



**SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) SECRETARIAT  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
TOWER HILL, FREETOWN**



**Statement for the Pre-Food System Summit for Sierra Leone  
By the Minister of State, Office of the Vice President and National FSS Convenor**

All protocols observed

**Introduction**

On behalf of His Excellency the President Rtd. Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio and the Government of Sierra Leone, I want to express thanks and appreciation for Sierra Leone to be part of the global dialogues to chart the pathway for a sustainable food system in every country.

Sierra Leone views the invitation of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the forth coming global Food Systems Summit as a golden opportunity for us to reflect and identify bottlenecks in our current food system and how we can create a pathway to enhance a sustainable food system in reaching the SDG targets by 2030.

**Country Context**

Sierra Leone has over the years been facing lot of challenges that have contributed to the weakened food system including the civil war, Ebola epidemic and constant natural disasters like mudslide and seasonal flooding. Moreover, the latest food insecurity findings from the 2020 CFSVA revealed a deteriorating situation of households' food security wherein 57.3% of households surveyed were food insecure. Prior to the CFSVA study, the situation had worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as key findings of the Sierra Leone Emergency Food Security Monitoring System revealed continuous deterioration in household food security situation. All these factors contribute to the high malnutrition rate among children under the age of five years.

Sierra Leone has selected two of the global action tracks – **Action track #1 - Ensure Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for all** and **Action Track #5 - Building Resilience to vulnerability, shocks, and stresses**. We consider these two action tracks to be more related to our local context to attain a sustainable food system and have therefore decided to focus our dialogues around these two tracks. Based on the two chosen action tracks, ten thematic areas have been identified for the dialogue discussions to revolve around them as follows:

1. Access to finance
2. Access to inputs
3. Production Requirement
4. Processing
5. Marketing and Distribution
6. Consumption and Utilization

7. Policy development, enforcement, and coordination
8. Conflict and instability
9. Climate/Environmental extremes Economic shocks
10. Pandemics & agricultural negative impacts

The national dialogues are taking place in the five regions of the country with the Western Area already conducted. Government is hoping that the discussions will bring out salient issues and recommendations that will help build a strong and robust food system in the country.

On behalf of the government of Sierra Leone I would like to express our gratitude to our major donor Irish Aid, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and all development partners that have provided the required funds and technical expertise needed to prepare for national dialogues. I am confident that the final national summit will produce a road map in the form of a **National Action Plan** for a sustainable food system in Sierra Leone. Government is committed to implementing the outcomes of these events as this is the only way Sierra Leone will achieve a sustainable food system for all.

I thank you all for your attention.