PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Talking Points

by

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at the

Presentation of the UNDP Country Programme for Sierra Leone at the Joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board Regular Session

New York, 4th September 2019
Mr. President, (H.E. Amb. Cho Tae-Yul PR of Korea)
The UNDP Administrator, (Mr. Achim Steiner)
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, let me express the appreciation of the Government and People of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their demonstrated leadership and commitment to supporting the Development aspirations of Sierra Leone. The UNDP remains a strategic partner with a proven record in delivering development assistance to Sierra Leone.

Having gone through the Country Programme Document for Sierra Leone, 2020-2023; we are of the view that it is in tandem with Sierra Leone’s National Medium-Term Development Plan, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2020-2023, and the existing UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2020.

Our national Medium-Term Development Plan that was recently launched is a product of a National Consultative process across all levels and sectors in Sierra Leone. It therefore embodies the hopes and aspirations of the People of Sierra Leone. The Government of His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio is committed to working with the UNDP and all development partners, traditional and non-traditional, for the fulfilment of the common and shared aspirations of the people of Sierra Leone, outlined in the National Development Plan.

We take note of the critical challenges outlined in the document. The Government will work with the UNDP Country Office to further assess, analyse and appreciate the issues highlighted going forward.

Essentially, the broad focus of the CPD on the two interrelated clusters a) inclusive democratic governance, and b) sustainability and inclusive local economic development, resonates with our commitment to leave no one behind and creating prosperity for all.

We look forward to fruitful engagement on these two strategic clusters, for effective implementation of the new CPD.

The strategic alignment of the aforementioned documents is indicative of our collective commitment to building strong partnerships in order to achieve the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063.

In this regard, we are pleased that capacities will be drawn from other development partners to leverage synergies towards reducing implementation risks and increasing the chances of achieving planned outcomes.
Having said that, let me point out a few issues that we can also work on together to address as we move towards the adoption and subsequent implementation of the CPD.

First, His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio has prioritized and provided strong and committed leadership in the fight against corruption. In this regard, the recently launched National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2018-2021 provides a blue print around which the UNDP and other partners can build partnership in support of Government’s efforts to enhance accountability, transparency and good governance.

Second, in order for Sierra Leone to fully tap into its blue economy potentials, support is required to address our ocean governance needs and challenges, including Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing, marine pollution, as well as technical and financial support to protect marine areas and their effective management. There is also need to address existing capacity gaps in the areas of monitoring and surveillance, with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

It is worth mentioning that capacity building through development assistance is concentrated mostly on short term measures, with lapses in the sustainability element at the institutional and societal levels. Modalities for sustainable capacity building and technology transfer should thus be clearly mainstreamed and made accessible.

In conclusion, let me thank the UNDP Regional and Country Offices for their efforts in producing the CPD. We are hopeful that the outcome of today’s discussion will be fruitful and rewarding.

I thank you.