



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

STATEMENT

by

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to the Sixth Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly

“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”
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**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The delegation of Sierra Leone congratulates you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee, and also your Bureau. We have no doubt that your extensive diplomatic experience will lead our work to a successful and profitable conclusion this session. I assure you of this delegation's fullest cooperation.

The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively associates this statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

My delegation notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General A/75/176, and we commend Member States and international organizations that responded to the request by the Secretary-General in that regard.

Sierra Leone continues to stress her unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed.

Mr. Chairman,

In our efforts to address the critical aspects in the fight against terrorism, among others, the financing of terrorism, Sierra Leone continues to vigorously implement the 2005 anti-money laundering law as amended in 2012 to include prohibition and punishment for the financing of terrorism.

In this year's debate, Sierra Leone wishes to highlight three important issues, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of our United Nations, under the theme of the "future we want, and the United Nations we need".

First, Sierra Leone continues to highlight the collective steps the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are taking in view of the multilateral processes to address the scourge of terrorism. The cowardly acts of terrorism represent a clear and present danger for the West African sub-region, its stability and socioeconomic development with the unfortunate and condemnable spate of terrorist attacks across the sub-region posing grave danger to our resilience.

In the ECOWAS Extraordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on the Political Crisis in Mali, held via video conference on 27th July 2020, H.E. President Julius Maada Bio of the Republic of Sierra Leone underscored the high importance *“to maintain peace and order in Mali. Extremist terrorist activity in the North of Mali has spread to neighbouring Niger, Burkina Faso, and further threatens the security of the entire region”*. The continuing dedication and commitment of the ECOWAS Commission, and mediation efforts were commended by President Julius Maada Bio, while urging for “strong support for a more robust mandate for MINUSMA.

Second, the delegation of Sierra Leone continues to re-echo our support for the urgent finalizing of the process to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism (CCIT), and allow me Chairman to use this opportunity to express the deep appreciation of our delegation for the trust in the appointment of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu, as the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the outstanding issues on the draft CCIT. Sierra Leone calls for the fullest support of all Member States in the collective endeavour to reach a consensus agreement, through good faith efforts to make progress on the CCIT, including resolving the outstanding issues. We also express support for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations on terrorism. Sierra Leone reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, and we look forward to the review of the Strategy following the decision of the General Assembly to postpone its consideration to this 75th session due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Third, Sierra Leone welcomes the continuing action on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, and the need to support Member States in developing strategies and plans of action or related legislative and policy frameworks on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). Sierra Leone notes with appreciation the coordinating role of the UN in this regard and capacity-building assistance, particularly in the West African Sahel region.

In conclusion, as we continue to closely examine legal, policy, and institutional frameworks at all levels to address the threat of terrorism, as we call for the tackling of extremist violence, terrorism, transnational crime in an organised and comprehensive manner. Indeed, we need to keep up the momentum in the fight against terrorism, but counter-terrorism responses must always be gender sensitive and must comply with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

I thank you for your kind attention.

