



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

STATEMENT

by

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL
VIRTUAL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING**

ON THE THEME:

**“WHAT CAN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DO TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS
IN AFGHANISTAN”**

20th NOVEMBER 2020

New York

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Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

At the outset, the delegation of Sierra Leone expresses thanks to the Chair for convening this important meeting during these challenging times. I also take this opportunity to thank the briefers for their insightful presentations.

Mr. Chair,

In assisting the Security Council to fulfill its core responsibility of maintaining International Peace and Security, the delegation of Sierra Leone would like underscore three main points:

Firstly, we note with grave concern the devastating effects of the conflict in Afghanistan especially as it relate to women and children, who are the most vulnerable in any society, the destruction of lives and property and the stagnation of socio-economic development in the country as a whole. In that regard, as a country which has witnessed the effects of armed conflict, which was only contained through sustained and coordinated international assistance, Sierra Leone reiterates commitment to the protection of lives as a fundamental human right enshrined in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and numerous other international instruments.

Secondly, we welcome the effort made to sign a Peace Agreement with the Taliban in February 2020, which paved the way to the start the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations on 12 September in Doha. International effort in this regard is a solid demonstration of commitment to bring peace to the people of Afghanistan after having endured many years of violent conflict. Notwithstanding these encouraging trends, more collaboration and cooperation is needed to salvage the massive loss of lives caused by the conflict as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report.

We therefore call for stronger political will and commitment in a bid to identify concrete measures to ensure lasting peace, a sustainable political settlement, permanent and comprehensive ceasefire to put an end to the massive loss of lives. We believe a State-led collaborative and integrated action through multilateral support from the UN Security Council, Members of the United Nations, and other International Organizations can augment the present efforts for sustainable peace and security in Afghanistan.

Thirdly, we commend the Afghan Government for its effort in this connection and look forward to the new draft Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework for 2021-2025. While we remain hopeful for a lasting peace in Afghanistan, we are mindful that more commitment on the side of the Taliban is a

critical element to the success of the peace initiatives in Afghanistan. Against this background, Sierra Leone takes this opportunity to encourage post-conflict States to share with the people of Afghanistan experiences on best practices for a peaceful conclusion of the conflict, reconciliation, national cohesion and consolidation of democratic institutions.

Thank you.