



**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY HIS
EXCELLENCY DR JULIUS MAADA
BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, AT
THE INAUGURAL KOREA-AFRICA
SUMMIT IN SEOUL, THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA - TUESDAY
4TH JUNE 2024**

SALUTATIONS:

- Your Excellency, Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea
- Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
- Representatives of Government
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It gives me great pleasure to participate in this maiden Korea–Africa Summit, held in the beautiful and historic city of Seoul.

2. I wish to express, on behalf of the great people of Sierra Leone, our deepest and most sincere appreciation to His Excellency President Yoon Suk Yeol, the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea.

3. Your invitation and the enduring friendship that has been extended to us are truly invaluable and we are deeply grateful.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. At a time when conflicts, wars and terrorist activities are increasing across the world, there is no better time than now to draw from our commonalities and the international peace architecture to prevent and respond to conflicts when they occur for a collective future of “Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity”.

5. One key framework for International Peace and Security is the United Nations (UN) Security Council, of which Sierra Leone has been a Non-Permanent Member since January 2024.

6. Sierra Leone, with unwavering determination, remains committed during its tenure to ensure that the Security Council

fulfils its paramount responsibility in maintaining International Peace and Security.

7. Let me also take this moment to extend my warmest congratulations to the Republic of Korea on its third re-election as a Non-Permanent Member of the Security Council.

8. This achievement paves the way for further collaboration between our nations on common grounds, instilling hope for a more secure and peaceful future.

9. With escalating peace and security threats, the urgency of expediting the reform of the UN Security Council becomes even more pronounced.

10. As the Chair of the African Union's Committee of Ten (C-10) on the UN Security Council Reforms, Sierra Leone's Government is steadfast in its commitment to spearhead the formation of a Common African position on the reform of the Security Council during our tenure in the Non-Permanent Seat.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

11. We are all here fully aware of the challenges our countries are facing and why we must build stronger cooperation both within and outside of Africa.

12. However, in working together, we must be aware that the challenges facing many African countries, though they might appear similar, do not require a straight-jacketed or one-size-fits-all solution.

13. The days of armchair solutions designed by our partners (and sometimes in our absence) to solve the problems facing African

countries are over. We have to be practical in our approach to foster tangible and sustainable results.

14. We are aware of the challenges facing African countries, but we are also fully cognisant of the immense potential our Continent holds.

15. I candidly expect that the outcome of this Summit should benefit both the countries of Africa and the Republic of Korea. We should adopt practical approaches to our challenges and harness our opportunities to bring about tangible and sustainable results.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

16. While my Government continues to implement the necessary reforms to uplift our people through economic growth and social progress in Sierra Leone, we are also fully aware that the challenges we face today are interconnected to broader global dynamics.

17. The current issue of price increases and global food insecurity is increasingly and disproportionately affecting Africa.

18. In most parts of Africa, we still rely on traditional and subsistence farming techniques. Despite having abundant arable land in most of our countries, we are still unable to feed our people adequately.

19. Global market shocks, caused by a combination of conflicts, disruption of supply chains, and climate change, continue to exacerbate the problem.

20. We, therefore, need the right partnerships and cooperation to address climate change and food security.

21. To tackle food insecurity and counter the effects of climate change, our flagship Food Security Program, "FEED SALONE," is the fundamental pillar among five key national development initiatives that seek to build inclusive, self-sufficient, climate-smart technologies to bolster agriculture and renewable energy for a prosperous Sierra Leone.

22. FEED SALONE is an ambitious and comprehensive Programme aimed at boosting staple food production, minimising reliance on food imports, increasing exports, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

23. I take this opportunity to thank our host once again for the support they have provided to Sierra Leone regarding food security.

24. The ongoing implementation of the K-Rice Belt Project, which started in October last year, complements our efforts toward food self-sufficiency.

25. We look forward to further discussions on this project to scale up and expand implementation.

26. Collaboration, cooperation, and respectful partnerships will provide us with a more sustainable way forward in a time like this.

27. In this regard, Sierra Leone is committed to continuing to nurture our partnership in the Korea Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAPEC) and the Korea Africa Forum (KAF) to strengthen our friendship and ensure our continued mutual prosperity.

28. Sierra Leone looks forward to leveraging its relationship with the Republic of Korea and their joint Membership in the Non-Permanent Category of the UN Security Council to promote peace and security.

29. We count on our decades of bilateral relationship with the Republic of Korea to promote mutually beneficial trade and investment.

30. We welcome strategic support for our food security, human capital development and infrastructure development initiatives and the requisite technological transfer to boost economic growth.

31. We look forward to win-win trade and investments in our productive sectors for our shared benefits.

32. Once again, I congratulate His Excellency President Yoon Suk Yeol for bringing us together, welcoming us to the Republic of Korea, and fostering meaningful exchanges for our shared growth, sustainability, and solidarity.

THANK YOU.