



**United Nations Human Rights Council
31st Session
24 June 2016
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports**

Consideration of the UPR report of Sierra Leone

Mr President,

Save the Children is delivering this statement with Defence for Children International, on behalf of the Child Rights Coalition of Sierra Leone.¹

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the UPR of Sierra Leone, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the Government's efforts to continuously improve the protection of children's rights through improved legislation, policies and national strategies.

In particular, we welcome the establishment of the National Children's Commission, which has actively taken up its role in monitoring, advocacy and research with respect to the situation of children's rights in Sierra Leone.

We would like to strongly encourage the implementation of the UPR recommendations regarding:

- Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women²
- Ending discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice,³ including in schools⁴
- Ending sexual and gender based violence⁵
- Ending child marriage, female genital mutilation, corporal punishment, and other traditional practices that are harmful for children⁶
- Elimination of child labour⁷

¹ The Child Rights Coalition of Sierra Leone is a coalition of international and national civil society organizations working to raise awareness on child rights issues in Sierra Leone and advocate on their behalf.

² Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Sierra Leone, 14 April 2016, A/HRC/32/16: UPR recommendations 111.15., 111.18, 111.20, 111.21, 111.22, 111.23

³ UPR recommendations: 111.62, 111.63, 111.64, 111.65, 111.66, 111.67, 111.70, 111.72, 111.77, 111.78, 111.79

⁴ UPR recommendations: 111.69, 111.73, 111.74, 111.75, 111.75, 111.76, 111.200, 111.201.

⁵ UPR recommendations: recommendation 111.104, 111.105, 111.124, 111.126, 111.127, 111.128, 111.129, 111.141, 111.142, 111.197.

⁶ UPR recommendations: 111.09, 111.15, 111.47, 111.48, 111.71, 111.77, 111.106, 111.107, 111.108, 111.109, 111.110, 111.111, 111.112, 111.113, 111.114, 111.115, 111.116, 111.117, 111.118, 111.119, 111.120, 111.121, 111.122, 111.123, 111.124.

⁷ UPR recommendations: 111.132, 111.133, 111.134, 111, 135.

- Strengthening of the public health care delivery system, including quality services for women, children and vulnerable groups⁸
- Ensuring effective implementation of the Child Rights Act and other legalisation affecting children (Sexual Offences Act, Domestic Violence Act), including the allocation of sufficient resources to their implementation⁹

Moreover, Ministries and multi-sector responses aimed at addressing violations against children, including gender-based violence, child sexual abuse, FGM and early marriage, should have sufficient technical, human and financial resources to carry out their responsibilities towards children, particularly the most vulnerable.

We appreciate the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and we look forward to continued collaboration in the follow-up.

Thank you.

⁸ UPR recommendations: 111.180, 111.181, 111.182, 111.183, 111.184, 111.185, 111.186.

⁹ UPR recommendations: 111.45, 111.46, 111.132, 111.54, 111.57, 111.58.