

**Delivered by: Dr Emmanuel Gore**

Madam President,

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and its member church the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, and our local partners and rights-holders in Sierra Leone would like to commend the Government of Sierra Leone for its constructive engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism during this third cycle review.

We call upon the Government of Sierra Leone to continue working closely with all national and local stakeholders in the implementation of all the accepted recommendations in the working group report that will be adopted by the council at the end of this session to ensure tangible improvements in the human rights situation through the UPR mechanism.

We urge the Government to prioritize the implementation of accepted recommendations pertaining to

- Good governance and mitigation of electoral violence;
- Rule of law and access to justice;
- Access to safe and clean drinking water;
- Improvement in social protection and land rights;
- Access to education; and rights of women and girls.

We also call on the international community to avail necessary technical and material support to Sierra Leone to realize these rights.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Government and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the swift implementation of the accepted recommendations.

I thank you Madam President.