

*STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. FRANCIS M. KAI-KAI MINISTER OF
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE LDC
AFRICA REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING*

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Mr. Chairman,

The Right Honourable Dr Satfat(D) -(r) 1 () -1at(D) -(r) 1 () -1at(D) -(r) 1 () -1at(D) -(

Before COVID -19, Sierra Leone was in a good trajectory in its sustainable development drive and had firmly anchored its policies on developing its human capital. Even with COVID-19, human capital development continues to be the flagship programme of government with the realisation that the future of our country depends on the extent to which its human resources are capable to meet the changes of being a LDCs as well as addressing the post pandemic recovery.

The Sierra Leone Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2019-2023) with a people centred focus is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the IPoA commitments and the African Union Agenda 2063. It is our roadmap to meeting internationally agreed agendas and to growth and stability. We are half way into the implementation of this plan and the mid-term review revealed a strong local ownership and determination to achieve the stated objectives despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic. We believe that the full implementation of the MTNDP will put us in good stead to achieving the SDGs and meeting the requirements of the AU Agenda 2063.

We are therefore looking

this trend continues. We therefore call for urgent action to address this and taking into account that 'No One Is Safe Until Everyone Is Safe'.

We acknowledge the support provided by international partners in addressing the increased financial needs of LDCs as a result of the pandemic. However, the

We believe that our deliberations in the lead up to the LDC5 Conference should also consider the needs of LDCs, especially in the areas of aid for trade, financing for development, as well as the need for LDCs to reap the full potentials of modern technologies by leveraging the existing mechanisms and addressing the rapidly widening digital gap that threatens to leave LDCs even further behind. In view of this there should be a renewed commitment of the international community to maximize the benefits of migration in LDCs and enhance capacity building in domestic tax resource mobilization as a matter of urgency to attain agreed milestones.

We are optimistic that the LDC 5 conference in Doha in 2022 will present a crucial opportunity to take stock of gaps and challenges in the implementation of the IPoA, map out a renewed commitment that would provide the required assistance to build on the IPoA and create an opportunity to foster sustainable development in LDCs.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, let me note that the Government of Sierra Leone remains committed to various international initiatives aimed at improving good governance, combating corruption, inclusive development and delivering services for our people. We look forward to a very successful regional review meeting