



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020.

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the General Assembly,

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

H.E. Mr. Abdou Abarry, President of the Security Council, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you, Mr. Presidents, on your assumption of the responsibility to steer the work of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the General Assembly and the Security Council and assure you of Sierra Leone's full support during your respective tenures. I congratulate and commend Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his sterling leadership especially in this Diamond Jubilee Anniversary year.

Excellencies

Sierra Leone is delighted to join other Member States in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. In spite of an unprecedented and disruptive global health crisis with attendant severe economic and social impacts, our challenge is to emerge stronger and better by broadening and deepening dialogue and cooperation across borders, sectors, and generations. Our collective commitment to multilateralism will therefore determine how fast our world recovers and whether we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Excellencies

The signatories of the Charter intended that the United Nations will be a centre for harmonizing actions to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, and achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character. Complete adherence to and implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations is therefore critical now more than ever.

But the seemingly unending cycles of conflict, the devastating impacts of climate change, and the spread of terrorism in recent history, continue to question the effectiveness of our organization

and our ability to promote peace and decent life for all on a sustainable planet. We should collectively generate innovative ideas for fostering peace and better living standards for all. We should implement reform measures in the three major organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this noble institution.

Excellencies

Sierra Leone is committed to advancing our collective ambition and energy to maintain global peace and security, mitigate climate change, and achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. We look forward to working with you and all Member States in upholding and fulfilling our collective objectives as set out in the United Nations Charter.

I thank you.