



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**STATE HOUSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY**

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**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018**

**MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PRESIDENT BIO DEPARTS FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio departs Sierra Leone today, Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018 for the United States of America to attend the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

This is his maiden attendance at the United Nations General Assembly since his election as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. During the General Debate, President Bio is expected to deliver a very powerful statement highlighting his key commitments and priorities of his new Government.

As the Coordinator of the African Union Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, President Bio is also expected to tell the General Assembly during his statement: "Unless we are able to contend with the reform of the Security Council, the most critical question of the day, our organisation will still be locked into promoting undemocratic and discriminatory principles."

During the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly, President Bio is also expected to attend series of events on the margins and to honour an invitation from Bill Gates to serve as a special guest and speaker at the second annual Goalkeepers event; the first and inaugural event of the Goalkeepers event last year invited President Barack Obama as special guest and speaker. On the margins, President Bio is also expected to attend a high level event organised by the George Soros Open Society Foundations.

Whilst in the United States of America, President Bio will also address Sierra Leoneans in a Town Hall Meeting as part of his commitment to open government and public accountability. "During the elections campaign President Bio promised that if he is elected as President he would visit United States of America. Again, he promised the people and he has delivered on that promise. On the world's stage, this visit will also showcase President Bio as one of the young, progressive and vibrant emerging leaders in Africa," says Yusuf Keketoma Sandi, Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesman.