

**Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice**

REFERENCE: OL  
SLE 1/2015:

12 February 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/7.

On behalf of the Working Group, I would like to thank you for your response of 12 December 2014 by which the Working Group received additional information on the domestic legal provisions relating to gender equality in nationality laws.

The Working Group appreciates the detailed information that your Excellency's Government provided and welcomes the reforms that the Sierra Leone Citizenship (Amendment) Acts, Acts No. 13 of 1976 and No. 10 of 2006 introduced to the 1973 Act No. 4, the main legislation on citizenship. These reforms made a significant contribution to putting women and men on an equal footing in the acquisition and retention of nationality.

Yet despite these amendments, the Working Group understands that a Sierra Leone woman still does not have the right to pass her nationality to a child born outside of the country. In this regard, the Working Group would appreciate receiving any additional information on this specific point and on what measures are eventually envisaged to redress this situation. It would be highly symbolic if these measures were to be announced at the upcoming 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Finally the Working Group would like to encourage the State to ensure that the revisions of the Constitution expressly provide women with the same nationality rights as men.

I would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days.

Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Emna Aouij

Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice