PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY DR. FARNCSI MUSTAPHA KAIKAI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE
2ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD
12-14 SEPTEMBER, 2018

New York September 12, 2018

Please check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to commend you for your excellent leadership of the Executive Board. Let me also commend the Executive Director and the entire staff of the Bureau of the UNICEF Executive Board for the excellent preparations made to organise this second session of the executive Board during the 72nd UNGA. In that regard let me also thank UNICEF for the tremendous work and achievements globally.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Madagascar on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me make a few remarks in my national capacity. Sierra Leone has gone through turbulent times, coming from the eleven years of civil war that ended in 2002, the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in 2014 and as recent as August of last year, the mudslide which caused massive destruction of lives and property.

In all of this, we find UNICEF a reliable partner in terms of collaboration and support to national programmes related to its work. UNICEF in collaboration with Government and its development partners have made tremendous progress in improving the lives of Children in the following areas in Sierra Leone. To highlight a few of these areas of collaboration, let me begin with the health sector: high infant mortality is one of the challenges we have committed to address.

The UNICEF immunization campaign over the years, has significantly improved leading to a steady reduction in infant mortality since 2015. UNICEF continues to work very hard in maintaining its supply of treated mosquito bed nets etc.

HIV/AIDS is prevalent especially in sub sahran Africa. The Organization’s efforts in this area is highly commendable especially in the sensitization of the youth about the dangers of the disease and its repercussion.

The Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme introduced by UNICEF has improved sanitation facilities and improved sources of clean drinking water and nutrition.

During the outbreak of the EBOLA Virus Disease in Sierra Leone, UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to sensitise the populace about the dangers of the disease, especially for children.
Within the framework of leaving no child behind, UNICEF is working in tandem with the Ministry of Education through the provision of basic school materials to promote equity in school enrollment between girls and boys. This has improved primary school enrollment in Sierra Leone considerably. Funding for UNICEF in this area is crucial especially against the background of HE President Julius Maada Bio launch of the Free Quality Education from Kindergarten to senior secondary school.

UNICEF with its child protection policy, has succeeded in causing a decline in child abuse setting the trends for monitoring thus preventing violent discipline methods in homes.

Following the Mudslide in August, 2017, UNICEF was on ground working with Government and other partners to respond to the urgent needs of families affected by the floods and landslide.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to thank our donors and the International Community at large who support UNICEF to achieve its noble goals as well as our national priorities and during challenging moments. On that note, I would like to urge our donors as well as those who have the means to do so, to support UNICEF in the area of funding, in particular funding gaps that will address national priorities and emergencies.

Mr. Chairman,

As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Sierra Leone headed by His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio will continue to collaborate extensively with UNICEF Sierra Leone Country Team and the UNICEF Executive Board to help our children within the framework of leaving no Child behind, thus facilitating the work of the Organisation in Sierra Leone.

I THANK YOU.