KEYNOTE STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR JULIUS MAADA BIO

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

AT THE DLA PIPER BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

HOSTED BY THE CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Distinguished Members of the Corporate Council on Africa,

Esteemed Business Leaders,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a privilege to join you today. Let me first thank the **Corporate Council on Africa and DLA Piper for convening this forum** and for your unwavering commitment to driving U.S.–Africa business engagement.

2. I come to you not with abstract promises, but with a **concrete proposition**: **Sierra Leone is one of the most promising and untapped investment destinations in Africa today**.

3. Over the past seven years, my government has been **laying the foundations for investment success**.

4. We stabilised the economy and tightened fiscal discipline.

5. We created a **one-stop National Investment Board** to fast-track business registration and permits.

6. We strengthened investor protection laws, anchored in transparency, the rule of law, and predictable policies.

7. We deliberately opened new space for private sector–led growth.

8. The result is **a country that is now easier, safer, and more profitable to do business in**.

9. Let me speak the language of opportunity. **Why Sierra Leone? Why now?**

10. **Political stability**: A proven democracy with peaceful transitions and consistent respect for the rule of law.

11. **Youth dividend**: Over 70% of our population is under 35 — a dynamic workforce eager for skills and jobs.

12. **Abundant resources**: From fertile land and fisheries to critical minerals and renewable energy potential.

13. **Regional gateway**: As the current **Chair of ECOWAS**, Sierra Leone offers direct access to a **regional market of 400 million people**, projected to reach **$2 trillion GDP by 2043**.

14. We are not only talking about extraction or raw exports. Our priority is **value addition and shared prosperity**.

15. In **agriculture**, we are **moving from subsistence to agro-processing**.

16. In **energy**, we are **connecting renewable sources to industrial corridors**.

17. In **digital infrastructure**, we are **building the backbone for e-commerce and fintech**.

18. These are areas where U.S. firms already lead globally — and where **Sierra Leone can be your next growth market**.

19. To **de-risk your investments**, **Sierra Leone leverages partnerships with the World Bank, IMF, AfDB, and MCC Compact** — institutions that co-finance, underwrite reforms, and provide long-term stability.

20. This means you are not stepping in alone: you are joining a **crowd of trusted partners** aligned behind our growth story.

21. Most importantly, **this roundtable is about partnership**.

22. I want to hear from you — **what would make Sierra Leone your investment destination of choice?**

23. How can we align incentives, improve regulations, and co-create solutions so that your businesses succeed, and our people benefit from jobs, technology, and value chains?

24. Ladies and Gentlemen, Sierra Leone is open for business.

25. We are not just inviting investors; we are **inviting partners to grow with us** — to **convert today's dialogue** into **bankable projects** that **deliver real returns**, while **transforming lives in Sierra Leone and across West Africa**.

26. The time is now. I invite you to be part of Sierra Leone's growth story. **Thank you.**