



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JULIUS MAADA  
BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
AND COORDINATOR OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
COMMITTEE OF TEN (C-10) AT THE SIXTH SUMMIT OF  
THE C-10 ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFORM**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 | Virtual**

- YOUR EXCELLENCIES, COLLEAGUES, HEADS OF  
STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE C-10,**
- HIS EXCELLENCY MAHAMOUD ALI YOUSSEUF,  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
COMMISSION,**
- DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

1. I am very pleased to welcome you to this  
**Sixth Summit of the African Union  
Committee of Ten Heads of State and  
Government on the Reform of the United  
Nations Security Council.**
2. We meet at a defining moment in our  
collective journey.
3. A journey that began two decades ago  
with the adoption of the **Ezulwini  
Consensus and the Sirte Declaration**,  
through which Africa boldly and  
unanimously demanded a seat at the  
table of global power.

4. That demand was not one of charity, but of justice, anchored in our Continent's historical exclusion and grounded in our unwavering commitment to equity and multilateralism.
5. Through steadfast unity and principled diplomacy, the C-10 has transformed the **Common African Position (CAP)** into a powerful and respected Continental demand.

6. Despite the long-standing inertia characterising the **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)**, Africa's voice has become increasingly significant.
7. It is recognised as central to any credible reform of the Security Council.
8. A critical turning point came at the **Fifth Consultative Summit of C-10 Heads of State and Government in November 2023**, held in **Oyala, Equatorial Guinea**.
9. In Oyala, **we resolved decisively to shift from rhetoric to action**.

**10.** This resolve was endorsed by the **37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union in February 2024**, through the adoption of the **Oyala Plan of Action — our strategic blueprint for implementation over the next two years.**

**11.** Since then, we have made meaningful and measurable progress.

**12.** In **August 2024**, under **Sierra Leone's** presidency of the Security Council, we convened a historic high-level debate on **Africa's exclusion from permanent membership — a first in the Council's history**

— directly confronting its structural imbalance.

**13. In September 2024, we held a direct Ministerial Dialogue with the P5 during UNGA79, reiterating our call for Africa to be treated as a special case.**

**14. At the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, Member States adopted the Pact for the Future, with Action 39(a) explicitly recognising the need to redress the historical injustice done to Africa as a priority.**

**15. These are not symbolic developments — they are signals that the world is listening.**

**16.** But acknowledgement alone is not enough. It must give way to action.

**17.** Our Foreign Ministers have since **met three times**, including in **Algiers, Algeria**, where the decision to submit the **African Union Reform Model** was taken, and in Lusaka, Zambia, where the Model was agreed.

**18.** I also commend the important work done by the C-10 Permanent Representatives during the Retreat in **Freetown, Sierra Leone**, which fed into the **13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia**.

**19.** At our direction as **C-10 Heads of State and Government**, our Ambassadors and Ministers delivered **four foundational documents that now define the next phase of our work:**

**I. The African Union Model on the Reform of the UN Security Council;**



- II. The Strategic Roadmap to guide advocacy and implementation;**
- III. A practical Aide-Mémoire to steer diplomatic engagement at all levels; and**
- IV. A Common African Language on UNSC Reform to ensure coherence in all messaging.**

**20. The Roadmap and Aide-Mémoire** will remain internal documents of the C-10.

**21.** At the same time, the **Common African Language** will be circulated to all African Union Member States to guide messaging for the **General Debate of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly in September.**

**22.** The **AU Model**, which is also to be submitted to the **UN General Assembly's IGN process**, reflects Africa's legitimate and non-negotiable demand: no fewer than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of current permanent members — including the veto, if it

**continues to exist — and two additional  
non-permanent seats.**

**EXCELLENCIES,**

**23.** Africa's call is not a cry for favour — it is a claim for fairness.

**24.** We are the second-largest Continent by population, represent over a quarter of UN membership, are among the top contributors to UN peacekeeping, and host the largest number of UN peace operations.

**25.** Yet we remain the most underrepresented region in the Council that makes decisions on global peace and security.

**26.** This is a profound and enduring injustice — one that continues to undermine the credibility and universality of the United Nations.

**27.** We must now move decisively into the implementation phase.

**28. The 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration in September 2025** offer a historic opportunity to translate our advocacy into concrete results.

**29.** We must continue to mobilise, align our messaging, and engage at the highest political levels — especially with the P5 and other key stakeholders.

**30.** Our call for reform must also be situated within the wider global context.

**31.** From climate change to pandemics, from violent conflict to artificial intelligence, the world is undergoing profound transformation.

**32.** These challenges demand 21<sup>st</sup>-century governance and a **Security Council** that reflects today's realities, not the world of 1945.

**33.** Africa is not a bystander in global peace and security. We are stakeholders, contributors, and custodians.

**34.** Our inclusion is not just about justice — it is about **improving the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council.**

**35.** As **Coordinator of the C-10**, I commend the unity and resolve of all Member States.

**36.** I thank our Permanent Representatives in New York and Addis Ababa, the African Union Commission, and our technical experts for their tireless work in advancing our Common Position.

**37.** Your commitment has brought us to this point. However, we must now go further.

**EXCELLENCIES,**

**38. In closing, let me be clear: Africa's demand is not a plea — it is a principle.**

**39.** It is not conditional. It is legitimate, embedded in international law and in the founding promises of the **UN Charter**.

**40.** We must continue to send a firm and unified message: **Africa will no longer accept marginalisation.**

**41. THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW. THE TIME FOR REFORM IS NOW. THE TIME FOR AFRICA IS NOW.**



**42. Let history record that this generation of African leaders stood firm, stood united, and stood tall for Africa's rightful place at the UN Security Council.**

**I THANK YOU.**