



**Madam Chair,**

At the outset let me express warmest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on

your election. Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statements delivered by South Africa and Morocco before

of the Group of 77 & China and the African Group respectively.

**Madam Chair,**

The road towards the attainment of the MDGs has been hampered with

dropped from an average of 5.1 to 4.9 children in a woman's lifetime due to increased use of modern family planning methods among married women, which more than doubled from 7 to 16 percent.

services providers rose from 42 to 60 percent. Delivery at health facilities doubled from 25 to 54 percent

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in their villages and are training other local women in their communities

I would therefore like to seize this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone,

~~to reiterate our profound appreciation and sincere gratitude to all our bilateral friends and multilateral~~

development partners, especially the UN Family, for their moral support and various invaluable