws. We therefore recommend that government harmonises both the CRA and Registration of customary Marriage to remove the contradictions.

ERT response:

Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicit prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Child marriage is considered illegal and the Sexual Offences Act 2012 raised the age of consent to 18. Many of these changes have yet to reach rural areas where these practices are still common due to the prevalence of customary law outside of urban areas.

HRCSL response:

The issue of FGM is culturally ingrained in our society. The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] intend to use the enactment of law against underage initiation rites of passage for girls as the entry point. On the issue of early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancy, government enacted the Child Rights Act 2007 to address some of these issues. Additionally, government has developed and launched a National Strategy for the reduction of teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone (2013-2015). The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs is in the process of finalizing the National Child and Family Welfare Policy which will contribute immensely in addressing these menaces.

HRDN response:

Though the government has passed minimum age limit on the right of passage for the girl child, the political will of government to legislate laws prohibiting it practice is far from reality as politicians use initiation rites as means of campaigning.

Recommendation n°21: *Further improve the health care in connection with birth delivery 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 (Recommended by Sweden)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps such as launching the Free Health Care Initiative providing free medical assistance to three categories of persons i.e. lactating mothers, pregnant women and under five children. The government has also put in place the first National Health Sector Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 which guides all health care deliveries. Also government has established an independent secretariat to coordinate all HIV issues ranging from service delivery, voluntary testing and discrimination of persons living with the virus. However these services are not well monitored by the government and most monitoring even by CSOs are urban based. Health delivery reports from government are mostly from hospitals and not targeting communities. Government has also introduced a scheme called the performance based financing through World Bank meant to motivate health workers throughout the country. The scheme is however poorly monitored sometime leading to inflated reports so as to be qualified for the incentive. We therefore call on the government to allocate more resources for monitoring health service delivery both in health facilities and in communities including violating the rights of persons living with HIV. We also call on the international community to provide more support to government to accomplish its initiatives.

ERT response:

Improvements in healthcare have been minor due to lack of access to quality care as a result of a shortage of health professionals. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicit prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Child marriage is considered illegal and the Sexual Offences Act 2012 raised the age of consent to 18. Many of these changes have yet to reach rural areas where these practices are still common due to the prevalence of customary law outside of urban areas. The Sierra Leone National Gender Strategic Plan provides for additional education resources to be provided to women in rural areas to inform them about their legal rights and other information about reproduction. Connecting Healthcare services with the rural population still remains a problem. UN sponsored groups, such as H4+ have been working to provide more access to health services for women in connection with birth delivery and maternal mortality and address related issues such as early marriages.

HRCSL response:

The total health expenditure over the years increased from Le 47,6 billion in 2008 to Le 174,2 billion in 2012. In terms of policies, the first National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP) 2010-2015 was adopted to develop the country's health sector. The strategies contained in the plan focus especially on the Free Health Care (FHC) initiative for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below 5 years old. A Country Compact was adopted as a voluntary agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and its health development partners. Partners agreed to implement



the NHSSP 2010-2015 through joint working arrangements and align to government health priorities. There have been substantial reductions in the hospital case fatality rates (CFR) for the commonest childhood diseases following the introduction of the FHC: malaria CFR has decreased from 6.7% in 2009 to 1.7% in 2010, diarrhea CFR from 10.2% in 2009 to 1.3% in 2010 and pneumonia CFR from 6.6% in 2009 to 1.3% in 2010 (Health Sector Performance Review 2010).

In addition to FHC, free malaria treatment for all age groups provided in all government health facilities, including treatment for tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and survivors of gender based violence (GBV). Efforts are in the way to expand health service beyond Free Health Care bracket through social Health Insurance Scheme.

In terms of human resources, a Human Resource policy was launched in 2012 whereby all health workers salaries increased, the whole payroll was cleaned and savings were used to recruit 2000 health workers. The proportion of health centers with more than one health worker increased from 41% to 67%.

To address the overall causes of maternal mortality, the campaign for the accelerated reduction of maternal mortality (CARMMA) was launched in March 2010 with a threefold strategy: prevent pregnancy, prevent complications when delivering, treat complications. Family planning was identified as a key strategy in reducing maternal mortality. Family Planning is integrated into the FHC initiative and into district plans and free in all government health facilities. In 2012, Le 700 million (approx. \$161,000 USD) were spent specifically for the procurement of RH [Reproductive Health] commodities, including contraceptives. Ensuring safe deliveries was also central and maternal death reviews have been institutionalized at facility /hospital level.

A Performance Based Financing (PBF) Scheme was introduced at PHU level in April 2011 and hospital level in April 2012. All public PHUs and some private clinics are currently eligible to receive PBF. PBF for primary healthcare focuses on six key reproductive and child health interventions which are assessed for performance adjustment: family planning, antenatal consultations, safe deliveries, postnatal consultations, full vaccination of children under one, and outpatient consultations for children under five. PBF for hospitals focuses on quality through score mix in clinical and crosscutting criteria in eight areas: general organization, human resource management, financial management, pharmacy management, hygiene and sanitation, patients' care, health care services, laboratory. PBF is one of several policies designed to accelerate reduction of maternal and child mortality rates in line with the objectives of the MDG 4 and 5.

(See also progress in recommendation [n°78])

Recommendation n°22: *Train law enforcement officials to deal with sexual violence cases (Recommended by Brazil)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The state has established a specialised unit in the Sierra Leone Police called Family Support Unit. This unit has trained police officer in sexual and gender based crimes. Also the Republic of Sierra Leone Army has created the Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity responsible to train all military personnel in sexual and gender crime. These units and NGOs have provided series of human rights trainings as training of trainers which they have used to train their peers both for the military and police officers. Even though they have received these trainings the implementation is a huge challenge especially when law enforcement officers are alleged perpetrators. Also there is no law or policy binding law enforcement officers to be subjected to similar prosecution for SGBV offence. For instance if a military personnel is reported to the FSU most times these personnel refuse assisting the FSU insisting to be subjected to the Armed Forces laws. This is common especially when it involves senior officers. We therefore recommend that government designs a policy subjecting all law enforcement officers to comply with SGBV cases whether a serving military personnel or police officers.

ERT response:

The Sierra Leone police are developing officer training modules addressing the new Sexual Offences Act, though it has yet to finalise and deploy these modules.

HRCSL response:

The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] is collaborating with the International Rescue Committee, UNDP, and AMNET-SL [Advocacy Movement Network – Sierra Leone] in providing trainings and awareness raising drives on SGBV for the law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders including the local councils and service providers for SGBV cases.

The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity of RSLAF [Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces] has conducted series of sexual harassment sensitisation tour to brigades and battalions across the force to discuss the RSLAF Sexual Harassment Policy. Gender Durbars have also been conducted at brigades, battalions, units and other departments across the RSLAF to discuss gender issues, including women empowerment, to build their capacity to address GBV issues. The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity has also trained Gender Focal Point persons for all formations and units to advise commanders and assist them in dealing with GBV matters. Gender-Based Violence and Teenage Pregnancy Workshops have been conducted in military barracks and communities. The Directorate of Gender and Equal Opportunity is also networking with gender stakeholders, institutions and civil society groups to share experience, best practices and lessons learnt to build capacity to deal with GBV issues within the force. The RSLAF continues to benefit from US Government sponsored courses for top and middle level ranking military officers in Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights. The US Government has also offered training courses to the RSLAF in the areas of HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development, Gender Based Violence and Women's Health. Participants for such courses were drawn from both male and female military officers. The RSLAF Peace Support Operation Policy creates the provision for training of personnel on the Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights issues as a condition for pre-deployment.



[...]

HRDN response:

There has been a number of training for law enforcement officials by child rights and human rights organisations but until and unless it is integrated into the mainstream training curriculum/agenda, the possibility for its effectiveness is questionable

Recommendation n°24: *Strengthen measures of prevention and fight against phenomena affecting the rights of the children, particularly child labour and violence against children* (Recommended by Morocco)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken some positive measures to protect children from hazardous labour as enshrined in part 8 of the CRA 2007. Government has ratified the ILO conventions on child labour (convention 138 and 182) but it is yet to domesticate these conventions into our national laws. Also government has established Child Labour Unit in the Ministry of Labour. However the unit is not capacitated to monitor the implementation of child labour laws, as such child labour is very common in Sierra Leone especially in the mining areas. We recommend that government and international community provide adequate resources to this unit to monitor and rehabilitate the already affected children.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 provides more protection to children from sexual abuse. Additionally, in June 2011, Sierra Leone ratified the ILO's Minimum Age Convention and Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. In 2013, the government inaugurated a dedicated Ministry of Youth Affairs to boost opportunities for education, training and business creation among youths. In 2012, the government published a [report on the Status of Youth in Sierra Leone](#) providing a baseline and recommendations for action. The only measures in place to put an end to the practice of child soldiers remained the Child Rights Act 2007, which made 18 the minimum age for military recruitment, and jurisprudence by the Special Court, which ruled the recruitment and use of child soldiers to be a war crime. The Child Rights Act 2007 is still not comprehensive and allows for children to begin "light work" at the age of 13.

HRCSL response:

Part 8, Articles 125 to 136 of the Child Rights Act 2007 addresses the employment of children and it sets the age for full time employment and apprenticeship as 15 years, prohibits child labor at night, and sets the minimum age for light work at 13 years and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years. The ILO Child Labour Conventions 138 (Minimum Age Convention) and 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention) were ratified in June 2011 through support provided by TACKLE Project in Sierra Leone. Following the ratification of Convention 138, a Minimum Age for Work Declaration was made: 15 years for non hazardous work, and 18 years for hazardous work. A list of hazardous employment/work for children under 18 years in Sierra Leone is also been developed, championed by the Child Labour Unit of the MLSS



[Ministry of Labour and Social Security]. Consultations were held at Regional level, and a validation of document completed. It now needs cabinet approval. A workshop on the formulation of a National Action Plan against Worst Forms of Child Labour (as an obligation under ILO Convention 182) was organized in August 2012. A draft NAP has already been developed.

A Child Labour National Technical Steering Committee was formed in the MLSS. The committee comprises of tripartite partners (Employers and Workers Organisations), with key Ministries such as Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Ministry of Youths and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare etc.

A Child Labour Unit was created at the MLSS to ensure that actions following the ratification of Conventions 138 and 182 are met. Its mandate includes taking the lead in national efforts to enhance the local capacity to address child labour, to ensure the integration of child labour into national policies and programmes, formulate action plans on the development and wellbeing of children and monitoring of workplaces.

Two main Action Programmes (APs) implemented through TACKLE support in Sierra Leone have been completed. The first, titled “Community Responses to Child Labour” was implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The project withdrew and prevented 1,500 children from child labour through educational support. The second AP was implemented by a local NGO called Community Action for Rural Empowerment (CAREM). It targeted 200 direct child beneficiaries withdrawn or prevented from child labour through education support in 10 primary schools. A National Child Labour Survey (which is the first in Sierra Leone) is being conducted in order to get a clearer picture of the [child labour] situation in the country. Data has already been collected and is being analysed. The draft report is expected by end of September 2013.

Awareness raising activities on child labour have also been supported through mini-programmes implemented by various partners.

Recommendation n°25: Undertake efforts to enforce the prohibitions on child labour, especially in its worst forms (Recommended by Poland)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has made effort in area of laws and policies at international level but domestication and enforcement effort is a huge challenge. For instance in all mining communities and in the cities children are seen working alongside adults doing same work and carrying heavy loads for adults in the cities for small money or sometimes not paid. Throughout the country children can be seen breaking granite stones with adults for small or no money. We therefore recommend that Government domesticate all international laws on child labour and institute mechanism for a follow up of implementation.

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°24]



HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°24]

Recommendation n°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 (Recommended by Senegal)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has not domesticated the ILO convention 138 (minimum labour age of children) and convention 182 (worst form of child labour). We recommend that Government without delay domesticate the two ILO conventions. These two laws will harmonise minimum age and hazardous job for children and will repeal any discrepancies in the Human Trafficking Act

ERT response:

No amendments to the Child Rights Act 2007 have been made in this regard.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°24]

Recommendation n°39: Resolve the discriminatory provisions against women in relation to HIV prevention (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: -

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has enacted a law on non discrimination against person infected with HIV. However, no prosecution has been made even though there are daily reports of discrimination in public and private institutions. We therefore recommend that government effectively monitor the implementation and enforcement of this law

ERT response:

The government of Sierra Leone continues to partner with UN and civil Society organisations to distribute condoms, promote testing, and create awareness about the disease. However, there is little information on actions taken specifically to address discriminatory provisions against women in relation to HIV prevention although the President claims that the prevalence has been reduced from 4.4% to 3.2%. Most of the work is being completed through a broader mandate with most information available surrounding the actions taken on World Aids Day.

HRCSL response:

Aggressive campaign on HIV prevention has been conducted. Testing sites increased from 556 in 2011 to 689 in 2012, and pregnant women tested increased from 138,00 in 2011 to 224,000 in 2012. Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage for Prophylaxis is 74%. Early infant diagnosis has also been scaled up to all district hospital. Strategic plan for EMTCT [Eradication of Mother to Child Transmission] has been developed. There has been an improvement on male



condom branding by facilitating an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] between UNFPA and Aids Healthcare Foundation.

The 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act was passed and made it an offence to deny a person access to any employment or educational institution because of his or her HIV status. The anti-stigmatization law is being enforced. HIV positive personnel are serving in the RSLAF, SLP, Prisons and other forces. Several workplaces have adopted the National HIV and AIDS policy and developed theirs. Orientations on the 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act have been held.

Importantly, part VIII sub-section 2 of the 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act stipulates that a woman is not liable to conviction because of transmission of HIV to her child before or during birth of the child or through breast feeding of that child.

Awareness raising activities on radio and TV, as well as the integration of HIV/AIDS in other programmes (e.g. Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning), as well as in religious (Sierra Leone Inter Religious AIDS Network) and private sector initiatives (Business Coalition against AIDS in Sierra Leone) are yielding results. Awareness level in the country is over 90% (BSS2011).

[...] The MOHS [Ministry of Health and Sanitation] is now putting together a resource mobilization plan to raise funds for HIV and AIDS programmes sustainability after 2015.

Recommendation n^o45: *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 (Recommended by Poland)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

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Recommendation n^o46: *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 (Recommended by Slovenia)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has enacted laws prohibiting and criminalising the use of children in hostilities. The Child Right Act 2007 prohibits the use of children in hostilities. However it does not include holding non state actors accountable but state functionaries. The state has also signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its second Optional Protocol. Also Sierra Leone Armed Forces has put a policy on non recruitment of children into the armed forces. However there is a serious problem with age verification especially when local authorities play significant role during recruitment into armed forces. Most traditional leaders compromise the ages of their children or if the child is of special interest. We recommend that the government develops a policy age verification during recruitment into armed forces and also make birth registration compulsory.



ERT response:

There is no explicit law passed which explicitly bans the use of children in hostilities by armed forces in Sierra Leone. The Child Rights Act of 2007 only raises the recruitment age for the military to 18. A program has been launched to stop child soldier recruitment.

HRCSL response:

The Child Rights Act was enacted in 2007. The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) respectively in 1990 and the 2nd Optional Protocol on non-involvement of children in armed conflict in May 2002 and therefore set the age of recruitment as 18 years. Reports on CRC and 2nd Optional Protocol were sent to Geneva

The MOD/RSLAF [Ministry of Defence/Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces] Policy on recruitment has maintained that no individual below the age of 18 years should be recruited into the RSLAF. This is clearly spelt out in the advertisement for recruitment into the RSLAF. Birth certificates are also requested from potential recruits to authenticate the age claims made by them. Both sexes are given equal opportunity during the recruitment process.

Recommendation n°47: Adopt and implement a national plan for children that includes legislative measures, such as the prohibition of the use of children in armed conflicts (Recommended by Costa Rica)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°45]

ERT response:

[The Status of Youth report in 2012](#) was published to discover the status of youth and illustrate the steps needed to be taken to address the unique circumstances of children in Sierra Leone. There is no explicit law passed which explicitly bans the use of children in hostilities by armed forces in Sierra Leone. The Child Rights Act of 2007 only raises the recruitment age for the military to 18. A program has been launched to stop child soldier recruitment.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°45]

Recommendation n°52: 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 (Recommended by Portugal)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government is implementing some of the TRC Recommendation on the rights of women but no link is made between these recommendations and government actions. We therefore recommend that government links all actions that have to do with TRC recommendations including the agenda for prosperity.

ERT response:

The passage of Sexual Offences Act 2012 has been touted as an effort to further promote and ensure the rights of women. With regards to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations, it has been claimed by government officials that the launching of the Constitutional Review Process by President Ernest Bai Koroma in July of 2013 was to fulfil the promise made by the government to honour the recommendations, the UN Human Rights Council as well as issues raised by Sierra Leoneans. However, as the human rights commission of Sierra Leone points out that the implementation of the TRC recommendations remains incomplete and that the government has still not established the TRC follow-up committee.

HRCSL response:

Quite a good number of TRC recommendations have been implemented through reforms in the public sector, security sector and judicial sector. There has also been progress in promoting human rights, gender equality, youth development, addressing corruption, law reform, ratification of treaties, presidential apology to women for harms they suffered and reparation to victims recommended by the TRC.

However, the implementation of the TRC recommendations is still incomplete. Among the imperative TRC recommendations, key ones are yet to be implemented, including the repeal of seditious libel laws, the abolition of the death penalty, the repeal of sections of the constitution (27(4)(d) and (e) which are discriminatory against women, the enactment of the 30% quota for women, the repeal of provisions that make race a requisite for citizenship, and the establishment of the TRC Follow-up Committee.

Among the recommendations under the “work towards” category, important ones have not been implemented, such as the separation of the offices of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice and the enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill.

With regard to the recommendations under the “seriously consider” category, the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] has yet to dismantle the OSD (paramilitary branch of the Sierra Leone Police) and create a Gender Commission, among others; a number of recommendations under the “call on” category are also awaiting implementation.

On 30th July 2013 the Constitutional Review process was formally launched by H.E. the President. A Constitutional Review Committee has been established and the Secretariat of this Committee has also been set up.

Recommendation n°53: *Redouble the efforts to ensure that women are represented in political life and implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in that regard* (Recommended by Morocco)

IRI: partially implemented



CSOUPRMGSL response:

The 30% quota allocation for women in public life is yet to be enacted by Parliament as recommended in the TRC. We recommend that government speedily enact the 30% quota bill.

ERT response:

Calls for the passage of a gender equality law mandating 30% female representation to fulfil one of the recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have not yet resulted in the passage of any legislation.

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[See response to recommendation n°52]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°52]

The GoSL is currently working on the minimum 30% quota for women in governance and the appointment of women in leadership positions is a clear manifestation of governments' determination to increasing women's representation in public life.

Recommendation n°59: *Acknowledge and enhance the important role of women in peacebuilding and in the decision-making process* (Recommended by *Indonesia*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has shown its commitment to the UN Resolution 1325 dealing with peace building but no practical effort in terms of implementation. For instance no significant presence of women during London Mining riot resolution in Lunsar, African Mineral Limited riot resolution in Bumbuna, Suffin company saga with land owners in Sahn Malen etc. We therefore recommend effective implementation action by government to full commitment to this Resolution.

ERT response:

Calls for a Gender Equality Bill which would recognise the important role of women in peace building and in the decision making process, have continued and the President has made statements about the importance of women, but little legislative action is documented.

HRCSL response:

Progress has been made but full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is needed through the SiLNAP [Sierra Leone National Action Plan].

Recommendation n°61: *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* (Recommended by *Cuba*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has taken positive steps including enactment of the Child Rights Act 2007, Domestic Violence Act 2007, Sexual Violence Act 2012 and Persons with Disability Act, the National Youth Commission Act 2009. The government has



subsequently established the National Youth and Disability Commissions respectively. However government is yet to establish the Child Right Commission. Also all the Commissions established are faced with serious challenges ranging from financial, logistical and administrative problems. We therefore recommend that government allocates more funds to these Commissions and speedily establish the Child Rights Commission with adequate funding.

ERT response:

There has been governmental calls for the passage of a Gender Equality Bill to improve the low representation of women and the President has spoken about the importance of including more women representatives, including some women in his cabinet.

It has been noted by the many domestic and International NGOs that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs still remains heavily underfunded and reliant on the assistance of international organisations and NGOs to help combat women's rights violations.

HRCSL response:

[See Part 3 of recommendation n°16]

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The Persons with Disability Act was enacted in 2011 and in the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities 2012.

Recommendation n°62: *Implement further policies to ensure gender equality and the promotion of the rights of women and children throughout society* (Recommended by South Africa)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has developed national gender policy called 30% quota for women under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs. The ministry is proactive about the 30% quota for women representation in decision making. However no collective efforts from other ministries of government. We recommend government works with all the ministries to speedily enact the 30% Bill quota for women.

ERT response:

Government action included a number of actions to address these issues: the passage of the Sexual Offences Act 2012; continuing to implement the Sierra Leone National Gender Strategic Plan (2010 to 2013) drafted in conjunction with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women. Although some interpret the Child Rights Act 2007 to cover the prohibition of FGM, only 8 of the 14 districts recognise this and it has had little actual impact. There has been continued partnerships with NGOs.

HRCSL response:

Several efforts are being made by the government especially through the MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] in raising awareness on gender equality issues across the country. As set out in the Agenda for Prosperity



especially pillar 8, government has identified flagship projects to undertake. These include the development and passage of a minimum 30% quota for women in governance at all levels; the establishment of the Women's Commission and the development of a comprehensive policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Ministry has begun initiating actions on these flagship projects and intends to accomplish them before the end of 2014.

Recommendation n°63: *Investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for rape and other forms of gender-based violence* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has passed gender based Violence laws and established a special unit called the Family Support unit to investigate and prosecute rape and gender based crimes. Government has also opened Saturday courts in Freetown. However settlement of cases out of court is still common especially in the rural communities. Also police prosecuting officers sometimes compromise SGBV/ rape cases especially those not monitored by CSOs. There are enough evidence where FSU officers allow out of court settlement for serious SGBV cases such as gang rape even though such action is prohibited under the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts. The FSU does not have any victims and witness protection system in place. As such most time victims and witnesses are afraid to prosecute openly for fear of reprisal. We therefore recommend disciplinary procedure in the FSU to punish any Family Support Units staff involved in such an act. Also the government establishes victim and witness protection unit responsible to ensure that no compromise is made in any SGBV case.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has passed The Sexual Offences Act 2012, but its implementation in combination with previously passed gender laws have had a minimal impact on the actual rates of investigations, prosecutions, and punishments of rape.

HRCSL response:

The Family Support Unit (FSU) deals with sexual and gender based violence committed against women and children. The Moyamba Division has been the pilot division for the FSU, sponsored by the then Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP). All divisions now have FSU.

Saturday Courts sittings to focus exclusively on cases of SGBV have helped to prosecute and punish those responsible for SGBV in a more timely manner.

[...] However, a National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence was approved and signed by all relevant MDAs [Ministries, Departments, and Agencies] in 2012.

Recommendation n°64: *Adequately staff Family Support Units in police stations to address violence against women* (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: not implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

This still remains a huge problem due to government financial and logistical constraints. Ideally INGOs, UN agencies and local NGOs are providing different levels of trainings for staff of Family Support Units (FSU). However due to police transfer procedures from the Police High Command in Freetown, these trained staff are transferred to other units not related to SGBV and be replaced by non trained staff hence creating challenges in fully addressing SGBV in the country. We therefore recommend that the police train permanently personnel in the FSU whose transfer will be guided by need and competence.

ERT response:

NGOs and CBOs provide outside support and capacity building opportunities, but there are still a limited number (estimated to be 44) of Family Support Units across Sierra Leone, most staffed by poorly trained officers. Such FSUs continue to be considered under resourced in terms of staff, training, and availability, due to the limited number of units.

Recommendation n^o68: *Take all appropriate measures to address violence against women effectively and more specifically to eliminate FGM, including by making its performance a criminal offence* (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: *partially implemented*

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Recommendation n^o73: *Fully prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation, as it represents a clear human rights violation* (Recommended by Portugal)

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n^o74: *Specifically prohibit, sanction and effectively prevent the practice of female genital mutilation for children under the age of 18* (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

In 2007, Government legislated the Registration of Customary and Divorce Act and the Child Right Act (CRA) 2007. Both laws prohibit early marriage, FGM, harmful traditional practices, forced marriage and teenage pregnancies. However there are a lot of contradictions between the two laws. While the CRA 2007 prohibits early marriage at 18, customary marriage accepts below 18 if the parents consent. More so there is no harmonised policy on the implementation of these laws. We therefore recommend that government harmonises both the CRA and Registration of customary Marriage to remove the contradictions.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 created greater legal protections for women from sexual-based violence. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicitly prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding



criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Community level advocacy in combination with UN support is working towards eliminating this practice.

HRCSL response:

[...] The government through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs has facilitated the partial domestication of CEDAW through Statutory Instruments like the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2009; Domestic Violence Act 2007; Devolution of Estates Act 2007; Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2005; Sexual Offences Act 2012, among others.

On the issue of FGM, it is culturally entrenched in the Sierra Leone culture but efforts are being made to address the prevalence of the practice. One of the flagship projects in the Agenda for Prosperity especially Pillar 8 on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' is the enactment of law against underage initiation rites of passage for girls. It is hoped that this can be an entry point for the elimination of the practice in the long run. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed at local level with the Soweis to eliminate under-18 initiations.

Legislations including Anti-Human Trafficking Act, Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act all contribute in diverse ways to address violence against women. During the 2013 International Women's Day, H.E. the President made a strong policy statement noting that "violence against any woman is violence against state". State institutions and policies have been established to prevent and respond to violence against women (e.g. Family Support Unit, National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence, National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence).

On the issue of elimination of FGM [...]. In an attempt to promote dialogue on this issue, the theme of the Day of the African Child 2013 was "Eliminating harmful social and cultural practices affecting children: our collective responsibility".

Recommendation n°69: *Introduce an effective system towards the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) and develop governmental policy in this regard (Recommended by Japan)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°68]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°68]

HRCSL response:

Legislations including Anti-Human Trafficking Act, Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act all contribute in diverse ways to address violence against women. During the 2013 International Women's Day, H.E. the President made a strong policy statement noting that "violence against any woman is violence against state". State institutions and policies have been established to prevent and respond



to violence against women (e.g. Family Support Unit, National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence, National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence).

On the issue of elimination of FGM, dialogues have taken place at local level and have led to the adoption of MoU with the Soweis (who are responsible for girls' initiation) banning the initiation of under-18 years old girls. In an attempt to promote dialogue on this issue, the theme of the Day of the African Child 2013 was "Eliminating harmful social and cultural practices affecting children: our collective responsibility".

Recommendation n°70: 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 (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps such as signing MOU with all traditional leaders called Soweis to stop FGM, a practice that is such stereotypic cultural practice in Sierra Leone. The government has also prepared a national agenda called Agenda for Prosperity which dedicated to improving socio-economic and political status of women in the country. Also the four gender laws give protection to women and equality in the areas of divorce, marriage, sexual and gender based violence. However these laws are not popularised in rural areas where vulnerable women are in majority. Also women participation in all development plans and political activities are very limited to urban areas. Hence traditional practices especially exclusion of women in decision making which are common in remote areas continues to persist unrecorded. We recommend that government develop a National Gender policy against all traditional practices that are not gender sensitive in fulfilment of its international obligation of gender participation and equality. We also call on government to codify all traditional laws into new constitution under review.

ERT response:

At the community level, eradication efforts have focused on providing other economic options to those who perform FGM for income and informing parents about the risks and warning them not to subject their daughters to FGM. At the same time, UNFPA and local NGOs engaged with traditional leaders and local chiefs on a range of interventions, including efforts to persuade local chiefs to impose bylaws outlawing FGM for children, and include FGM eradication in district development plans. The UNFPA also had workshops for local social workers and traditional leaders on prevention measures, as well as health care and psychosocial support for victims. However few of these actions indicate a strong and active role of government. NGOs seem to be the most responsible for addressing UPR recommendations.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°69]



Recommendation n°71: *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* (Recommended by Germany)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°70]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°68]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°69]

Recommendation n°72: *Adopt legislation to prohibit FGM and, at the same time, promote an open dialogue on this issue* (Recommended by Switzerland)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°70]

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°68]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°68]

Recommendation n°75: *Spread information about the negative consequences of female genital mutilation, also in cooperation with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies* (Recommended by Italy)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

UNICEF, UNDP, UN-Women UNFPA, International Rescue Committee and many other international NGOs are working with the government to educate the public about the consequences of FGM. However some communities are more targeted than others. The National SGBV Committee needs to demarcate areas to cover the entire country on their work. We recommend that the MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] map out operational areas to eradicate duplication of activities.

ERT response:

[See response to recommendation n°70]

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°69]

Recommendation n°77: *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* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has taken positive steps in the area of access to education. For instance government has developed Education Policy of 2004 making provisions for building schools, free and compulsory primary schools etc. However is policy is poorly implemented and not monitored. Parents are still paying school fees called extra charges. Also Schools are imposing compulsory paid extra classes. The government has changed from 6-3-3-4 system of education to 6-3-4-4 without making provision for this new system. This has created huge misunderstanding between schools and parents with their children. We recommend that government come up with an implementation and monitoring strategy of the policy. We also recommend government to provide adequate resources to accommodate the new 6344 and sensitise the public on the new system.

HRCSL response:

[See Part 4 of response to recommendation n°16]

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The GoSL is currently working on the minimum 30% quota for women in governance and the appointment of women in leadership positions is a clear manifestation of governments' determination to increasing women's representation in public life.

Recommendation n°78: Review the current maternity health-care policies and introduce necessary changes to ensure pregnant women's access to medical facilities throughout the country (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Free Health care policy is yet to enacted into law. There is therefore a need to present the policy to Parliament for an enactment into law to include all pregnant women in the country. We therefore recommend that government presents the Free Health Care Initiative to House of Parliament to be enacted so as to become sustainable to allow CSOs its implementation.

HRCSL response:

The last Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) "Agenda for Change" (2008-2012) placed significant weight on reproductive health, particularly on maternal health in the country's development agenda and gave priority to the reduction of maternal and child mortality. On 27th April 2010, the Government launched the Free Health Care (FHC) that enabled pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under-five to access free-of-charge medical care and services. This initiative addressed all dimensions related to reproductive health from quality service delivery to ensuring access and utilization through demand generation. Data on the FHC show that it has succeeded in increasing the number of under-five outpatient consultation by 250% compared to the period before the launch of the policy. Between April 2010 and March 2011, there were two million new under-five consultations, over 39,000 more women delivered babies at health facilities, 12,000 maternal complications were managed at health facilities leading to a decline in associated fatality cases by 60%. Admissions at the main maternity hospital in the country increased from 800 to 12,000 between April 2010 and April 2012. An



increase of over 60% attendance at hospital and peripheral health units has been recorded for pregnant women, lactating mothers and under-five children.

(See also progress in recommendation [n°21])

Recommendation n°79: *Improve access to confidential family planning services and sexual and reproductive health services* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government is working with international NGO like Marie Stopes, PPSL, FAWE that are providing confidential family planning and sexual and reproductive health services. However government does not have any policy and well planned and coordinated Family Planning and reproductive health services. We recommend that government develops a specific policy on family planning and reproductive rights.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°78]

Recommendation n°80: *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* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has started Saturday courts for SGBV cases. It has also collaborated with INGO to establish health centers called Rainbow Center. However these facilities are only located in Freetown. Also, even though government has passed relevant laws to combat sexual and gender based violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour, full implementation especially the establishment of Women Commission and Child Right Commission are yet to be realised. Hence these abuse are still in practice without effective monitoring. We recommend the government to speedily establish through assistance from international community the Child Right Commission and Women Commission so as to monitor all relevant provisions in the Acts dealing with children and women.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 provides harsher punishments for sexual abuse of children to protect them from sexual and gender based violence and abuse. According to the Act, child prostitution, child pornography, and sexual tourism violations result in penalties of 10-15 years imprisonment. Sierra Leone has ratified ILO Convention No. 182 on Worst Form of Child Labour. However, the implementation of effective measures to enforce these actions have been largely unsuccessful.

HRCSL response:

The Child Rights Act 2007 ensures as priority the survival, protection of children from any form of harm, the right of children to development to their fullest potential and



ensuring their participation in decision making especially on issues affecting them. Sensitization on the Child Rights Act carried out by the Ministry and Partners.

The Family Support Unit (FSU) deals with sexual and gender based violence committed against women and children. The Moyamba Division has been the pilot division for the FSU, sponsored by the then Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP). All divisions now have FSU. MOU signed with chiefs and Family Support Unit (FSU) to report and assist child abuse career. Child Protection Committees set up at national, regional and district level to coordinate and monitor child protection activities.

Recommendation n°81: *Continue its endeavours to reduce the illiteracy rates and eradicate forced labour, especially child labour* (Recommended by Azerbaijan)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government is presently working on a Commission report called Gbamanja Commission which deals with broad area of child rights including elimination child labour. But the parents are not aware of the content of the Commission's report hence creating tensions between the parent, pupils and student with the government

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°24]

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[Part 2]

The equivalent Le 250,000 (approx. 77USD) are spent per girl per year for girls' secondary education. This includes school fees and in-kind assistance such as uniforms and school materials for the girls. This program has now reached a significant number of girls in Junior Secondary School 1 (JSS1).

Approximately 160 primary and 30 junior secondary schools were constructed during the period 2008 to 2012. Between 2007/8 and 2010/11 school year there was a 6% increase in primary school enrolment and between 2004/2005 and 2010/11 school year there was an approximately 20% increase in female enrolment at the primary school level.

Programmes and measures to improve enjoyment of the right to education are being expanded. This can be clearly seen by higher GER [Gross Enrolment Ratio] values for girls at all levels of schooling and improved gender parity values. As reported by the The School Census Report and the 2013 Country Status Report on Education, parity has been achieved at the pre-primary level and is almost achieved at the primary. Gender parity is increasing rapidly at the junior and senior secondary levels and enrolment is increasing at a remarkable rate.

- Pre-primary GPI: 1.04 (2010); 1.08 (2011)
- Primary GPI: 0.94 (2010); 0.98 (2011)
- Junior Sec. GPI: 0.80 (2010); 0.89 (2011)
- Senior Sec. GPI: 0.59 (2010); 0.73 (2011)



Those who are not enjoying the right to education come in for much attention in the ESP in the section on 'access, equity and completion'. The ESP [Education Sector Plan] and IP [Implementation Plan] spell out strategies and activities to provide schooling / learning opportunities for out-of-school children, the disabled, children of the very poor, those in remote rural areas and the 'under-served' in general. Planned interventions include: constructing additional fully-functional and equipped classrooms to accommodate current and projected demand; construction of additional classrooms for inclusiveness; reducing the cost of schooling to parents and households; providing accelerated primary education for older children and youth between the ages of 10 to 15 years-old; etc.

The GoSL is cognizant of the fact that education is the key to development and has reflected this view in some key pillars of the Agenda for Prosperity [AFP] (Accelerating Human Development; Labour and Employment strategy; Social Protection and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment). In the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment pillar of the AFP, measures are being put in place to ensure that women's access to education is enhanced especially the retention of girls and the adult literacy. Special programmes, such as scholarship schemes for girls doing sciences and technology and free tuition for girls up to junior secondary school level, are intended to contribute to gender parity.

Recommendation n°82: Monitor the reintegration of former child combatants, particularly girls, with the aim to ensure that appropriate assistance is provided and suitable measures are implemented (Recommended by Japan)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Government Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme never targeted girls but mainly boys. As such no policy or measure was put in place for girls ex-combatants. We recommend government to conduct a base line survey that will establish data on girl ex-combatants so that special reintegration programme will be designed for them.

ERT response:

The government of Sierra Leone has undertaken partnerships that indirectly fulfil this mandate by gathering information on, and monitoring, children through a survey of street children and the 2012 Status of Youth Report. In addition the government has been using Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a Skills training, along with formal education, to contribute to development and the much needed transformation for consolidating the peace that has been achieved so far, with potential to open up real opportunities for young women and men. The TVET programming is an integral part of a reintegration that creates and facilitates new opportunities and livelihoods for both ex-combatants.

Recommendation n°91: 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 (Recommended by United States)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Government has signed the two ILO convention on child labour but has not domesticated all the provisions in the convention.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone has Ratified ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention) (10 June 2011) and ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Form of Child Labour) (10 June 2011), but has instituted few, if any mechanisms to prevent the continuation of child labour. There remain few implemented programs to enforce laws designed to stop the exploitation of children. Mechanisms such as the Child Labour Unit remained underfunded and Labour laws on the minimum wage were not clear or enforced.

Recommendation n°92: Intensify policies for job creation and programmes for the social reintegration of young people, especially those who were child soldiers during the civil war (Recommended by Mexico)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Government undertook Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration [DDR] programme which was meant for child soldiers. However due to the Special Court for Sierra Leone most of the Commanders refused the children to go through the DDR programme. Also government did not develop any policy for reintegration and job creation for child ex-combatants. Unfortunately almost all these children are now in their youthful age. Most of them created self employment such as commercial bike riding, taxi driving, petty trading etc, as government failed to make provision in the DDR programme for child soldiers. In 2013, government introduced the operation WID [Waste Management, Improved road access and Decongestion] policy aimed at decongesting the cities in the country. The policy targets market women, commercial bike riders, disable living in the street. This action has removed most of them from their self employment which has created negative impact on their lives and society. We recommend government to review the operation WID policy to make it more youth friendly.

ERT response:

The government has undertaken partnerships with the ILO and the EU to address child labour through education. A partnership with the Child Soldier Initiative (CSI) is being developed. CSI hopes to train and employ former child soldiers to run the school program, which will teach children about their legal rights and explain child soldiers and what tactics are used to recruit children.

HRCSL response:

The poverty rate declined from 66.4% in 2003 to 52.4% in 2011 (Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey). The incidence of poverty declined in the three provincial regions – Northern (from 80.6 to 61.0%), Southern (from 64.1% to 55.4%) and Eastern (from 86.0% to 61.3%) but increased in the Western Area (from 20.7%



to 28.0%) likely due to large numbers of economic migrants moving to the Western region.

In 2012 the GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] adopted the third Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) called “Agenda for Prosperity” (AFP). The long term vision of Sierra Leone as reflected in the Agenda for Prosperity is a Sierra Leone that by 2035 becomes an inclusive, green, middle-income country. Education (free and compulsory education), health (health care and delivery system within 10 Km from every village) and good governance feature prominently in the AFP.

The AFP was prepared with broad consultations from all stakeholders and is summarized under 8 strategic pillars namely: economic diversification, managing natural resources, accelerating human development, international competitiveness, labour and employment, strengthen social protection systems, and gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The total costs for the implementation of all programmes across the 8 pillars in the Agenda for Prosperity is estimated at US\$5.747bn. Donor partner commitments is estimated at US\$3.20bn and GoSL allocation is US\$0.463bn leaving a funding gap of US\$2.077bn.

A Secretariat for the Agenda for Prosperity has been established at the MOFED [Ministry of Finance and Economic Development].

Recommendation n°96: Give special attention particularly to the education of girls and women (Recommended by Turkey)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°77]

HRCSL response:

[See Part 2 of response to recommendation n°81]

Recommendation n°98: Seek the assistance of the ILO to combat child labour (Recommended by Brazil)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government is working with ILO to combat child labour. Government has taken positive step in dealing with child labour. But funding constraints limits its success. We recommend ILO to build the capacity of the Ministry of labour raise the necessary funding needed.

ERT response:

The ILO and Sierra Leone have completed a project for the withdrawal of children engaged in child labour and to prevent further entry of children into employment by offering them alternative education and training opportunities and thereby contributing towards poverty reduction. Some results have been published in 2013



with more results to be published later. No new announcements in regard to partnerships have been made.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°24]

Recommendation n°107: *Introduce reforms of domestic laws and regulations aiming at the eliminating all forms of discrimination against women* (Recommended by Ecuador)

IRI: *partially implemented*

YPPD response:

In Sierra Leone this is currently at play, it is only the matter of making the laws to work as there is the presence of the 3 Gender Acts.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Constitutional Review Committee established by government has a wide mandate. However due to male domineering, the Committee will find it difficult to domesticate all forms of discrimination as enshrined in CEDAW which the government has signed and ratified. We recommend government to include in the Terms of Reference of the committee their international obligation to non discrimination against women.

ERT response:

Proposed Gender Equality legislation guaranteeing 30% representation for women in Parliament has not passed and section 27(d) of the constitution remain which allows for continued discrimination against women in terms of marriage, divorce, property, and customary law.

HRCSL response:

Sierra Leone has a dual legal system. The government of Sierra Leone as part its commitment signed and ratified CEDAW on the 21st September and 11th November 1988 respectively without reservation. Since then, Sierra has fulfilled its reporting obligations with no outstanding backlog of reporting. The government through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs has facilitated the partial domestication of CEDAW through Statutory Instruments like the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2009; Domestic Violence Act 2007; Devolution of Estates Act 2007; Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2005; Sexual Offences Act 2012 among others.

[...]

Recommendation n°113: *Establish a strategy to seek the elimination of practices of discrimination against women and eliminate female genital mutilation* (Recommended by Costa Rica)

IRI: *partially implemented*

YPPD response:

In the Child Rights Acts of 2007, there are provisions that prohibits harmful traditional practices but not too explicit on pointing out female genital mutilation.

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has signed MOU with Soweï as a national strategy to abolish FGM but has not put measures to provide alternative livelihood for the Soweï practicing the act.

ERT response:

The Sexual Offences Act 2012 created greater legal protections for women from sexual-based violence. Although the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs interprets FGM to be prohibited by the Child Rights Act 2007 which prohibits "subjecting anyone under the age of 18 to harmful treatment, including any cultural practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of the child", others believe that the lack of explicitly prohibition means it is not actually criminalised. 8 of 14 districts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding criminalising FGM for children. However, this has not led to the eradication of FGM, whether it is consented to or not, and the practice continues. Community level advocacy in combination with UN support is working towards eliminating this practice.

At the community level, eradication efforts have focused on providing other economic options to those who perform FGM for income and informing parents about the risks and warning them not to subject their daughters to FGM. At the same time, UNFPA and local NGOs engaged with traditional leaders and local chiefs on a range of interventions, including efforts to persuade local chiefs to impose bylaws outlawing FGM for children, and include FGM eradication in district development plans. The UNFPA also had workshops for local social workers and traditional leaders on prevention measures, as well as health care and psychosocial support for victims. However few of these actions indicate a strong and active role of government. NGOs seem to be the most responsible for addressing UPR recommendations.

HRCSL response:

The issue of FGM is culturally ingrained in our society. The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] intend to use the enactment of law against underage initiation rites of passage for girls as the entry point. On the issue of early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancy, government enacted the Child Rights Act 2007 to address some of these issues. Additionally, government has developed and launched a National Strategy for the reduction of teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone (2013-2015). The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs is in the process of finalizing the National Child and Family Welfare Policy which will contribute immensely in addressing these menaces.

Recommendation n°114: *Adopt a national strategy for the elimination of violence against women* (Recommended by Norway)

IRI: fully implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government has enacted the Domestic Violence Act 2007 and sexual offences Act 2012 as strategy to eliminate violence against women. These laws made provision for the establishment of the a mechanism called Family Support Unit under



the supervision of the Sierra Leone Police and the Ministry of Social welfare. The Ministry of Social Welfare has also developed National Referral Protocol for victims of SGBV. However, logistical and financial support limit the full implementation of the protocol and the Acts. For example victim/survivors face huge challenge in areas such as transportation, accommodation, medical assistance, etc.

ERT response:

The government has adopted the Sierra Leone National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP-GBV 2012-2016) and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence to strengthen the legal architecture on sexual and gender-based violence in the country. The NAP-GBV seeks to minimise the high incidence of GBV in the country and provide quality care to survivors. To ensure a proper coordination of the government's GBV agenda, a National GBV secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), with Regional GBV Committees in the provinces to provide training in prevention and response to gender-based violence issues. The National Referral Protocol is designed to ensure that all survivors/victims of domestic and sexual violence receive prompt and comprehensive care from service providers.

HRCSL response:

[...] Additionally, the MSWGCA developed and launched the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence in 2012.

Recommendation n^o129: 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 (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government is presently embarking on constitutional Review process. However no reference to gender equality was made to the Review Committee in terms of composition of the Committee and amendment of gender inequality laws such as article 24d of the Constitution to be amended. We recommend the CRC expunge Article 24 (d).

ERT response:

The government has taken a number of steps: the Sexual Offences Act 2012, the 2012 National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence, and the 2012 National Referral Protocol on Gender Based Violence which seeks to minimise the high incidence of GBV in the country and provide quality care to survivors. However, the Government of Sierra Leone comments in its Agenda for Prosperity that many of the plans have not had their intended impact. Furthermore, they have not received adequate funding.



HRCSL response:

Several efforts are being made by the government especially through the MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] in raising awareness on gender equality issues across the country. As set out in the Agenda for Prosperity especially pillar 8, government has identified flagship projects to undertake. These include the development and passage of a minimum 30% quota for women in governance at all levels; the establishment of the Women's Commission and the development of a comprehensive policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Ministry has begun initiating actions on these flagship projects and intends to accomplish them before the end of 2014.

Other

Recommendation n°9: *Develop national plans of action on children and on human rights* (Recommended by *Australia*)

IRI: *not implemented*

ERT response:

Children: The government and UNICEF are looking to consult with a third party in order to create a new Situation Analysis to ascertain the current state of child rights in Sierra Leone to facilitate development of a new Country Programme Document 2015-19 to address bottlenecks to achievement of rights, expand equity and improve outcomes for children.

Human Rights: Power is vested in organisations like the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), which was established by a Parliamentary Act in 2004, to facilitate the assurance of human rights. Multiple UN and civil society organisations are also relied upon for assistance. The HRCSL held a conference on the UPR Mid Term Review where a matrix for the further implementation of human rights and the UPR recommendations were established. The conference proceedings suggest a possible release of a document from the Sierra Leone government giving an update on UPR proceedings.

HRDN response:

The government has only develop a national strategic plan on the administration of juvenile justice.

Recommendation n°44: *Call on the international community to support Sierra Leone's efforts through development assistance, technical assistance and capacity-building* (Recommended by *Nigeria*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

HRCSL response:

[...]

In 2012 the GoSL adopted the third Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) called "Agenda for Prosperity" (AFP). The long term vision of Sierra Leone as reflected in



the Agenda for Prosperity is a Sierra Leone that by 2035 become an inclusive, green, middle-income country. Education (free and compulsory education), health (health care and delivery system within 10 Km from every village) and good governance feature prominently in the AFP.

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The total costs for the implementation of all programmes across the 8 pillars in the Agenda for Prosperity is estimated at US\$5.747bn. Donor partner commitments is estimated at US\$3.20bn and GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] allocation is US\$0.463bn leaving a funding gap of US\$2.077bn.

A Secretariat for the Agenda for Prosperity has been established at the MOFED.

Recommendation n^o54: *Continue to work to strengthen national human rights mechanisms (Recommended by Nepal)*

IRI: partially implemented

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government enacted the Sierra Leone Human rights Commission Act in 2004 and established the Commission in 2006. The commission has attained grade A status. The Commission is however still grossly under funded by the government making it difficult to carry out its human rights obligations effectively. The Commission has developed its 2012 to 2014 plan. It has still has funding gaps from the subvention from government. We recommend adequate funding from government and donor community to fully fund the Human Rights commission.

ERT response:

There is some evidence of increased government worked towards a stronger human rights framework. This is mostly partnerships between NGOs, CBOs, and the government. The Human Rights Commission continues to face resistance.

HRCSL response:

The HRCSL was accredited with a "A" status by the International Coordination Committee of National Human Rights Institutions in Geneva in 2011, acknowledging full compliance with the Paris Principles. Section 7 of the Human Rights Commission Act of 2005 stipulates that the main objective for the establishment of the HRCSL is to promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone and lists its main functions. Section 14 of the Act guarantees the independence of the HRCSL.

In 2012, the HRCSL entered in its second term. Commissioners and five staff members went on international training programmes during the course of 2012, and an induction training for the new Commissioner was conducted in September 2012 with support from OHCHR and UNIPSIL [United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone].



The GoSL [Government of Sierra Leone] met its obligation to the Commission in the payment of operational costs, salaries and other emoluments. It also provided funds for monitoring of the 2012 elections. However, the delay in the disbursement of government subvention affected the timely implementation of planned activities. Support was also received from OHCHR and the Peace Building Fund for the implementation of activities in the Strategic Plan, and from UNFPA and UNDP for specific projects. A new Strategic Plan 2012-2014 was developed after the evaluation of the previous Strategic Plan and consultations with staff and stakeholders.

The HRCSL received 280 complaints from January to December 2012. The HRCSL also conducted a public inquiry into alleged violations on the events that occurred in Bumbuna from 16-18 April 2012 and followed-up on the implementation of the HRCSL's recommendations on the Public Hearing on the matter involving 234 ex-soldiers of the RSLAF. HRCSL is also collaborating with the Western Area Human Rights committee and all Districts Human Rights Committees in the 12 district in the country. The office of the Ombudsman is fully operational with regional offices in the four districts.

Recommendation n°55: *Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Recommended by Poland)*

IRI: *fully implemented*

+

Recommendation n°57: *Strengthen the work of the Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Recommended by Indonesia)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The Human Rights Commission although is autonomous has a lot of dependency on government in terms of appointment of Commissioner, allocation of funds and execution of its annual report. This undermines the Paris Principle.

ERT response:

The Human Rights Commission is an "A status" National Human Rights Institution under the Paris Principles. The Commission was accredited this five-year status in 2011 by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) in the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, Switzerland. This means that it fulfils the standards set by the UN Paris Principles governing such institutions and can therefore vote, speak and be voted for at the UN Human Rights Council and hold positions of trust within the international human rights arena. The statuses of NHRIs are reviewed after every five years based on compliance with the Paris Principles. Sierra Leone will be reviewed for the second time in 2016.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°54]



Recommendation n°56: *Allocate the resources required for the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission to carry out its core statutory functions* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government enacted the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission Act in 2004 and established the Commission in 2006. The commission has attained grade A status. The Commission is however still grossly under funded by the government, making it difficult to carry out its human rights obligations effectively.

ERT response:

The commission has been able to function, but it has been suggested that the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone still needs more funding to fulfil its mandate.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°54]

Recommendation n°58: *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* (Recommended by Ghana)

IRI: *partially implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

The government gives quarterly subventions to the Commission but the allocation is inadequate and most times do not come at the needed time making the Commission considered by the general public ineffective even though they have Grade A status. The Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone is very supportive of CSO activities in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, They are supporting all the Human Rights Committees established by the UN peace mission in Sierra Leone. Also they are effectively collaborating with CSOs working on the UPR to ensure public awareness and participation in human rights issues. The commission has collaborated with CSO UPR Monitoring Group to organise two successful follow up national conferences on the UPR. However the Commission is grossly underfunded to follow up on UPR and other relevant issue.

ERT response:

The commission has been able to function, but it has been suggested that the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone still needs more funding to fulfil its mandate.

HRCSL response:

[See response to recommendation n°54]

HRDN response:

The government is making a calculated and technical attempt to paralyse the work of the HRC as funds for the operation of the commission are delayed and sometimes not sufficient.

Recommendation n°60: *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* (Recommended by Nigeria)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government as part of its development plan has developed Agenda for Prosperity aimed at improving the socio economic and political livelihood and freedom of its people. However each responsible ministry directly takes instructions from State House under ministerial Performance Contract signed between the Ministers and the President. Unfortunately the content of the contract is not accessible to public hence difficulty to evaluate progress so far made. The Constitutional review process is also expected to take into account socio economic and political aspiration of the people of Sierra Leone.

HRCSL response:

See progress on recommendation [n°34, n°81, n°21, n°38, n°45]

Recommendation n°112: *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* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSOUPRMGSL response:

Government has put several measures to combat violence against women in Sierra Leone and has also shown its commitment to the UN Resolution 1325 dealing with peace building. However, there is no practical effort in terms of implementation. For instance no significant presence of women during London Mining riot resolution in Lunsar, African Mineral Limited riot resolution in Bumbuna, Suffin company saga with land owners in Sahn Malen etc. We therefore recommend effective implementation action by government to full commitment to this Resolution.

ERT response:

Sierra Leone adopted a National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on United Nations Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in 2010, but the plan's application puts much of the responsibility on non-governmental partners.

HRCSL response:

The MSWGCA [Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs] provided leadership and coordination in the development and implementation of these two documents. Most of the activities in both documents have been implemented by the MSWGCA and its partners.

As for the National Gender Strategic Plan, the Ministry undertook a mid-term review to assess progress in terms of implementation and those not implemented will be rolled over as part of implementation in the Agenda for Prosperity.

In the case of the sister resolutions on 1325 ad 1820, the Ministry has transformed the National Taskforce for the development of the SiLNAP on 1325 and 1820 into a



National Steering Committee for full implementation. The Ministry has concluded a second phase of the Gender and Security Sector Reform Project aimed at building the capacity of stakeholders and rural women for their engagement in security sector apparatus at the local level. Additionally, the MSWGCA developed and launched the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence in 2012.

Methodology

A. First contact

Although the methodology has to consider the specificities of each country, we applied the same procedure for data collection on all of the States:

1. We contacted the Permanent Mission to the UN either in Geneva (when one exists) or in New York;
2. We contacted all NGOs which took part in the process. Whenever NGOs were part of coalitions, each NGO was contacted individually;
3. The National Institution for Human Rights was contacted whenever one existed.
4. UN Agencies which sent information for the UPR were contacted.

We posted our requests to the States and NHRI and, also, sent emails to NGOs and UN Agencies.

The purpose of the UPR is to discuss issues and share concrete suggestions to improve human rights on the ground. Therefore, stakeholders whose objective is not to improve the human rights situation were not contacted and those stakeholders' submissions were not taken into account.

However, since the UPR is meant to be a process which aims at sharing best practices among States and stakeholders, we take into account positive feedback from the latter.

B. Processing recommendations and voluntary pledges

The stakeholders that we contact are encouraged to use an Excel sheet that we provide. The Excel sheet includes all of the recommendations received and voluntary pledges taken by the State reviewed.

Each submission is processed, whether the stakeholder has or has not used the Excel sheet. In the latter case, the submission is split among recommendations to which we think it belongs. Since such a task is more prone to misinterpretation, we strongly encourage stakeholders to use the Excel sheet.

If the stakeholder does not clearly mention whether the recommendation was “fully implemented” or that it was “not implemented”, UPR Info usually considers the recommendation as “partially implemented”, unless the implementation level is obvious.

UPR Info retains the right to edit comments that are considered to not directly address the recommendation in question, when comments are too lengthy or when



comments are defamatory or inappropriate. While we do not mention the recommendations that were not addressed, they can be accessed, unedited, on the follow-up webpage.

C. Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)

UPR Info developed an index showing the implementation level achieved by the State for both recommendations received and voluntary pledges taken at the UPR.

*The **Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)** is an individual recommendation index. Its purpose is to show an average of stakeholders' responses.*

The IRI is meant to take into account the possibility of stakeholders disputing the implementation of a recommendation. Whenever a stakeholder claims nothing has been implemented at all, the index score is 0. On the contrary, whenever a stakeholder claims a recommendation has been fully implemented, the IRI score is 1. An average is calculated to fully reflect the many sources of information. If the State under Review claims that the recommendation has been fully implemented, and a stakeholder says it has been partially implemented, the score is 0.75.

Then, the score is transformed into an implementation level, according to the table below:

Percentage:	Implementation level:
0 – 0.32	Not implemented
0.33 – 0.65	Partially implemented
0.66 – 1	Fully implemented

Example: On one side, a stakeholder comments on a recommendation requesting the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). On the other side, the State under review claims to have partially set up the NHRI. As a result of this, the recommendation will be given an *IRI* score of 0.25 and will, thus, be considered as “not implemented”.

Disclaimer

The comments made by the authors (stakeholders) are theirs alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions at UPR Info. Every attempt has been made to ensure that information provided on this page is accurate and not abusive. UPR Info cannot be held responsible for information provided in this document.

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