



STATEMENT

H. E. DR. MICHAEL IMRAN KANU
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

at the

Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

2021

Mme. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone is pleased to join the Sixth Session of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) at the national and international levels in light of the publication of the seminal United Nations Secretary-General's report, and the present importance to reflect on the COVID-19 context and its implications.
2. The delegation of Sierra Leone respectfully aligns this statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Ghana on behalf of the African Group, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
3. My delegation notes the report of the Secretary-General A/76/235 summarizing the work of the UN system together with member States on promoting the rule of law, and international law, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights. We thank the Secretary-General for suggesting the sub-theme of 'The Rule of Law and Human Rights'.

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achieving international cooperation for sustainable development.

Mme. Chair,

5. Sierra Leone acknowledges the urgent need to take action to tackle the threats to peace, threats to people, and the threats to the planet, through delivering on our social contracts in order to regain public trust and place people at the centre of our shared prosperity.
6. At the national level, Sierra Leone, despite the global challenges on the rule of law commitments, is delivering on our Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019-2023), a clear expression of our nationally owned roadmap to build a society that is cohesive, secure, and just.
7. Sierra Leone continues to remove threats to democratic freedoms and human rights. We have repealed a half-a-century old seditious libel law. There is full respect for and protection of fundamental freedoms of association, conscience, expression, and the press. In fully implementing one of the significant recommendations of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, put forward as part of our transitional justice process almost 20 years ago, Sierra Leone has abolished the death penalty, following meaningful national dialogue, with clear position and directive from the President and action by the national legislature. On this very day, His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio gave his assent to the legislation

passed unanimously by Parliament to expunge the death penalty from our law books.

8.

country, following the enactment of the enabling legislation and appointment of the members of the board of the Commissioner, embodying an institution that is representative and gender sensitive.

11. The Judiciary continues to expand access to justice with presence established throughout the country. There has been an expansion of legal aid services to indigent and under-served persons as the Legal Aid Board provided free legal representation, advice, and related services to over 400,000 Sierra Leoneans in 2020, recording a 93% increase from 2018. Special courts to fast-track cases for sexual offences, social security, corruption, and small claims were established.

Mme. Chair,

13. In further reflecting on the rule of law landscape at the international level, the delegation of Sierra Leone uses this opportunity to reiterate our support for the strengthening of the international accountability system, in particular the strengthening of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. On the ICC, as we look forward to the debate on the *Î FYdc fh' cZ h\Y' ðhY fbUH]c bU'' 7 f]a]bU'' 7 ci fh' in the General Assembly plenary, we use this opportunity to commend the UN UbX' h\Y' GY WfY hUf]U h'Zc f' h\Y' d fc j]g]c b' c ZÎ*

Ï' VYhk YYb' h\Y' two Organizations. At the heart of this important cooperation are the people, the victims on whose behalf we have the accountability system for atrocity crimes. We, therefore, urge for the further strengthening of this vital cooperation as part of the people-WY bhfYX Î fi `Y' c Z`Uk Ï'.

14. Sierra Leone continues to appreciate the Secretary-; YbY fU`Ng Ubbi U`fYdc fh'c b' h\Y' fi `Y' c Z`Uk ` \][\`][\h]b['h\Y' work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. Indeed, h\Y' FG7 G@ Î continues to monitor the enforcement of sentences of persons convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, provide support services to protected witnesses and address req TJET05.81 TmeW*nt01 Tm0q1i-

the UN regular budget, whilst appreciating the current annual subventions.

16. In conclusion, Madam Chair, the delegation of Sierra