STATE POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
CRC Sub-Committee Progress Report

2014
SUMMARY

This committee is established to review the provisions and related clauses of the Constitution of the Sierra Leone pertaining to the Fundamental Principles of State Policy and Human Rights; examine the Report of the Peter Tucker Constitution Review Commission in a similar manner and make recommendation to the CRC.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee may be guided by Sierra Leone constitutional history and such other knowledge gathered from external sources on constitutional.

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

1. Olatungie Campbell - Chairperson
2. Valnora Edwin
3. Solomon Sogbandi
4. Ansumana M P. Fowai
5. Lois Kawa
6. Ibrahim S. Sesay
7. Husainatu Jalloh
8. Ibrahim Sorie
9. Isaac Massaquoi
10. Gibrilla Kamara
11. Dr. Kandeh B. Conteh
12. Amb. Alieu Koroma
13. Umaru Fofana

Alieu V. Koroma - LTA
Christiana John – Admin. Asst.
Bockarie P. Sheriff - Intern
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11TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH TRIBAL HEADS IN FREETOWN
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, YOUYI BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 11;30 am by Miss. Valnora Edwin and after silent prayers and self-introduction, she explained to the 16 Tribal Heads present about the mandate of the CRC to review the 1991 Constitution in general, and the special mandate of the subcommittee to do public consultation and civic education on The Fundamental principles of State Policy (chapter 2), and The Recognition and Protection of Fundamental Human Rights (chapter 3). Supportive explanations were given by other members in relation to the importance of the constitution as the overall national law.

In response, the Speaker for the Tribal Heads welcomed the team and proceeded to explain their grievances of being excluded from the constitutional review process considering the important roles they play for a peaceful society. Issues raised include:

a. Tribal heads not in close contact with tribe people due to political interference
b. Stipend or financial allowance not provided for Tribal heads
c. Western area tribal heads to be included in parliamentary proceedings
d. Tribal heads to be included in district councils
e. Power staff and identity for Tribal heads

After carefully listening to the Tribal heads copies of the public consultation forms and the combined document (1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Commission report) were delivered to the Tribal heads. It was also resolved that the Tribal heads prepare and submit a position paper including the completed consultation forms to the CRC secretariat within twenty one days.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT HEAD OFFICE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

17TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Mr. Solomon Sogbandi the acting chairperson who discussed the mandate of the sub-committee in general and the means for achieving this mandate was to engage the public through public consultation and civic education in human rights. Supportive explanations were given by other members in relation to the importance of the Human Rights Commission in the Constitutional review process.

In response, the chairman of the commission Mr. Brima Sheriff welcomed the team and proceeded to explain the position of the commission as regard the constitution especially those aspects that address human right. Issues raised include:

- The excessive powers of the President
- The emergency provisions that interfere with human rights
- The establishment of parallel Ebola task force by the HRC/SL
- Appointment and reappointment of commissioners
- The non-implementation of HRC/SL recommendations
- Establishment of a human rights court
- The relationship between the Judiciary and the Human Rights Commission as in Ghana
- Clear relationship between the HRC and other law enforcement bodies
- Human Rights and peace education and training as recommended in TRC report
- People with disabilities, the aged, FGM, minority groups and almost extinct tribes e.g. Krim
- The non-implementation of the TRC recommendations including setting up a Follow-up committee
- The principle of Justice above technical court processes
After carefully listening to the Commissioners and staff, the public consultation forms and the combined document (1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Commission report) were handed over to the commissioners. It was also resolved that the Commission prepares and submits a position paper including the completed consultation forms to the CRC secretariat within twenty one days.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH NETWORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

VENUE: HEAD OFFICE OF DEFENSE OF CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL, OLD RAILWAY LINE, TENGBEH TOWN

16TH OCTOBER, 2014

TIME: 10:30-12:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues affecting the National Human Rights Defenders Network
Comments from representatives of the National Human Rights Defenders Network
Public consultation questionnaire
Closing remarks

Introductions

The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and self-introductions.

Objective of the meeting

Miss. Valnora Edwin prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2 and 3 - Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee will also consult other relevant documents in the review process.
The objective of the meeting with the National Human Rights Network is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues in relation to the network and also complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the network membership was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub-committee members

The chair appealed to the membership of the Human Rights Defenders Network to bring out critical human rights issues affecting the network. The network may however look at other critical human rights issues outside their mandate but crucial to human dignity. She appealed to the members to develop a position paper on their concerns.

Comments from membership of the Network

In response, the Chairman of the Network welcomed the team and presented an overview of their operations in relation to human right issues. He was appreciative of the recognition of the importance of the network and how they can contribute to the review process. However, he raised concerns on the implementation of submitted position papers and the current structure of CRC. He was apprehensive of the fact that the views of the network and general public may not be reflected in the final document. He was reassured by the acting chair of the subcommittee that the final document will carry the views of the public. He also stated that the Network will serve as an advocacy outlet for the review process. General discussions from the network membership were centered on the following key issues:

- Timely implementation of the completed constitution
- Human defenders not protected by the present constitution
- Domestication of International agreements e.g. The Paris principles and the establishment of focal points in the National Human Rights Commission
- Network not capacitated to fight gross human rights violations
- Parliament to introduce human rights bill
- Civil and political rights not properly protected e.g. libel and Inhuman treatments
- Rights, limitations and obligations and government’ emphasis on limitations
- Parliamentary interference in the operations of NGOs
- Human right defenders operate in fear
- Many mistrust on the constitutional review process
- How to make human rights become justifiable
- Freedom and development
- The rule of law and the present justice system
- Simplicity of the constitutional language
- Constitution to guarantee the democratic process
- Equal opportunity for all without discrimination
- The TRC recommendations not implemented
- The independence of the judiciary
- Economic, social and cultural rights to be guaranteed in the constitution
- Emergency powers of the president
- Political interpretation of legal provisions
Public Consultation Questionnaire and Closing Remarks

As the CRC secretariat had already provided them with the public submission form, it was resolved that the Network will later submit their position paper. Closing remarks were made by the subcommittee members and the chair of the network.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES YOUTH ASSOCIATION (APPYA)

VENUE: PPRC REGIONAL OFFICE, MENDS STREET, FREETOWN

22ND OCTOBER, 2014

TIME; 11:00-12:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues affecting youths
Comments from representatives of APPYA
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and self-introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view to recommending amendments that will bring it in time with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2 and 3 - Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Human Rights.
Constitutional Review Committee: Fundamental Principles of State Policy and Human Rights

and Freedoms using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of APPYA is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues in relation to youths and also complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the association membership was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human rights on constitutional issues affecting youths

The chair appealed to the membership of APPYA to bring out critical human Rights issues affecting the youths. The association may however look at other critical human rights issues not within their mandate but crucial to human dignity. He charged the members to develop a position paper on their concerns.

Other sub-committee members gave over views on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter II. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter III (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of APPYA

In response, the APPYA members welcomed the team and gave an overview of their operations in relation to youth rights issues. They expressed appreciation of the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the association and how they can contribute to the review process. The discussion was centered on the following issues:

- 10 % quota for youths decision-making as per TRC recommendation
- PMDC engaged in reviewing the entire constitution and a position paper
- Sierra Leoneans in Diaspora intending to contest election must reside in the country for at least 5(five) years
- Many parliamentarians not in close relation with their constituency members
- Age for presidential candidate to be 35 years and above
- Public Officers to be granted 1 year leave( but not resign ) to contest any public elections
- Monies from diasporas negatively influence public elections
- Public Officers to resign 6(six) months before contesting any public elections
- Constitutional violations by some politicians
- Problems of implementing Recommendations
- Return to previous job after losing public election
- Conflict of interest
- Compulsory public debate for election contestants
- Financial support be given to political parties after elections with strict criteria
- High nomination fees for public election contestants must be cut down as before
- Executive powers of the president to be reduced
- Return to the proportional Representative system
- PPRC chairmanship not to be limited only to judges
- Government properties not to be used in public elections by contestants
- Youth unemployment problems
- Land problems
- Health care programmes
- Specific general elections date
- Monitoring government development programmes by other political parties
- Delayed justice
- The effect of bad laws
- Cabinet appointments to be divided as follows: winning party 70%, opposition 20% and third position 10%
- Committee for appointment to be established by government

**Public consultation questionnaire**

CRC secretariat to provide public submission forms to APPYA secretary, and it was resolved that position paper will be submitted later.
Consultative meeting with Law Officers’ Department

Venue: Law Officers’ Department, Ministry of Justice

29th October, 2014

Time; 12:45-13:12

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to Law Officers
Comments from Law Officers
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and Individual introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view to recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of Law Officers Department is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to law officers and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of The Law officers Department was crucial to the review process.
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human rights on constitutional issues of concern to Law Officers

The chair urged the Law Officers to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns and he encouraged the members to develop a position paper of their concerns. Other sub-committee members gave over views on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter II. (Fundamental Principle of State Policy), and chapter III (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of the Law Officers’ Department

In response, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Justice welcomed the team and presented overview of their activities. He was appreciative of recognition of the importance of the department and how they can contribute to the review process. He also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation.

The discussion was very short due to the low turnout of the Law officers as most of them were still in court. It was however resolved that the public submission forms will be reproduced in large quantities and distributed to every member of the department. A position paper and the completed form will be submitted to CRC secretariat.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH SIERRA LEONE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

VENUE: HEAD OFFICE, FORMER SPECIAL COURT COMPOUND, JOMO KENYATTA ROAD, FREETOWN.

28TH OCTOBER 2014

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
3. Comments from C R C Sub-committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Law Reform Commission.
5. Public consultation questionnaire

Introduction

The Acting Chairperson of C R C Sub-committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introductions.

The acting chairperson prefaced the discussions with the mandate of C R C which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. She stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of state Policy) and 3 (Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report of 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the representatives of the Commission is to have a discussion on critical human rights issues of concern to the commission and also complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the commission is crucial to the review process she said.

Comments from the C R C Sub-committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Law Reform Commission representatives

The chairperson appealed to the representatives of the commission to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns and requested the representatives to develop a position paper of their concerns.

Other committee members gave overviews of the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2(Fundamental Principles of State Policy) and chapter 3(Recognition and the protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of individual).

Comments from representatives of the Law Reform Commission

In response the Chairperson of the Commission Justice Salamatu Koroma welcomed the team and said that everybody should feel free in the discussion. She emphasized the importance of these chapters in the constitution and for everybody to get these rights and know what these rights are to achieve social justice. She mentioned the need to simplify the constitution, translate it into our local languages and disseminate it in schools, universities, etc. The general discussion that followed was centered on chapters 11 and 111 of the constitution. The following issues were discussed:

- The importance for citizens to know their rights and the need to simplify translate into our local languages and disseminate in schools, universities and the country at large.

- Challenges faced in reviewing the 1991 constitution as regards the lack of background information, ill equipped, composition and the Law Reform Commission not fully engaged.

- The issue of other constitutions and best practices and their practicability in our situation to make our system stable.

- The need to have broad principles when reviewing the constitution, to adapt to everyday eventuality and make projections for the future.

- The importance of dealing with the technicalities and maintaining the underlying principles.
- The role of the Supreme Court and the magistrate courts in administering justice

- The endless debate on the non-justifiable character of chapter 11.

- Domestic violence and its prevalence in our country and other developed countries.

- The role of civil societies.

- State of emergency, its time frame, the challenges of implementing and the need to have substantive legislation that facilitates enforcement and make people accountable. The introduction of individual legislation was also highlighted.

- The importance of education for everybody than our depleting natural resources.

- The need to make laws so that the leaders will be answerable. The constitution to be stronger than the individual and the obligations of the government to the people should be strengthened. The people and not government is supreme.

- The issue of the criminal libel laws was raised and that options should be created for it to be a thing of the past.

- Gender inequality and the 30% quota.

- The need for national cohesion.

- National Registration of citizens and the need to lift the bar.

- The large size of government and fragmented institutions.

- The land tenure system and for land to be made lucrative.

- The limitation of the mandate to the 1991 constitution and Peter Tucker Report and that the submission be more proactive.

The necessity of building on the conditions we have.

**Public Consultation questionnaire**

Public submission forms will be completed and submitted to the secretariat.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ARMED FORCES (RSLAF)

VENUE: MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, WILKINSON ROAD, FREETOWN

31ST OCTOBER, 2014

TIME; 11:00-12:30

Agenda
Introductions
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to Military personnel
Comments from Military personnel
Public consultation questionnaire

**Introductions**
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introductions.

**Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report 2008**
The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of Armed Forces is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to military personnel and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. He raised the question of how many military personnel had ever read the constitution and expressed his disappointment of people's lack of interest in the national laws that governed them. Constitution cannot be reviewed frequently, and since this the first national participatory process as compared to previous ones where only small group of elites think for people. The participation of the department of military officers was crucial to the review process he said.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to Law Officers

The acting chair appealed to the armed forces to bring out critical human rights issues of national concern. He appealed to the members to develop a position paper of their concerns.
Other sub-committee members gave overviews on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental Principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

In response, Major Eldred Smart of the Armed Forces welcomed the team and gave an overview of their activities in relation to laws of the land. He expressed appreciation for the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the arm forces and how they can contribute to the review process. The general discussion that followed was brief as it was overshadowed by military culture of discipline and silence. The following issues were raised:

...Military personnel were not previously allowed to engage in political discussions
...To only discuss issues relating to the army
...Concerns to 'reasonability' in sections 17 and 18
..Any letters for the army should be directed to Ministry of Defense
..Discipline in the army does not allow members to speak openly on human rights issues
..Dissimilarities between civilian and military personnel retirement age
..Benefit conditions after active service in the army e.g. housing
..Schools in army barracks must be properly empowered to the meet section 9 provision
..In the Army, power is concentrated on the individuals instead of the institution
..Politicians should not carry out any political campaign in army establishments

Public consultation questionnaire
CRC secretariat to provide more public submission forms to military personnel and it was resolved that the army will later submit position paper and the completed forms. It was also resolved that the meeting be rescheduled to allow for more active participation after some times of studying the constitution.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION (NACSA)

VENUE: HEAD OFFICE 14 CHARLOTTE STREET, FREETOWN

4TH NOVEMBER, 2014

TIME: 11:30-12:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to NaCSA Representatives
Comments from NaCSA Representatives
Public consultation questionnaire
Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. She stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee will also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the NaCSA is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to NaCSA representatives and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the commission was crucial to the review process she said.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to NaCSA
The acting chair appealed to NaCSA to bring out critical human rights issues of national interest and to develop a position paper of their concerns. Other sub-committee members gave overviews of the mandate to do n* public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy),and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of NaCSA
In response, Deputy Commissioner Haja Isatu Kamara welcomed the team and gave overview on the function of NaCSA. She expressed appreciation of the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the Commission’s contribution to the review process. The former Commissioner Mr Saidu Conton Sesay, who is at present the Chief of staff at State house gave detailed explanation of the NaCSA position paper dated the 5th May 2014,
submitted to the CRC secretariat, titled: **Contribution on the Social Protection Provision for inclusion in the new constitution.** The general discussion that followed was mainly centered on the content of the position paper. The following issues were discussed:

- NaCSA service to vulnerable groups
- Justice (in chapter 2, section 8, subsection 1) imply fairness
- People are not equal in all things and needs
- Dignity is meaningless to extremely poor people
- Basic needs of different people to be provided by the state
- Generating and proper management of revenue from natural resources
- Proper planning, management and distribution of proceeds from natural resource
- Social protection fund and safety nets
- Social protection provision as provided in the Kenya constitution
- National registry of vulnerable groups
- Eradication of extreme poverty through social protection fund
- Citizen's responsibility and contribution (not just the state) to end poverty
- Human development approach by helping people to grow
- Social protection not just cash transfer
- Cut down subsidies and redirect the surpluses to the extremely poor
- Serious actions to realize freedom want
- Social protection bill or legislation

**Public consultation questionnaire**

NaCSA had already submitted a position paper to the CRC secretariat. Public submission forms will be completed and submitted to the secretariat.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF YOUTHS AFFAIRS (MOYA)

VENUE: 2RD FLOOR, HOSTEL, SIAKA STEVEN STADIUM, FREETOWN

12TH NOVEMBER, 2014

TIME: 11:30-12:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Representatives of the Ministry
Comments from Representatives of the Ministry
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and
beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2 (Principles of State Policy) and 3 (Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee will consult other relevant documents in the review process. A brief constitutional history from 1961 to 1991 was also explained. The objective of the meeting with the representatives of MOYA is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to them and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the Ministry was crucial to the review process he said.

**Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human rights on constitutional issues of concern to MOYA representatives**

The chair appealed to the representatives of MOYA to bring out critical Human Rights issues of national concerns. He charged the ministry to develop a position paper of their concerns. Other sub-committee members gave overviews on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).

**Comments from the MOYA**

In response, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry welcomed the team and gave overview of the function of MOYA. He expressed appreciation for the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the Ministry’s contribution to the review process. The following issues were discussed:

- Not having copy of the constitution prior to this meeting
- Arrest and bail conditions
- Provisions for vulnerable groups
- Basic needs of deferent people to be provided by the state
- Social Protection provision for all
- 10% quota for youths in state governance as per TRC recommendation
- Specified election of Paramount Chiefs to be conducted
- Length of service of Paramount Chiefs to be specific
- Definite educational qualification for Paramount Chiefs
- National Youth service programme
- Alternative ways to avoid youth violence
- Complaint unit at office of the Ombudsman to protect youths
- Alternative means to stop youth idleness
- Cut down subsidies and redirect the surpluses to the extremely poor
- Accessibility to National ID card for provincial people
- Free education for all
- Unsatisfactory court system
- Justice delayed is justice denied
- Service and retirement conditions of public servants
- Legal aid for poor people
- Youths to look at the NASSIT Act
- Over urbanization of idle people

**Public consultation questionnaire**

Resolved that MOYA will submitted a position paper to the CRC secretariat along with the completed public submission forms.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH SIERRA LEONE POLICE FORCE

VENUE: NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTER, GEORGE STREET, FREETOWN

14TH NOVEMBER, 2014

TIME: 14:00-15:00

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to Police Force
Comments from Police Officers
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and Individual introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of the Police Force is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to Police Officers and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the Police Force was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Sierra Leone Police Force

The chair appealed to the members of the police Force to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns, and also to develop a position paper of their concerns. Other sub-committee members gave overviews of the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual)

Comments from representatives of Police Force

In response, the Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police welcomed the team and gave an overview of their activities in relation to laws of the land. He expressed appreciation for the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the Police Force and how they can contribute to the review process. He also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation. Assistant Inspector General of Police AIG Lengor continued with the discussion and gave detailed explanations on their position paper (dated 14th August 2013) which had not yet been submitted to the secretariat. The discussion was centered on the recommendations in their position paper. Such issues are:

- Copies of public submission form to be reproduce and distributed to all regional stations
- Completed forms will be collected and collated then submitted to CRC secretariat
- Provisions in sections 155 to 157 to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provisions in section 153(ss 1and 2)to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 17 ss 3 (a) to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 17 ss 4 to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 25 ss1 to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 87 ss 1 to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Military Aid to Civil Power(MACP) to be enshrined in the constitution
- The Independent Police Complaint Board to be enshrined in the constitution
- Provision in section 34 ss1and 1(a) to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 56 ss 2( b) to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 64 ss 1 to be reviewed according to their position paper
- Provision in section 76 ss 1 (b) to be reviewed according to their position paper

Public consultation questionnaire
Sierra Leone Police had now submitted a position paper to the CRC secretariat. Public submission forms will be completed and submitted to the secretariat later.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSOCIATION

VENUE: NEW ENGLAND VILLE, FREETOWN

19TH NOVEMBER, 2014

TIME: 11:20-12:30

Agenda

Introductions
- Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
- Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to The Association's Representatives
Introduction
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introductions.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2 (Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the representatives of the Association is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to them and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the Association was crucial to the review process he said.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Medical and Dental Association
The chair appealed to the representatives of the Association to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns. He urged the representatives to develop a position paper of their concerns.

Other sub-committee members gave overviews on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of Medical and Dental Association
In response, The President of SLMDA Dr. Eva Hanciles welcomed the team and gave overview on the functions of SLMDA. She expressed appreciation for the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the Association's contribution to the review process. The general discussion that followed was centred on the following issues;
Basic healthcare for all
Good living and sanitation conditions in the country
Implementation of laws and regulations
Strengthen the healthcare regulations
Parliamentarians to be educated on the concerns of the people
Ebola crisis as a turning point in our healthcare programmes
Social and economic problems ahead after the Ebola crisis
Healthcare under-cost is disgraceful
Failure of journalist to properly inform the public on national issues
Total marginalization of Medical professionals in all healthcare programmes, e.g. the Ebola crisis
Strong legal measures against culprits posing as doctors or medical practitioners
No cooperation from law enforcement bodies to deal with false doctors and clinics
To recruit qualified nurses instead of serving as volunteers
Parliamentarians encouraged to support foreign medical practitioners
No political interference in promoting health care
To discourage traditional healing methods
Medical practitioner's advice to government in 1979 that failed
Post graduate training for medical practitioners should be encouraged to improve on medical human resource capacity

Public consultation questionnaire
Resolved that Medical and Dental Association will submit a position paper to the CRC secretariat. Public submission forms will be completed and submitted to the secretariat also,
Consultative Meeting with National Electoral Commission (NEC)

Venue: National Head Office, Tower Hill, Freetown

21st November, 2014

Time: 11:30 - 12:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to National Electoral Commission
Comments from NEC representatives
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introduction.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. She stated that the mandate of the subcommittee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of NEC is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to NEC members and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the NEC members was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to NEC
The chair appealed to the commission members to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns. She charged the members to develop a position paper of their concerns. Other sub-committee members gave over views on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual)

Comments from representatives of NEC
In response, the Chairperson of NEC welcomed the team and gave overview of their works in relation to election process in the country. He expressed appreciation of the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the Commission and how they can
contribute to the review process. He also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation.
The general discussion was centered on the following issues:
- Government to take steps to minimize poverty
- Resource constrains must not be an obstacle to poverty eradication
- The nation is blessed with many valuable resources
- Protection of Healthcare programmers in the constitution
- Women's rights should not be separated from the general human right
- Employment to be enforceable as human rights issue for the youths
- Quality Education to be enforceable as human rights for youths and illiterates
- Improve condition for private sector development
- Measures to be taken to stop street hawking and homelessness
- Development of middle level manpower as basic for development
- National work permit given to foreigners and depriving nationals
- Protection of Social security Provisions in the constitution
- Proper resource management to eradicate poverty
- Citizenship qualifications and rights on diverse national issues
- All citizens (remand prisoners and Diaspora people) to participate in elections
- Chief Justice to be mentioned in the constitution
- Institutions to fill in those gaps not mentioned in the constitution
- Redefine functions of local government administration
- Western area not represented in parliament as other districts
- Redefine levels of government to avoid overlaps
- Second chamber is required for paramount chiefs in parliament

Public consultation questionnaire
Resolved that the public submission forms will be reproduced in large quantities and distributed to every member of the commission. A position paper and the completed form will be Submitted to CRC secretariat as soon as possible.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH WOMEN'S FORUM

VENUE: YWCA, BROOK-FIELDS, FREETOWN.

26TH NOVEMBER, 2014

TIME: 12:30-13:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to Women's Forum
Comments from representatives of Women's Forum
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introduction.

The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view to recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of Women's Forum is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to members and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the members of Women's Forum was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human rights on constitutional issues of concern to Women's Forum
The chair appealed to the organization’s members to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns.
Other sub-committee members gave overviews on their mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).
Comments from representatives of Women's Forum

In response, the President of Women's Forum Madam Maude R Peacock welcomed the team and gave overview on their activities in relation to women empowerment in the country. She expressed appreciation of the visit by the sub-committee in recognition of the importance of the commission and how they can contribute to the review process. She also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation. Since Women's Forum had already submitted a position paper to the CRC secretariat, the general discussion was centered on the content of their position paper, and including the following issues:

- Position paper is the collective opinions of all women
- Reaffirmed position paper as submitted
- Women's right to own land in the Western area and the Province
- Women's right to be engage in the mining sector
- Women's right to choose dress e.g. hijab for Muslim women
- The unlimited discretionary powers of Judges regarding bail condition
- Women’s right as surety to bail people
- Clear guidelines for bail condition
- The death penalty to be repealed from the constitution
- Death penalty should not be the discretion of Judges only
- Judiciary to be independent from the Executive and Legislative arms of government
- Justices delay is justices denied.

Public consultation questionnaire

A position paper already submitted. Public submission forms will be submitted to CRC secretariat as soon as possible.
PHOTO 13: CROSS OF PARTICIPANTS
Consultative meeting with Sierra Leone Association of Journalist (SLAJ)

Venue: CRC secretariat, Miata Conference Centre, Freetown

27th November, 2014

Time: 13:30 - 14:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to SLAJ
Comments from representatives of SLAJ
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chair of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers. Individual introductions were made by those present. Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human rights on constitutional issues affecting youths

Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
The acting chair prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. She stated that the mandate of the sub-committee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2 and 3 - Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of SLAJ is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues in relation to journalist and also complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the association membership was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to journalist.
The chair appealed to the membership of SLAJ to bring out critical human rights issues affecting the journalist. The association may however look at other critical human rights issues outside their mandate but crucial to human dignity. She charged the members to develop a position paper on their concerns.

Other sub-committee members gave over views on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of the Individual).
Comments from representatives of SLAJ
In response, the SLAJ president welcomed the team and presented an overview on their activities in relation to journalism in the country. He expressed appreciation for the meeting with the sub-committee as recognition of the importance of the association and how they can contribute to the review process. The discussion was centred on the following issues:

- Section 11 (obligations of the media)
- Limitation set in section 14 against court enforceability
- Need for a separate provision to enforce section 11
- All media and media related issues to be provided in the same Provision
- General fear of the media should be eradicated with defined provisions
- Media recklessness should be looked into
- Self-regulation of the media
- Agreement and cooperation between the media and government on conflicting issues
- Empowerment of the IMC to administer its mandate
- IMC to handle any media related case before going to court as the PPRC that deals with political parties problems
- Refusal of bail right for journalists should be discouraged
- Journalist negotiate court fines
- IMC to be totally independent of the government and state functionaries
- Deferent media groups to set up the IMC
- Section 25 to be repealed as it limits the independence of the IMC
- Section 70 ss d to be amended by adding "expect the IMC"
- Appointments in IMC to be done by SLAJ members
- Not opposed to the inclusion of other groups
- Libel laws to be reviewed
- Bankruptcy laws are too harsh
- Access to Information laws are contrary to criminal libel laws
- Chapter 2 to be enforceable in court
- Judiciary to be self-funding
- The Bill of Right to be in a separate section
- Independent body to study the appropriateness of state of emergency before declaration
- Journalist to do responsible reporting
- IMC composition and function power to be provided in the constitution as in Ghana

Public consultation questionnaire
Resolved that position paper and the completed public submission forms will be submitted to the CRC secretariat.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, GENDER AND CHILDREN’S AFFAIRS

VENUE: NEW ENGLAND VILLE, FREETOWN

2ND DECEMBER, 2014

TIME: 10:00-10:30

Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Ministry members
Comments from representatives of the Ministry
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The chairperson of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introduction.

The chairperson prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view of recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. She stated that the mandate of the subcommittee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008.
The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process. The objective of the meeting with the members of the Ministry is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to members and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the members of Ministry was crucial to the review process.

**Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to the Ministry**

The chairperson appealed to the members of the Ministry to bring out critical human rights issues of national concerns. Other sub-committee members gave over views on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter 2. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter 3 (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom of the Individual).

**Comments from representatives of The Ministry**

In response, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry welcomed the team and presented overview on their activities in relation to the welfare of all people in the country. He expressed appreciation for the visit by the subcommittee in recognition of the importance of the Ministry and how they can contribute to the review process. He also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation.

The general discussion included the following issues:

- The rights of a child not specifically dealt with in the present constitution must be considered
- Juvenile cases have no special court procedure
- Women’s right to own land
- Too much abuse of women
- Discrimination against women as per section 24 ss D of chapter 3
- Disability issues not dealt with specifically in the constitution
- Victims of Trafficking (VOT) - Laws to be established and enforced
- Access of vulnerable people to justice to be included in the constitution
- Social protection Provisions for poor people e.g. street and disabled people
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) issues be included in the constitution

**Public consultation questionnaire**

A position paper and the completed public submission forms will be submitted to CRC secretariat as soon as possible.
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
VENUE: SOS NATIONAL HEAD QUARTER, LUMLEY, FREETOWN
3RD DECEMBER, 2014
TIME: 11:00-12:00
Agenda

Introductions
Overview of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report
Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to SOS members
Comments from representatives of SOS
Public consultation questionnaire

Introductions
The acting chairperson of the CRC Sub Committee called the meeting to order and requested for individual silent prayers and introduction.

The acting chairperson prefaced the discussions with the mandate of CRC which is to review the 1991 constitution with a view to recommending amendments that will bring it to date with the economic, political, social and cultural realities that have taken place in the country and beyond. He stated that the mandate of the subcommittee was to engage the public through consultation on chapters 2(Principles of State Policy) and 3(Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms) using the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker Report 2008. The committee should also consult other relevant documents in the review process.

The objective of the meeting with the members of SOS is to have a discussion on the critical human rights issues of concern to members and also to complete the public consultation questionnaire. The participation of the members of SOS was crucial to the review process.

Comments from the CRC Sub Committee on State Policy and Human Rights on constitutional issues of concern to SOS
The acting chairperson appealed to the members of SOS to bring out critical human rights issues of national interests.
Other sub-committee members gave overviews on the mandate to do public consultations on chapter II. (Fundamental principle of State Policy), and chapter III (Recognition and Protection of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual).

Comments from representatives of SOS
In response, the Director of the village welcomed the team and gave over view on their works in relation to the welfare of the children in their care. She expressed appreciation of the visit by the subcommittee in recognition of the importance of SOS and how they can contribute to the review process. She also reinforced the idea of encouraging public participation. The general discussion included the following issues:

- The importance and effect of the constitution in relations to children’s rights
- The need for the people to have detailed knowledge of the constitution not just at review time
- Help needed for orphan children
- Help for the physically challenged children
- No government support for SOS children
- The past 40 years only individuals had supported SOS
- No tax exemption for SOS properties and assets
Only SOS cares for staffs and other responsibilities
No scholarship opportunity for SOS children to enter tertiary institutions
Free education cannot guarantee quality education in schools
Put premium on quality education especially in schools and colleges
SOS children are discriminated against in all spheres of national development
No good result from Ministry of Social Welfare even after many engagements
We are outsiders in our own country
The backwardness of our education system
Government to pay more attention to the health care programme
Post graduate training for medical personnel
No employment for our trained nurses
Street beggars and the future of their children
Uneducated Children that serve blind people
Citizenship
Passport given to foreigners

Public consultation questionnaire

A position paper and the completed public submission forms will be Submitted to CRC secretariat as soon as possible.
This CRC Sub Committee was tasked with considering Chapters 2 and Chapters 3 of the 1991 with a view to making recommendations for amendments, and/ or making recommendations for acceptance or rejection of the existing sections and making suggestions for inclusion of new additional sections.

To be taken into account were the recommendations made by the Peter Tucker Commission Report (PTCR), Yasmin Jusu Sheriff’s report to the Governance Stakeholders’ Coordination Forum (GSCF) and The Review Matrix: Summary of Proposed Changes and Basis for Changes (Matrix).

These recommendations and suggestions to be finalised and submitted for consideration by the Plenary Session of the CRC

This is an interim report on the considerations, recommendations and issues for clarification and further discussion relating to Chapter 2 of the 1991 Constitution.

The Sub Committee held 3 workshops to consider Chapter 2 section by section.

Below are the amalgamated outcomes of the plenary sessions of these workshops. The sections, amendments, additions and deletions agreed upon in bold, issues needing further clarification and/ or discussion in italics:

**S 4**

This was accepted with no suggestions for amendment

**S 5**

**S 5 (2) b**

Recommend that “Sierra Leone citizens” should be included.

Reasoning:

It was the duty of every citizen the country to ensure the security, peace and welfare of the people of Sierra Leone

**S 5 (2) b**

Recommend that the term “Public Officers” needs specific definition.

Reasoning:

To clarify who is covered by this term

**S 6 (2)**

Recommend

That the word “discourage” should be replaced with “prohibit”

Reasoning:

To strengthen this section
It was agreed that in addition the subcommittee recommends that secondary anti-discrimination legislation be passed specifically making it unlawful to discriminate or make reference to someone’s tribal or regional origin.

**S6 (3) b** Recommend

The word “citizen” needs specific definition

Reasoning:

To clarify who is a citizen of Sierra Leone

This is in line with PTCR which suggests a new chapter 3 be added to “give clear and authoritative provision” to “determine who the citizens of Sierra Leone are and how citizenship can be acquired without reference to racial or gender criteria”

**Issues not yet finalized in relation to section 6**

**S 6 (3) a**

One group wanted to add “with the exception of government restricted areas for security purposes and secret society areas.”

No consensus was reached on this but it was suggested that these matters could be dealt with by secondary legislation.

**S 6 (5)**

One group wanted to replace this with the wording in S XXVI (iii) of the Ugandan Constitution which reads “All lawful measures shall be taken to expose, combat and eradicate corruption and abuse or misuse of power by those holding political and other public offices”

There was much discussion about including the word “All” and possible legal arguments that this may generate.

It was agreed this merited further discussion

One group suggested adding a new S 6 (6) giving recognition to Civil Society organisations

No consensus was reached on this issue and it was left for further discussion.

**S 7**

**S 7**

Recommend

that S XXVII (i) and (ii) of Uganda’s Constitution could be added to S 7 (1)

This would read:

“(i) The State shall promote sustainable development and public awareness of the need to manage land, air, water resources in a balanced and sustainable manner for the present and future generations.

(ii) The utilization of the natural resources of Sierra Leone shall be managed in such a way as to meet the development and environmental needs of present and future
generations of Sierra Leoneans and in particular, the State shall take possible measures to prevent or minimize damage and destruction to land, air and water resources resulting from pollution or other causes.

Reasoning:

This promotes conservation principles in dealing with natural resources which will be fundamentally important to ensure sustainability and a robust and healthy heritage for generations in the future.

S 7 c Recommend

That the word “promote” should be added

Reasoning:

This demands a more proactive approach to implementation

S 8

S 8 (3) c & d Recommend

“having due regard to the resources of the State” should be deleted.

Reasoning:

This is in line with PTCR and one of the recommendations of the Matrix. The Sub Committee was also mindful that the new Constitution should be forward looking.

S 8 (3) f Recommend

“Disabled” to be replaced with “people with special needs or physically challenged”

Reasoning:

This in line with acceptable modern terminology

S 8 (3) f Recommend

To add “special attention given to persons with disability or physically challenged in employment opportunities acknowledging the fact that they have special needs

Reasoning:

This strengthens this section and demands a more proactive approach to implementation.

S 8 (3) g Recommend

To add a new subsection 8 (3) g to read
“The State shall provide appropriate social security and social assistance to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependents and shall enact and implement legislation to that effect.”

Reasoning:

This is in line with NaCSA’s recommendation and the Sub Committee were also mindful that the new Constitution should be forward looking.

S 9

S9 (2) b Recommend

“Disabled” to be replaced with “people with special needs or physically challenged”

Reasoning:

This in line with acceptable modern terminology

S 9 (2) c Recommend

Delete “as and when practicable”

Reasoning:

This is in line with PTCR and two of the recommendations of the Matrix. The Sub Committee were also mindful that the new Constitution should be forward looking.

S 9 (2) d Recommend

To add a new subsection S9 (2) d “to provide adequate educational materials and financial support for vulnerable groups tailored according to their specific learning needs. E.g. brail books for the blind”.

Reasoning:

To give effect to the provision in s 9 (2) b

S 9 (3) a Recommend

Add new s 9 (3) Add Human Rights and peace studies to current subsection 9 (3)

Reasoning:

These were very important issues that should be actively promoted and included in all schools’ curricula

S 9 (3) b Recommend

Add new s 9 (3) b “to reintroduce civic education in schools from preparatory to secondary level.”
Civic education is a cornerstone of understanding civic duties, responsibilities and rights. It should be taught from the earliest age right through to secondary level to give all children a broad understanding of the importance of these issues.

S 10  No amendments were proposed

S 11  No amendments were proposed

S 12

S 12 a  Recommend

To add “ideology” after philosophy and to add “dress” as one of the cultures.

Reasoning:

This broadens what can be considered to represent Sierra Leonean culture. It is also encompasses the recommendation made in PTRC.

S 13

S 13 a  Recommend

To add National Pledge and Currency

Reasoning:

Recommended by PTRC and is more embracing.

S 13 b  Recommend

To amend by deleting “sectional, ethnic, tribal or other loyalties” to be replaced by “regional, sectional, ethnic, religious or other loyalties”

Reasoning:

It modernizes the language.

S 13 g  Recommend

Insert a news 13 g (re-lettering the current g-j as h-k) to read “promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to better the lives of fellow citizens”

Reasoning:

These are the contributions citizens can make to the country and fellow citizens.

S 13 l  Recommend

Add a new s 13 l “satisfy all tax obligations”
Reasoning:
This is an obligation for every citizen to help to develop the country. It is recommended in PTRC.

S 13 m Recommend

Add a new s 13 m “Every citizen shall protect, safeguard and properly utilize the natural resources in the environment in accordance with environmental laws and regulations.”

Reasoning:
This encompasses and strengthens the recommendation in the PTCR. It reflects a modern day approach to the importance of environmental protection.

S14 Recommend

Adding “and courts shall be guided by the provisions in this Chapter when interpreting this Constitution.”

S 14 Recommend

To adopt the recommendation in the GSCF report that there should be a constitutional requirement for the heads of the three arms of government, to present to parliament for open debate, an annual report detailing how the Directive Principles of State Policy have in fact been applied over the past year in decision making and executive action, at a specified date in each year.

S 14 There is still a question on whether Chapter 2 should be partly justifiable. Particularly certain sub sections of s 6, s 8 and s 9 and s 11

The Sub Committee further recommended

1 That all language be changed to be Gender neutral.
2 The PTCR recommendation which suggests a new chapter 3 be added to “give clear and authoritative provision” to “determine who the citizens of Sierra Leone are and how citizenship can be acquired without reference to racial or gender criteria” be implemented.

Jane Aspden Gbandewa

16 11 2014
WORKSHOP 1: MEMBERS OF STATE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE ENGAGED IN GROUP WORK

WORKSHOP 2: INTERNS ALSO CONTRIBUTING IN THE GROUP WORK