



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JULIUS MAADA
BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE ELECTION OF SIERRA LEONE AS
A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE 2024-2025 TERM – JUNE
2023**

Fellow Sierra Leoneans,

1. It is with profound honour and a deep sense of fulfilment that I convey to you the news that Sierra Leone, for the first time in 53 years and for only the second time in this country's history, has been elected as a non-permanent member of the United

Nations Security Council. Sierra Leone last served on the Council in 1970-1971.

- 2.** Our return to the UN Security Council is a generational accomplishment. It is a testament to my government's transformation of Sierra Leone's international reputation and standing and our immense foreign policy gains in line with our Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) 2018 New Direction People's Manifesto.

- 3.** Our presence on the UN Security Council represents our unique success as a democratic and peaceful country of resilience and unbounded optimism; one that successfully transitioned from war to peace

while working in partnership with the United Nations; a country no longer defined by the stigma of the past; a beacon of hope and fortitude; a country that has gained immense global respect for investing in its people and promoting and protecting the rights of women; a place of peace and great belief that the future will be better, brighter, more just, and more peaceful because of the investments we are making today in an inclusive and sustainable future.

4. Sierra Leone's vision for promoting sustained global peace and security is inspired by seven key priorities: peacemaking; peacekeeping; human rights; accountability; prioritising the broader role of

women and youth in the pursuit of global peace and security; and a recognition that the adverse impact of climate change undermines global development, peace, and security.

5. These seven priorities are underpinned by our firm commitment to international cooperation based on a multilateral rules-based order and a reformed Security Council that provides for meaningful, equitable representation across all regions of the world.
6. When I officially launched our bid in New York for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the 2024-2025 term, our candidacy was

anchored on the theme of “**Partnership, Multilateralism and Representative Approach to Sustained Global Peace and Security**”.

7. Sierra Leone's candidacy was bolstered by the encouragement and staunch support of our sub-regional organisation, ECOWAS, and the entire African continent, as we were an endorsed candidate of the African Union.

8. Therefore, as Sierra Leone accedes to this primary global decision-making organ on peace and security matters at the United Nations, let me, on behalf of every Sierra Leonean, express our profound gratitude to our African brothers and

sisters and their governments for their unwavering and unconditional demonstration of solidarity. Sierra Leone's success is Africa's success.

- 9.** I also thank the member States of the United Nations for their overwhelming support and trust in the people and Government of Sierra Leone under my leadership.
- 10.** On this momentous day, I call on every Sierra Leonean to hold their head high, celebrate, and be proud of Sierra Leone's historic achievement at the heart of the international system.

11. I am honoured and humbled to be your President on this momentous day. I solemnly committed in the 2018 People's Manifesto that, through focused leadership, I will put Sierra Leone at the centre of the international system. With our election to the Security Council, I have delivered for the people of Sierra Leone. I now pledge to do even more to raise the international profile of our great nation. And I will continue to deliver on my promises as the "Talk and Do" President.

12. I commit to building on this accomplishment with an effective tenure of global leadership on the UN Security Council once I receive your mandate for a second term of office. My SLPP administration will

deliver this action-oriented commitment and the game-changer priorities and commitments in the

New Direction: Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Transformation, People's Manifesto 2023.

- 13.** Thank you for your attention, and God/Allah subuhannah wa ta'allah bless Sierra Leone and her people.