



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

Statement

by

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

On

Agenda Item 86 "Rule of Law"
at the National and International Levels
Delivered in the Sixth Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Sierra Leone respectfully aligns itself with the Statements delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African Group and

for psycho-social support, protection of victims and witnesses were either introduced or enhanced in the 2019 amendment. In July 2020 the first Sexual Offences Model Court for rape proceedings was launched. This special court is part of the diverse approach the Government is employing to fight Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) with emphasis on rape. With part of the strategy being criminal deterrence, there have been 152 convictions since the proclamation of public emergency against rape and sexual violence, with 64 convictions following the establishment of the Sexual Offences Model Court.

Finally, on the national level rule of law activities, a state of public emergency was proclaimed by

To deliver on the promise to fight corruption, in just over 2 years unprecedented robust actions have been taken, including the launch of a new National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS 2019-2023) by the Anti-Corruption Commission, the enactment of the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act 2019, the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Division in the High Court with 5 specialized judges, and the successful implementation of the Asset Declaration regime, especially the online asset declaration portal, to entrench integrity in public office.

The NACS 2019-2023 adopts a different approach in the fight against corruption focusing on -as-
-Corruption (Amendment) Act provides for a more
efficient and manageable asset declaration

mandate to examine the assets of certain Government officials who served in high-level positions from November 2007 to April 2018; inquiring into their lawful acquisition of assets and claims of unexplained wealth. The COIs proceedings were held in public and broadcasted live on television, radio and on the internet. The COIs successfully completed their work in March 2020, and in September 2020 the Government of Sierra Leone issued White Papers on the reports of the COIs. With findings of systematic and widespread corruption, the Government is set to implement the recommendations, while noting that the persons of interests with adverse findings can appeal to the Court of Appeal as provided for in the Constitution. The remarkable completion of the work of the COIs represents a watershed moment for public accountability for previous and present high-level public officials in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman,

What Member States, like Sierra Leone, now need in the fight against corruption is the genuine commitment and action at the international level to address the transnational aspects including unconstrained and less burdensome cooperation mechanisms to enhance mutual legal assistance in corruption investigations, prosecutions, asset tracing, confiscation and recovery. There is also the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies within the international financial system enabling illicit financial flows to persist. Further efforts to build capacities, peer learning and sharing of expertise are to be encouraged based on needs and national ownership.

In closing, Sierra Leone looks forward to the convening of the scheduled special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021(UNGASS 2021). We agree that the

I thank you.