



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

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

“COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

Statement by H. E. Ambiorix Félix Brito



One of the many results of the civil war that affected Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002 has been the damage to the country's capacity to provide peace, security and well-being to its citizenship. Nevertheless, the country has developed its capacity to maintain its recently achieved stability. Broad based, sustainable and equitable growth with the objective of complying with the Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction by the year 2015, has been the main goal of the government of President Ernest Koroma. Since the end of the war, the inflation rate together with the food, fuel, and power crises have become serious challenges for our people as well for our hard won macroeconomic stability. However, the economic growth of the nation has experienced a rebirth denoting an average rate of 27% in 2002, and about 7% annually. Is for our fragile condition (due to our recent history) the reason why Sierra Leone is one of the top recipient countries of the *Official Development Assistance*. This aid is an important factor in the strengthening of our capacity to make long term social investments.

We know this is not an easy task, especially for Africa where a dramatic social and economic gap exists. Sierra Leone has come a long way fighting for peace and well-being in these post conflict years and is an authentic example of how the reason and the international commitment can work for the benefit of the people. Our nation is very thankful for the aid and initiatives from the *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)* and the *United Nations*, as well as allies countries and multilateral organizations with the support of the civil society. In 2002, during the *International Conference on Financing for Development*, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and reaffirmed in the *Doha Development Round* in past December, we stated that a broader and regional economic integration and cooperation among nations is the best framework for promoting economic stability and development especially in the African continent. In West Africa, *ECOWAS* remains our key instrument for sub regional cooperation in harnessing our resources, both human and physical, to promote competitiveness.

As a way to implement policies that would foster peace and economic growth, our government believes that the mission of the *Development Cooperation Forum* should guide countries to restructure the aid distribution in the relationship between donors and recipients. This commitment can be achieved through funding r development assistance; a good measure to ensure accountability may be the establishment, as a requisite, the elaboration of “Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper's” as a master plan for the coordination of efficient mechanisms to achieve these aims. Also it is mandatory to recall to developed countries, their commitment to dedicate the 0.7% of their DGP for the ODA, also agreed in Monterrey and not accomplished so far. Together, we must to reverse marginalization in Africa. Poverty, hunger and exclusion, as violence, are the residuals of many decades of fighting in favor of freedom and the opportunity of survive. Today, Sierra Leone's encourages the developed world to cooperate and help in order to make the world a better place for anyone.