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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO**

**THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

**2019 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights**

**Plenary: Helping States promote responsible business - toward greater coherence at the multilateral level?**

***Tuesday****,* ***26 November, 10:30 - 11:30***

**Mr Chair,**

Sierra Leone is pleased to participate in this year’s Forum on Business and Human Rights and thanks the Working Group on the issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises for its remarkable efforts to promote human rights protection by businesses and Transnational Corporations, and the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The government of Sierra Leone promotes responsible business that avoids negative impacts on host communities. The government welcomed the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework and the UN Guiding Principles endorsement by the Human Rights Council. The government of Sierra Leone has adopted a rights-based approach to business and is actively considering how it can promote and protect foreign investment consistent with human rights obligations through its policies and legal institutions. As a host country with increasing number of large-scale investors, the government has prioritized policy and action cohesion across its government agencies in order to achieve effective change within the framework of the UNGP.

As such the government created an infrastructure for consistent engagement between State departments and agencies that shape business practice or interface with business and businesses on their human rights obligations to prevent and address violation and abuses in the sector. In this context, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has taken great strides to address challenges to human rights connected to business activities in Sierra Leone.

To illustrate, as part of the work of HRCSL to address business and human rights issues, a guideline document known as the Guidelines for Monitoring Business and Human Rights in Sierra Leone was developed in partnership with the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Danish Institute for Human Rights to provide a clear and consistent roadmap for monitoring the operations of business enterprises in Sierra Leone. Further the HRCSL has undertaken a monitoring exercise of mining companies on their compliance to business and human rights and organised several awareness-raising events to all sectors on the contents and purpose of the UNGP.

Sierra Leone remains fully engaged to implement the UNGPs and to execute the actions in its implementing guidelines, which we will continue to evaluate in close cooperation with all stakeholders, civil society included.

I thank you