



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

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STATEMENT

by

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA  
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

at the

Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's  
Empowerment – A Commitment to Action

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*Check Against Delivery*

**Co-Chairs Excellency President Xi Jinping  
and Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Thank you for successfully organizing this forum and I do commend your strong leadership and efforts in promoting women's empowerment.

Sierra Leone Government will continue to steadfastly demonstrate support and commitment to addressing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. My Government is therefore supportive of the Legal and Policy frameworks that have been established at the Global, and Regional Levels.

Our accession to and ratification of a number of international policies and legal instruments on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) signed and ratified in 1988; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1985; further demonstrates our strong commitment and support for Women's Empowerment.

At the National Level, my Government has undertaken legislative reforms and initiated policies that respond to key provisions of Global and Regional frameworks on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Legislations enacted to promote Gender equality and Women's Empowerment include:

- Domestic Violence Act 2007;
- Devolution of Estate Acts 2007;
- Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2009;
- Child Rights Act 2007;
- Chieftaincy Act 2009; and
- Sexual Offences Act 2012;

Our twin Policies of Gender Mainstreaming and the Advancement of Women Adopted in 2000; and the National Gender Strategic Plan (2010-2013), established the framework for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is also well articulated in Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2017). Apart from it being a standalone pillar in the Agenda for Prosperity, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment are mainstreamed in all pillars of the A4P.

In furtherance of this commitment, my government has developed initiatives to foster Gender Equality and empowerment including:

- An The Education Act of 2004 provides for compulsory basic education and stipulates punitive measures for defaulters and reaffirms the specific concerns of the Education for All goals 4 and 5 on increasing enrolment and eliminating gender disparity in education for girls and Women
- A Gender -sensitive curriculum.
- Girl Child Education Support which covers free tuition for girls through Junior Secondary Schools in the North and Eastern Regions
- Universal Access to Reproductive Health.
- Reduction in Teenage Pregnancy
- Strengthen Preventive Programmes that promotes Women's Health.
- Promoting Access to Finance for Women by providing credit and Financial Services to Female Entrepreneurs

There are however remaining challenges, and as a champion of He – for – She initiative, I hereby reaffirm Sierra Leone's commitment to deepen and enhance the space for Women's participation in all spheres of society and governance.

I thank you for your attention.