



## **TALKING POINTS**

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**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

### **ROUNDTABLE 1.1**

**SPOTLIGHT ON LDCs & LLDCs: GREEN INDUSTRIALISATION**

**FOR STABILITY AND SHARED PROSPERITY**

**ZEREMONIENSAAL, VIENNA, AUSTRIA | 09 APRIL 2026**

**QUESTION 1: Building on the vision set out in Mission 300: Powering Africa, what are the most urgent priorities and transformative opportunities to accelerate renewable energy access and green industrialisation in LDCs and LLDCs?**

**EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

- For countries like ours, energy is not the end goal. **It is the engine of production, jobs, and stability.**

- Building on **Mission 300**, the priority is clear: we must **move from access to impact — linking energy directly to economic transformation.**
- Access alone is not enough. **What matters is what that energy powers.**
- In Sierra Leone, we are **aligning energy with production through our flagship *Feed Salone Programme*** — powering irrigation, cold storage, agro-

processing, and rural enterprises alongside households.

- That is **how energy drives productivity, raises incomes, and strengthens resilience.**
- **Where energy access fails, fragility grows. Where livelihoods expand, stability follows.**

- On delivery, we must be practical. Grid expansion remains important, but it will not move fast enough on its own.
- **Distributed renewable energy — mini-grids and stand-alone systems — offers the fastest path to scale, particularly for rural communities.**

- This is where **LDCs (Least Developed Countries)** and **LLDCs (Landlocked Developing Countries)** can leapfrog.
- **Progress also depends on strong sector fundamentals: financially viable utilities, reduced losses, and clear, predictable regulation.**

- We are **structuring aggregated, investment-ready pipelines across distributed energy and productive use — so capital can enter at scale, not in fragments.**
- However, **the cost of capital remains a major constraint.**
- Without addressing this, **progress will not reach the required scale.**

- **Green industrialisation provides a clear opportunity.**
- In Sierra Leone, our **clean cooking transition is already creating new value chains and enterprises** — particularly for women — supported by targeted policy reforms and dedicated delivery.

- **Partnerships are critical.**
- Through **Life Salone**, with the European Union and Denmark, we are accelerating decentralised energy access and private sector participation, aligned with national priorities and focused on results.
- As **Chair of ECOWAS**, we are also working to align regional markets and project pipelines so investment can scale beyond national borders.

- **The pathway is clear: (1) connect energy to production, (2) scale through distributed solutions, (3) strengthen sector fundamentals, and (4) use green industrialisation to drive jobs and resilience.**

**QUESTION 2: In line with the Vienna Call to Action, what is one concrete action, partnership, or initiative that your government or organisation is ready to support within the next 12 months to advance inclusive green industrialisation and climate-resilient energy systems in LDCs and LLDCs?**

- In line with the **Vienna Call to Action**, Sierra Leone will operationalise a **Distributed Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking Acceleration Initiative** under our **Mission 300 Compact** within the next 12 months.

- This will **focus on three priorities:**
  - ✓ **scaling decentralised solar for productive use in agriculture, fisheries, and rural enterprises;**
  - ✓ **accelerating clean cooking through affordability and market development; and**
  - ✓ **mobilising blended finance with partners — including the World Bank, African Development**

Bank, SEforALL, and private investors — **to unlock concessional and commercial capital.**

- Within 12 months, we will demonstrate scalable, investment-ready models that can be replicated across similar markets.
- **What we need now is alignment — on financing instruments, risk-sharing, and speed of delivery — so capital can move at the pace this moment demands.**

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS:**

### **EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

- **Sierra Leone stands ready to serve as a demonstration country for how Mission 300 can translate into measurable impact.**
- **When energy powers livelihoods, stability follows — and with it, the foundation for shared prosperity.**

- In the end, **this is not about megawatts. It is about livelihoods, dignity, and stability.**

**THANK YOU.**