



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 November 2015

Original: English

---

## Human Rights Council

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Twenty-fourth session

18-29 January 2016

### **Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

#### **Sierra Leone**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.



## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1967)		OP-CAT (signature, 2003)
	ICESCR (1996)		ICRMW (signature, 2000)
	ICCPR (1996)		ICPPED (signature, 2007)
	CEDAW (1988)		ICCPR-OP 2
	CAT (2001)		
	OP-CAT (signature, 2003)		
	CRC (1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2002)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2001)		
	ICRMW (signature, 2000)		
	CRPD (2010)		
	ICPPED (signature, 2007)		
	<i>Reservations and/or declarations</i>	OP-CRC-AC (declaration: art. 3 (2), minimum age of recruitment 18 years, 2002)	
<i>Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action<sup>3</sup></i>	ICCPR-OP 1 (1996)		ICERD, art. 14
	OP-CEDAW (signature, 2000)		OP-ICESCR
	CAT, art. 20 (2001)		ICCPR, art. 41
	ICRMW (signature, 2000)		OP-CEDAW (signature, 2000)
	OP-CRPD (signature, 2007)		CAT, arts. 21 and 22
	ICPPED (signature, 2007)		OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW (signature, 2000)
		OP-CRPD (signature, 2007)	
		ICPPED (signature, 2007)	

## 2. Other main relevant international instruments<sup>4</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Palermo Protocol (2014) <sup>5</sup>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
	Conventions on refugees <sup>6</sup>		Conventions on stateless persons <sup>7</sup>
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II <sup>8</sup>		Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions (signature, 2006) <sup>9</sup>
	ILO fundamental conventions except Nos. 138 and 182 <sup>10</sup>	ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 <sup>11</sup> (2011)	ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 <sup>12</sup>
	Convention against Discrimination in Education		

1. In 2014, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Sierra Leone to ratify ICPED and ICRMW.<sup>13</sup> In 2014, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture invited Sierra Leone to ratify ICCPR-OP 2.<sup>14</sup> The Human Rights Committee also urged Sierra Leone to accede to ICCPR-OP 1.<sup>15</sup>

2. The Committee against Torture recommended that Sierra Leone ratify OP-CAT and make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of CAT.<sup>16</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Sierra Leone to ratify OP-CEDAW and to accept the amendment to article 20 (1) of CEDAW.<sup>17</sup>

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture recommended that Sierra Leone accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.<sup>18</sup>

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>19</sup> It also recommended that Sierra Leone ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.<sup>20</sup> The United Nations country team noted that Sierra Leone was a signatory to that Protocol.<sup>21</sup>

5. The country team noted that the President had declared a state of emergency on 31 July 2014, in accordance with article 29 of the Constitution, as a measure to prevent the spread of Ebola virus disease.<sup>22</sup> However, the Government had failed to inform the States parties to ICCPR, through the Secretary-General, of the provisions from which it had derogated and the reasons therefor.<sup>23</sup>

6. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Sierra Leone to ratify the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and to submit State reports for the periodic consultations of its education-related standard-setting instruments.<sup>24</sup>

## B. Constitutional and legislative framework

7. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the reported lack of funds devoted to the constitutional review process, the lack of civil society participation and the slow pace of the review. It urged Sierra Leone to expedite the revision.<sup>25</sup>

8. The country team noted that the constitutional review process, launched by the Government in July 2013, had been delayed as a result of the Ebola crisis and its mandate extended until March 2016. The country team called upon the Government to ensure that the constitutional review helped to reconcile domestic policy and legislation with the international and regional human rights obligations of Sierra Leone.<sup>26</sup>

## C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

9. The Human Rights Committee urged Sierra Leone to strengthen the independence of its Human Rights Commission and ensure that the Commission's recommendations were adequately taken into account.<sup>27</sup>

10. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its concern regarding the weak institutional capacity of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the national machinery for the advancement of women. It called upon Sierra Leone to accelerate the finalization of the National Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy and to ensure that it was sufficiently funded and effectively implemented.<sup>28</sup>

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee welcomed the adoption of the national action plan for the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).<sup>29</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture welcomed the adoption in 2012 of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence.<sup>30</sup>

### Status of national human rights institutions<sup>31</sup>

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle<sup>32</sup></i>
Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone	None	A (2011)

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>		<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
		<i>submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>		
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	August 1974	-	-		Combined fourth to nineteenth reports overdue since 2006
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	-	-	-		Initial report overdue since 1998

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Human Rights Committee	-	2012	March 2014	Second report due in 2017
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	May 2007	2011	February 2014	Seventh report due in 2018
Committee against Torture	-	2013	May 2014	Second report due in 2018
Committee on the Rights of the Child	June 2008	2013	-	Combined third to fifth reports pending consideration
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2012

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### *Concluding observations*

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Human Rights Committee	2015	Abortion and reproductive health; torture and ill-treatment; pretrial and arbitrary detention <sup>33</sup>	Reminder sent <sup>34</sup>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2016	Constitutional review and gender equality; women's access to health care <sup>35</sup>	
Committee against Torture	2015	Legal safeguards for persons in detention; unlawful killings; torture and ill-treatment; alternative measures of detention <sup>36</sup>	Reminder sent <sup>37</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>38</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Violence against women	Freedom of religion
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Summary executions	Summary executions
<i>Visits requested</i>	Internally displaced persons Arbitrary detention Mercenaries Freedom of expression	
<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, five communications were sent. The Government replied to one communication.	

### **C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

12. Together with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the human rights adviser had reactivated the Human Rights Working Group, which was the only national forum bringing together leading human rights defenders to discuss current and emerging human rights concerns and ensure consistent approaches. In relation to the Ebola outbreak, with the human rights adviser's assistance, the Working Group had identified priority areas based on a human rights-based approach. As a result, the Commission had focused on the monitoring of quarantine areas, the use of force by security forces, the rights of vulnerable groups, access to justice and the protection of health workers.<sup>39</sup>

## **III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

### **A. Equality and non-discrimination**

13. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations asked the Government to continue providing information on the development and implementation of a national equality policy. Welcoming the Government's initiative to review and revise labour-related legislation with ILO technical assistance, the Committee requested information on the outcome of the review and the follow-up thereto, and on any other measures taken or envisaged to ensure non-discrimination and equality of opportunity and treatment in employment and occupation, including for members of the different ethnic groups.<sup>40</sup>

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was particularly concerned that section 27 (d) (4) of the Constitution discriminated against women and that other statutory and customary norms that discriminated against women remained in force. It called upon Sierra Leone to repeal that section,<sup>41</sup> incorporate the principle of equality between women and men into the Constitution and swiftly enact the gender equality and women's empowerment bill.<sup>42</sup>

15. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the persistence of deep-rooted and negative patriarchal stereotypes.<sup>43</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone eliminate stereotypes that discriminated against women.<sup>44</sup> The country team noted that gender inequalities were exacerbated by discriminatory customs, particularly in relation to marriage, property rights and sexual offences, and that discrimination based on gender in the areas of property, marriage and adoption was enshrined in the Constitution.<sup>45</sup>

16. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the prevalence of stereotypes and prejudices against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and was particularly concerned about acts of violence against them. It urged Sierra Leone to review the Constitution and legislation to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity was prohibited.<sup>46</sup>

17. The Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice had sent a letter to the Government concerning allegations of discriminatory legal provisions that denied women the right to pass their nationality on to their children if the children were born outside the country. The Working Group requested information on how Sierra Leone planned to redress that situation and encouraged it to ensure that the

constitutional review provided women with the same nationality rights as men.<sup>47</sup> The Human Rights Committee expressed similar concerns.<sup>48</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Sierra Leone to ensure the equal rights of women and men to acquire, transfer, change or retain their nationality and transmit it to their children born abroad, and to bring the Citizenship Act into full compliance with article 9 of CEDAW.<sup>49</sup>

## **B. Right to life, liberty and security of person**

18. While welcoming the official moratorium on executions since 2011, the Committee against Torture remained concerned that the death penalty had not yet been officially abolished.<sup>50</sup> The Human Rights Committee urged Sierra Leone to expedite its efforts to abolish the death penalty.<sup>51</sup>

19. The Committee against Torture was highly concerned about allegations of excessive use of force, including lethal force, by police and security forces. It urged Sierra Leone to amend section 16 of the Constitution and the police rules of procedure to ensure that lethal use of firearms by law enforcement officials could be employed only as a measure of last resort.<sup>52</sup>

20. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that Sierra Leone had not adopted criminal legislation that defined and criminalized torture explicitly.<sup>53</sup> The Committee against Torture was concerned that torture of children was not defined in the Child Rights Act. It urged Sierra Leone to criminalize all acts of torture,<sup>54</sup> and to repeal section 20 (2) and amend section 29 of the Constitution during its review process to legislate for the absolute prohibition of torture.<sup>55</sup>

21. The Human Rights Committee regretted that reports continued to be received of torture and ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement personnel.<sup>56</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to prevent, investigate and punish violence in prisons and ensure that all cases of death in custody were investigated effectively.<sup>57</sup> UNESCO encouraged Sierra Leone to provide human rights education and training, especially for law enforcement officials.<sup>58</sup>

22. The Committee against Torture was concerned at the alleged use of corporal punishment and solitary confinement for prisoners, as permitted by the Prison Ordinance Act of 1960 and the Prison Rules of 1961.<sup>59</sup>

23. While welcoming the steps taken to improve conditions in prisons, the Human Rights Committee was concerned about overcrowding and poor conditions in detention centres.<sup>60</sup> The Committee against Torture raised similar concerns and urged Sierra Leone to ensure that detention conditions conformed to CAT and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.<sup>61</sup>

24. The Committee against Torture was deeply concerned at the lack of separation between suspects, and remanded and convicted prisoners. It urged Sierra Leone to ensure that remand prisoners were separated from convicted prisoners, and that female suspects were separated from male suspects and attended by female officers.<sup>62</sup> The Human Rights Committee raised similar concerns.<sup>63</sup>

25. The Committee against Torture noted with concern the excessive resort to imprisonment for minor offences and the current restrictive use of alternative measures of detention. It urged Sierra Leone to reduce the length and the number of pretrial detentions and ensure that pretrial detainees received a fair and prompt trial.<sup>64</sup> The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.<sup>65</sup>

26. While acknowledging the progress made, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern at reports of arbitrary detention. It urged Sierra Leone to ensure that no one was subject to arbitrary arrest or detention and that detained persons enjoyed all legal guarantees.<sup>66</sup>

27. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the country team were concerned about the high rates of domestic and sexual violence against women and the extremely low conviction rate, lengthy trials and the exertion of pressure on women victims of violence to settle cases out of court.<sup>67</sup> It recommended that Sierra Leone ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, bring section 27 (4) (d) of the Constitution in line with those laws and expedite the enactment of the criminal procedure bill.<sup>68</sup> The Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture raised similar concerns.<sup>69</sup> The country team urged the Government to implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and to ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, combined with rehabilitation and support for victims.<sup>70</sup>

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the prevalence of female genital mutilation, the lack of legal prohibition of that harmful practice and the rejection of a provision criminalizing child female genital mutilation during the adoption of the Child Rights Act.<sup>71</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to criminalize female genital mutilation and immediately eradicate the practice, in line with the commitment it had made during the universal periodic review in 2011.<sup>72</sup> The Human Rights Committee expressed similar concerns,<sup>73</sup> especially at the intention to increase the minimum age for genital mutilation, rather than prohibiting the practice altogether.<sup>74</sup> The country team urged Sierra Leone to enact legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and to conduct awareness-raising programmes for parents, women, girls and traditional and religious leaders.<sup>75</sup> The Human Rights Committee made a similar recommendation.<sup>76</sup>

29. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief stressed that religious communities and their umbrella organizations should speak out publicly against harmful practices, which were sometimes broadly associated with tradition, culture or religion. A clear public stance articulated by religious communities against gender-related violence, particularly female genital mutilation, would contribute to overcoming such cruel practices.<sup>77</sup>

30. The Committee against Torture noted the persistence of harmful traditional practices inflicted on elderly women in relation to allegations of witchcraft. It was concerned about reports of the commission of ritual crimes and the lack of effective investigations, the alleged interference of traditional leaders and the reliance on out-of-court settlements in such cases. It urged Sierra Leone to combat harmful traditional practices.<sup>78</sup>

31. The Committee against Torture was concerned that corporal punishment had not yet been explicitly prohibited in the Child Rights Act and was culturally entrenched and lawful. It recommended that Sierra Leone explicitly prohibit corporal punishment.<sup>79</sup> The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.<sup>80</sup>

32. While appreciating the establishment of the Office of National Security to coordinate the monitoring of human trafficking, the Human Rights Committee was concerned about the persistence of trafficking in persons.<sup>81</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone ensure the full enforcement of the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Act, the 2007 Child Rights Act and the 2012 Sexual Offences Act.<sup>82</sup> The Human Rights Committee recommended that Sierra Leone continue its efforts to provide training to law enforcement and border patrol officials,



including personnel of the Office of National Security, on applying the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, and increase efforts aimed at ensuring that all perpetrators of human trafficking were brought to justice and that victims were adequately compensated.<sup>83</sup>

33. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations expressed concern at the high number of children below the legal minimum age who were engaged in child labour. It requested that the Government strengthen its efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour within the country, including through measures implemented in collaboration with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. It also requested that the Government take the necessary measures to adopt and implement, without delay, the Child Labour Action Plan and provide information on the results achieved.<sup>84</sup>

34. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its concern that, although under the Child Rights Act, the minimum age for marriage was 18 years, under the Registration of Customary Marriages and Divorce Act, child marriage was allowed with parental consent.<sup>85</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to repeal the provisions in its legislation that permitted child marriage.<sup>86</sup> The Human Rights Committee raised similar concerns.<sup>87</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

35. The country team noted that there was a perceived lack of political will to invest in and reform the justice sector.<sup>88</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was particularly concerned about inadequate court infrastructure and capacity constraints.<sup>89</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to pursue the reform of the judicial system and increase the quality of judicial and prosecutorial capacity.<sup>90</sup> The Human Rights Committee and the country team made similar recommendations.<sup>91</sup>

36. The Human Rights Committee was particularly concerned about the lack of judicial independence.<sup>92</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised a similar concern and the Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to protect the independence of the judiciary.<sup>93</sup>

37. The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to separate the Office of the Attorney General and that of the Minister of Justice during the constitutional review process, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.<sup>94</sup> It also urged Sierra Leone to ensure that its customary law and practices were compatible with its human rights obligations; that the Criminal Procedure Act was promptly adopted; and that confidential coroners' inquests were complementary and not a substitute for criminal prosecutions and court proceedings.<sup>95</sup>

38. The Human Rights Committee noted that, although apparently not implemented in practice, legislation imposing life imprisonment for same-sex practices and homosexuality was still in force and deterred victims from filing complaints for incidents of discrimination or violence based on sexual orientation.<sup>96</sup>

39. The Committee against Torture was seriously concerned at the existence of legal loopholes that allowed a situation of impunity for acts of torture and urged Sierra Leone to specifically criminalize all acts of torture.<sup>97</sup> It was also concerned about the independence and effectiveness of criminal investigations into allegations of torture or ill-treatment committed by public officials and urged Sierra Leone to ensure that a prompt and impartial criminal investigation was opened ex officio by a State counsel where there were reasons to believe that an act of torture or ill-treatment had been committed; and to establish mechanisms to protect subordinates from reprisals if they refused to carry out an order from a superior that would result in contravention of CAT.<sup>98</sup>

40. The same Committee noted with concern that the disciplinary bodies within the army and the prison system were still hierarchically connected to the officials being investigated. It urged Sierra Leone to establish an independent and confidential complaint system, ensuring that prompt, impartial and independent investigations into such complaints were conducted.<sup>99</sup>

41. The Human Rights Committee noted with interest the establishment of the extraordinary court sittings known as “Saturday courts”.<sup>100</sup> UNESCO noted that many people were unable to use the formal court system in Sierra Leone because it operated in English, which was spoken by highly educated people only.<sup>101</sup>

42. While welcoming the efforts to ensure access to justice, the Human Rights Committee was particularly concerned about lengthy delays in court hearings and lack of due process guarantees.<sup>102</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised similar concerns.<sup>103</sup> The Human Rights Committee urged Sierra Leone to guarantee equal access to justice and improve access to legal representation.<sup>104</sup>

43. The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to ensure that detainees enjoyed all legal safeguards and that the National Legal Aid Board commenced its work as soon as possible, to abolish the provision under which people could be held in police custody for a 10-day period or 72 hours, depending on the offence, and to introduce in its place a maximum 48-hour period.<sup>105</sup>

44. The same Committee urged Sierra Leone to ensure that prisoners had meaningful access to an independent system for lodging complaints and that independent investigations were conducted into any and all complaints, and to establish an independent prison monitoring system, ensuring that human rights organizations had unrestricted access to all places of detention.<sup>106</sup>

45. The same Committee was highly disturbed by the manner in which the detention system had allegedly become vulnerable to corrupt practices. It urged Sierra Leone to counter police and judicial misconduct.<sup>107</sup> The Human Rights Committee raised a similar concern.<sup>108</sup>

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that women’s access to justice remained limited and requested Sierra Leone to remove all barriers that women might face in access to justice.<sup>109</sup> The country team noted that the family support units of the Sierra Leone police, mandated to investigate and refer crimes such as domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and cases relating to child offenders, were key in facilitating access to justice for women and children.<sup>110</sup> UNESCO noted that so-called “mother clubs” negotiated difficulties faced by girls wishing to report cases of abuse, and provided moral and sometimes financial support.<sup>111</sup>

47. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that the recommendations made by Truth and Reconciliation Commission had not been implemented, and that reparation for victims of the civil war, including women victims of sexual violence, had been inadequate. It requested that Sierra Leone allocate sufficient resources to implement the Commission’s recommendations, and urged it to ensure that all potential beneficiaries of war reparation, in particular widows and women victims of conflict-related sexual violence, were adequately compensated without further delay.<sup>112</sup> The Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture raised similar concerns.<sup>113</sup> The Human Rights Committee urged Sierra Leone to ensure that all victims were registered and received appropriate reparation.<sup>114</sup>

48. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the Lomé Peace Agreement (Ratification) Act of 1999 provided amnesty to combatants for actions carried out from

1992 to 1998. It urged Sierra Leone to repeal the amnesty provisions.<sup>115</sup> The Human Rights Committee raised similar concerns.<sup>116</sup>

49. The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to ensure that the new Criminal Procedure Act established extraterritorial jurisdiction over acts of torture when the alleged victim was a national of Sierra Leone or the alleged offender was present in Sierra Leone.<sup>117</sup>

50. The same Committee noted that the Extradition Act made extradition contingent on the existence of an extradition treaty. It urged Sierra Leone to amend the Extradition Act, to ensure that CAT could be invoked as a legal basis for extradition in respect of the crimes enumerated in article 4 of CAT and to provide mutual judicial assistance to other States parties in all matters of criminal procedure regarding the crimes enumerated in that article.<sup>118</sup>

51. While welcoming the steps taken to improve conditions in juvenile detention centres, the Human Rights Committee was concerned at the lack of separation between juvenile and adult offenders and that juveniles were held in pretrial detention.<sup>119</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Sierra Leone to use non-custodial measures for minors and to make sure that minors who were deprived of their liberty were afforded full legal safeguards.<sup>120</sup> The Human Rights Committee urged Sierra Leone to ensure that no juvenile was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole, and to review the situation of persons serving such sentences.<sup>121</sup>

#### **D. Right to marriage**

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the prevalence of polygamous marriages, which were permitted under customary law and the Mohammedan Marriage Act. It recommended that Sierra Leone accelerate its legal reform of marriage and family relations and eliminate all discriminatory provisions in customary law and in the Mohammedan Marriage Act.<sup>122</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and the right to participate in public and political life**

53. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief recommended that measures taken against traditional harmful practices, including public criticism of gender-related violence or witch-hunting, should always be combined with respect for persons who adhered to traditional African spirituality. He noted that freedom of religion or belief must be broadly understood and that it clearly included traditional African religion and its various manifestations. The Government should continue to support the work of the Inter-Religious Council while fully respecting its independence.<sup>123</sup>

54. The Special Rapporteur also encouraged religious communities to continue to cooperate in a spirit of open-heartedness; through inter- and intra-religious cooperation they fulfilled a major requirement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Religious communities and their umbrella organizations were also encouraged to continue to exercise vigilance against the possible spread of religious extremism.<sup>124</sup>

55. UNESCO recommended that Sierra Leone decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.<sup>125</sup>

56. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern that women remained underrepresented, particularly in decision-making positions.<sup>126</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Sierra Leone to adopt the draft law on gender equality and women's empowerment establishing a quota of 30 per cent for

women's representation in elected and appointed political positions and at all levels of the judiciary.<sup>127</sup>

57. The same Committee noted with concern that, under the Chieftaincy Act, women could be precluded from standing for election in chieftaincy elections based on tradition. It called upon Sierra Leone to repeal that provision of the Chieftaincy Act.<sup>128</sup>

## **F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

58. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the low number of women employed in the public sector, the concentration of women in the informal labour market and occupational segregation. It recommended that Sierra Leone improve the working conditions of women, expedite the adoption of the employment bill and ensure the incorporation of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.<sup>129</sup> The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations asked the Government to continue providing information on any measures taken or envisaged to promote and ensure equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.<sup>130</sup>

## **G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

59. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Sierra Leone to pay special attention to the needs of rural women and ensure that they participated in decision-making processes at the community level and in development planning, and that they had equal access to basic services and infrastructures and economic opportunities.<sup>131</sup>

60. The same Committee was concerned about the persistence of traditional customs limiting women's access to land and inheritance, and the lack of measures to address rural women's vulnerability to land acquisition by multinational mining companies. It called upon Sierra Leone to ensure that all discriminatory customary law was brought into full compliance with CEDAW, in particular regarding land ownership and women's right to inheritance.<sup>132</sup>

## **H. Right to health**

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone address the impact of the civil war on women's mental health.<sup>133</sup>

62. It welcomed the adoption of the National Health Strategic Plan (2010-2015).<sup>134</sup> The country team urged the Government to expedite the finalization of the domestic resource mobilization strategy on AIDS, adopt it in law and implement it robustly.<sup>135</sup> The Human Rights Committee welcomed the introduction in 2010 of free health care for lactating mothers and young children.<sup>136</sup>

63. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee noted with concern the very high maternal mortality rate.<sup>137</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Sierra Leone to facilitate women's access to affordable health care, reduce maternal mortality, address its causes and increase the number of skilled health-care personnel, in particular in rural areas.<sup>138</sup>

64. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the Offences against the Person Act still criminalized abortion in all circumstances. It urged Sierra Leone to guarantee

immediate and unconditional treatment for women seeking emergency medical care as a consequence of unsafe abortion.<sup>139</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone accelerate the adoption of the abortion bill.<sup>140</sup> The Human Rights Committee made a similar recommendation.<sup>141</sup>

65. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption in 2013 of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.<sup>142</sup> The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the persistently high incidence of adolescent pregnancy.<sup>143</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Sierra Leone to provide effective access for women and girls to information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>144</sup> The Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.<sup>145</sup>

## **I. Right to education**

66. The Committee against Torture remained concerned at the rape of girls by teachers.<sup>146</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the increase in sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools and the increase in teenage pregnancies, the negative impact of harmful traditional practices on girls' education and barriers impeding pregnant girls' and young mothers' access to education. It recommended that Sierra Leone ensure that sexual abuse and harassment in schools were adequately punished, and effectively implement the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy (2013) and the Code of Ethics for Teachers.<sup>147</sup>

67. The same Committee expressed concern about the low enrolment and completion rates of girls at the secondary and tertiary levels of education. It recommended that Sierra Leone ensure equal access for women and girls to all levels of education, retain more girls in school, reduce geographical disparities in access to education and improve the educational infrastructure, especially in rural areas.<sup>148</sup> UNESCO encouraged Sierra Leone to promote equal access to education, especially by implementing programmes to ban discrimination against girls and women.<sup>149</sup>

68. The country team noted with regret that the Government banned pregnant teenagers from attending school and from sitting school examinations. As a State party to ICESCR, Sierra Leone had accepted its international obligation to guarantee the right to education without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of sex. The country team urged the Government to reverse its current policy and to make a clear public statement encouraging girls to return to school after childbirth.<sup>150</sup>

## **J. Persons with disabilities**

69. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Sierra Leone adopt special policy measures and programmes to address the particular needs of elderly women, girls and women with disabilities, ensuring their social protection and access to education, health care, rehabilitation and employment opportunities.<sup>151</sup>

## **K. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

70. While welcoming the fact that the Refugees Protection Act 2007 prohibited the refoulement of refugees and their families if there were substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture, the Committee against Torture noted with concern that the Extradition Act 1974 did not explicitly recognize that principle. It urged Sierra Leone to guarantee that the principle of non-refoulement was properly

applied by the High Court and the Supreme Court when they decided on extradition cases.<sup>152</sup>

71. The same Committee was concerned at the lack of sufficient financial support provided to the three refugee bodies set out under the Refugees Protection Act.<sup>153</sup> The Human Rights Committee raised similar concerns and urged Sierra Leone to ensure that the National Refugee Authority and its Secretariat, the National Commission for Social Action and the Refugee Status Appeal Board received adequate funding.<sup>154</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Sierra Leone from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/11/SLE/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

<sup>4</sup> Information relating to other relevant international human rights instruments, including regional instruments, may be found in the pledges and commitments undertaken by Sierra Leone before the Human Rights Council, as contained in the note verbale dated 14 August 2012 sent by the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/67/531).

<sup>5</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>6</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

- <sup>7</sup> 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>8</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/IHL](http://www.icrc.org/IHL).
- <sup>9</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/IHL](http://www.icrc.org/IHL).
- <sup>10</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).
- <sup>11</sup> ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- <sup>12</sup> ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- <sup>13</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 33 and CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 48.
- <sup>14</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 18 and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 33.
- <sup>15</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 7.
- <sup>16</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 32.
- <sup>17</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 44.
- <sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27 and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 33.
- <sup>19</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 23.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.
- <sup>21</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 11.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 7.
- <sup>24</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, paras. 51-52.
- <sup>25</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 9. See also CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 11.
- <sup>26</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 8.
- <sup>27</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 6.
- <sup>28</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 14-15.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 5 (f) and 24 and CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>30</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 5 (g) and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 6.
- <sup>31</sup> According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles); B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- <sup>32</sup> The list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights is available from <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>.
- <sup>33</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 26.
- <sup>34</sup> Letter dated 9 June 2015 from the Human Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from

- [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/SLE/INT\\_CCPR\\_FUL\\_SLE\\_20921\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/SLE/INT_CCPR_FUL_SLE_20921_E.pdf).
- <sup>35</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 49.
- <sup>36</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 35.
- <sup>37</sup> Letter dated 10 June 2015 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SLE/INT\\_CAT\\_FUL\\_SLE\\_20819\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SLE/INT_CAT_FUL_SLE_20819_E.pdf).
- <sup>38</sup> For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx).
- <sup>39</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “OHCHR in the field: Africa” (2014), p. 183.
- <sup>40</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) – Sierra Leone, adopted in 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187770:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187770:NO).
- <sup>41</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 10-11.
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9. See also CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>43</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>44</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 19.
- <sup>45</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 10.
- <sup>46</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 11.
- <sup>47</sup> A/HRC/29/50, p. 57.
- <sup>48</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>49</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 27.
- <sup>50</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>51</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>52</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 13.
- <sup>53</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>54</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 10.
- <sup>56</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>57</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 27.
- <sup>58</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 51.
- <sup>59</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 27.
- <sup>60</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>61</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 26.
- <sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 26.
- <sup>63</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, paras. 20-21.
- <sup>64</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>65</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 20.
- <sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>67</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 20 and United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, paras. 18-19.
- <sup>68</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 21.
- <sup>69</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 15 and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>70</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 20.
- <sup>71</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 18.
- <sup>72</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 15, A/HRC/18/10, paras. 80.20 and 81.27-81.31 and A/HRC/18/10/Add.1.
- <sup>73</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>74</sup> See CCPR/C/SR.3040, para. 36 and CCPR/C/SR.3041, para. 12.
- <sup>75</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 17.



- <sup>76</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>77</sup> See A/HRC/25/58/Add.1, para 59.
- <sup>78</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 16. See also CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 34-35.
- <sup>79</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 30.
- <sup>80</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 19 and CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 28-29.
- <sup>81</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>82</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 23.
- <sup>83</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>84</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Sierra Leone, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3148625:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3148625:NO).
- <sup>85</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 40.
- <sup>86</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>87</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 13.
- <sup>88</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 36.
- <sup>89</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 12.
- <sup>90</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>91</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 15 and United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 37.
- <sup>92</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>93</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 12 and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>94</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 28.
- <sup>95</sup> Ibid., paras. 16, 24 and 13.
- <sup>96</sup> See CCPR/C/SR.3040, para. 14.
- <sup>97</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>98</sup> Ibid., paras. 28 and 19.
- <sup>99</sup> Ibid., para. 28.
- <sup>100</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 15.
- <sup>101</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 34.
- <sup>102</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>103</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 12.
- <sup>104</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>105</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 11.
- <sup>106</sup> Ibid., para. 26.
- <sup>107</sup> Ibid., para. 18.
- <sup>108</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>109</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 12-13.
- <sup>110</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 42.
- <sup>111</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 33.
- <sup>112</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 12-13 and 37.
- <sup>113</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 8 and CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 29.
- <sup>114</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>115</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>116</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 17.
- <sup>117</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>118</sup> Ibid., para. 22.
- <sup>119</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, paras. 21 and 20.
- <sup>120</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 25.
- <sup>121</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>122</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 40-41 and 36-37.
- <sup>123</sup> See A/HRC/25/58/Add.1, para 58.
- <sup>124</sup> Ibid., para 59.
- <sup>125</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 54.

- <sup>126</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>127</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 25 and 16-17.
- <sup>128</sup> Ibid., paras. 24-25.
- <sup>129</sup> Ibid., paras. 30-31.
- <sup>130</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), Sierra Leone, adopted in 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187718:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187718:NO).
- <sup>131</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 35.
- <sup>132</sup> Ibid., paras. 34-35.
- <sup>133</sup> Ibid., paras. 32-33.
- <sup>134</sup> Ibid., para. 5.
- <sup>135</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 30.
- <sup>136</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 4.
- <sup>137</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 32 and CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>138</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 33.
- <sup>139</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 17.
- <sup>140</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 33.
- <sup>141</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>142</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 5.
- <sup>143</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>144</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 33.
- <sup>145</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 17 and CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>146</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>147</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, paras. 28-29.
- <sup>148</sup> Ibid., paras. 28-29.
- <sup>149</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 51.
- <sup>150</sup> See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Sierra Leone, para. 25.
- <sup>151</sup> See CEDAW/C/SLE/CO/6, para. 39.
- <sup>152</sup> See CAT/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 20.
- <sup>153</sup> Ibid., para. 20.
- <sup>154</sup> See CCPR/C/SLE/CO/1, para. 23.
-