STATEMENT

by

H.E. Dr. Francis M. Kai-Kai

at

The High-Level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

24 April 2019

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Madame President,

I commend and thank you for hosting this High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace. This high-level meeting is taking place in an era of global uncertainties and challenges, including the emergence of new threats that tend to undermine our efforts in the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Sierra Leone aligns with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Rwanda on behalf of the African Group, and Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madame President,

The seemingly unending cycles of conflict and violence, the destructive and devastating impacts of climate change, the spread of terrorism and the largest refugee, migration and humanitarian crises in recent history continue to question the effectiveness of our present international machinery, as well as our ability to promote peace and decent life for all on a sustainable planet. We are challenged to generate innovative ideas and credible mechanisms that will bring all conflicts to a peaceful end; promote social progress, peace and security, human rights and fundamental freedoms; and secure better standards of life for humanity. We do not have any alternative to multilateralism to address these challenges. This Assembly should, in that regard, reflect on reform measures that will reinforce our collective obligation to uphold the purposes and principles upon which our organization was founded. We cannot champion the course of justice and legitimacy when Africa remains excluded and underrepresented in one of the highest decision - making organs of the United Nations.

Looking ahead, we must not lose sight of our shared obligation in ensuring a peaceful and secure world by resolving our differences, including national and international disputes, through constructive dialogue. We must respect and prioritize strengthening the existing mediation mechanisms provided in the Charter. The role of regional organizations in partnership with the United Nations must be further strengthened to ensure greater response at the regional level in implementing preventive measures such as early warning mechanisms.

As a small state, Sierra Leone recognizes the benefits of multilateralism and its significance in promoting peace, security and development at the national, regional and global levels. It is our firm belief that we must continue to build on gains made in our preventive diplomacy efforts, including heightened collaboration with each other, and among our regional organizations and actors,
making use of experiences that have helped us achieve relative international peace and security.

We have a binding commitment to build up a global society that is more just, inclusive and equal than the one we live in today. It is time that we rise to the occasion of our moral responsibility to give our collective voice and action in support of people affected by conflict, poverty, climate change and other scourges.

In conclusion Madame President, our collective resolve to recommit to multilateralism must be an immediate necessity. Our inaction will have a debilitating effect on the dignity of humanity.

In that regard, Sierra Leone reiterates its commitment to the principles, ideals and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, a commitment that we made when we joined the organization as its One Hundredth member in 1961.

I thank you for your attention.