

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

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION
ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

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I wish to thank you and members of the Council for giving the delegation of Sierra Leone the opportunity to participate in this debate. I shall be brief.

As you all know, on the 12th June 2000, the President of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah requested the United Nations to establish a Special Court "as a means of bringing and maintaining peace and security in Sierra Leone and indeed the West African Sub-region".

Victims of heinous crimes in Sierra Leone as well as victims all over the world want justice to be done. My delegation believes they deserve it and I am sure so are you. They are calling on the United Nations, especially the Security Council to fight impunity and to hold accountable for their crimes, the perpetrators of atrocities committed on a systematic and massive scale. My delegation believes it would be unthinkable that peace keepers would engage on atrocities on a systematic and massive scale. In the circumstances, my delegation does not hold apprehensions about Sierra Leonean peace keepers having to face the jurisdiction of an International Criminal Court. And even if Sierra Leonean nationals, engaged in peace keeping missions commit atrocities in a systematic and massive scale, the Sierra Leonean judicial system has primacy over these nationals in conformity with the principle of complementarity enshrined in the statute of the ICC.

Mr. President victims of heinous crimes all over the world cry for justice and you must give them hope that durable peace and a prosperous future are possible through the rule of law.

Indeed, Sierra Leone is extremely grateful for the timely assistance and support provided by the U.S. Government and its people and we hope that, our country will finally recover and will be able to rebuild a free and democratic society based on justice and accountability.

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Sierra Leone signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 17 October 1998, and ratified it on 15

September 2000, joining those who believe that the creation of a jurisdiction capable of complementing national systems when they are unwilling or unable to prosecute suspects, represents one of the most effective instrument that the international community has created to prevent future conflicts and to give redress to millions of victims of outrageous violence.

Today, the Security Council has been convened to take action on a proposal regarding peace maintenance; we hope That in Their deliberations Council members will adhere to international law keeping in mind that: what is at stake here, is not only the respect of universal norms, but above all the lives and welfare of millions of individuals.

I thank you very much.