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

by

H.E. Dr. Alie Kabba
Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

at the

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

New York, 5th September 2019
Mr. President,
The Executive Director, (Dr. Natalia Kanem)
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

At the outset, let me express the appreciation of the Government and People of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their valued contribution and commitment to supporting the Reproductive Healthcare needs of Women, Adolescents, Youths and Persons with Disabilities in Sierra Leone. The UNFPA remains a strategic partner with a proven record in delivering Sexual and Reproductive Health Care assistance to Sierra Leone.

Having gone through the Country Programme Document for Sierra Leone, 2020-2023; we are of the view that it is linked and aligned with Sierra Leone’s National Medium-Term Development Plan 2019-2023, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) priorities, 2020-2023, and three of the outcomes of the existing UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.

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 UNFPA and all donor partners, for the fulfilment of the common and shared aspirations of the people of Sierra Leone, outlined in the National Development Plan with regards to Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5.

We take note of the high incidence of Maternal Mortality, Adolescent Pregnancy and Gender based violence outlined in the document. The Government will continue to work with the UNFPA Country Office to further assess, analyse and appreciate the issues highlighted going forward.

Essentially, the broad focus of the CPD on the three outcomes namely a) Sexual Reproductive health b) Adolescents and Youth, and c) Gender and Women's Empowerment is in line with our strategic objective to promote the overall empowerment of women in the political, social, economic, and cultural spheres.

We look forward to fruitful engagement on these three strategic outcomes 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 3 and 5 on Good Health and well-being and gender equality respectively.
In this regard, we are pleased that joint monitoring will be undertaken by UNFPA, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and other stakeholders and partners to measure achievements and ensure transparency, accountability and ownership.

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, UNFPA should continue supporting the capacity of Statistics Sierra Leone, to generate, analyse and utilize data to inform, monitor and evaluate policy and programme implementation. UNFPA should support the National Statistical System Strategy to provide for integrated statistical system for the production of improved quality of data related to population and other components of the Country Programme.

Second, there is need to create conditions for sustainability of Country Programme interventions by developing and integrating an exit strategy at both the coordination and implementation levels and develop a capacity building and technical assistance strategy for the entire programming cycle.

In view of the aforementioned recommendations and in line with the contents of the Country Programme document presented, we hereby endorse and support the approval of the Country Programme Document for Sierra Leone by the UNFPA Board.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me thank the UNFPA Country Office 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.