NOTE TO THE MEDIA

Sierra Leone assumes the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of November 2025

New York, 3 November 2025 — The Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) rotates monthly among its members. For November 2025, Sierra Leone will preside over the Council, the second Presidency during the country's current 2024–2025 term.

The Presidency plays a pivotal role in directing the Council's work and coordinating discussions on issues of international peace and security, as well as representing the Council in its relations with other UN organs and Member States. Under Sierra Leone's Presidency, the Council's **Programme of Work** will include mandated meetings and mandate renewals for peacekeeping and political missions; consultations on critical country specific situations; consideration of reports of the UN Secretary-General; updates on critical sanctions committees, and the negotiations on Council outcomes, draft resolutions and statements to the press.

Affirming Sierra Leone's principled role as a **voice of reason and a bridge-builder for peace** in a fractured Council and a multipolar world, **H.E. Brig. (Rtd.) Dr. Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, will chair two meetings. The principal signature event will be a **high-level open debate on conflict-related food insecurity** on **17 November**. Framed by international humanitarian law and peacebuilding practice, the debate will treat food insecurity as both a driver and a consequence of conflict, underline the absolute prohibition of starvation as a method of warfare, and promote coherent action across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus to build resilience, accelerate agricultural recovery, and advance accountability.

With the Sahel and parts of West Africa now a global epicentre of terrorism, the Presidency has scheduled a **briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)** on **18 November**, also to be chaired by H.E. President Bio. The discussion will focus on regional counter-terrorism cooperation and the mobilisation of international support and responsibility, building on the Council's July 2025 Informal Interactive Dialogue requested by Sierra Leone. It will examine coordination, resourcing, and long-term stabilisation through frameworks such as the **Accra Initiative**, the **Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)**, and the **ECOWAS Standby Force**.

Recognising the mounting intersection between environmental harm and insecurity, the

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Presidency will convene a thematic briefing on **6 November**, **"Climate and Security: Environmental Impact of Armed Conflict–Driven Security Risks,"** to be chaired by **Madam Francess Piagie Alghali**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. **Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will chair an **open debate on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)** on **10 November**. Building on Sierra Leone's April 2025 Arria-formula meeting, the debate will spotlight how the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms fuel transnational organised crime and terrorism, with acute impacts across Africa and the Caribbean.

A reflective spirit characterised Sierra Leone's August 2024 Presidency. In this second Presidency, Sierra Leone will focus Council attention on the challenges that most decisively shape today's, and tomorrow's, security landscape.

Sierra Leone, having nurtured the dividends of peace by strengthening internal security, democratic governance, and social cohesion, returned to the UNSC in January 2024, **53 years** after its first tenure.

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