



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.
JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, AT THE
THIRD TURKEY-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP
SUMMIT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY - 18TH
DECEMBER 2021**

Your Excellency, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey,

Your Excellency, Mr. Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the African Union

Colleague Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, let me express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality accorded me and my delegation since our arrival. Thank you for the honour and unique privilege of inviting me to join this august Third Turkey-Africa Partnership Summit in this beautiful and historic city of Istanbul.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

2. Africa offers some of the largest and most diverse deposits and geographical spread of natural resources. We offer the largest free trade area. We have the largest youthful population. The majority of our countries are peaceful and stable democracies. The continent's medium and long-term economic outlooks are projected to be good.

3. As a continent, we have adopted a progressive development pathway and our Governments have adopted growth-oriented policies situated within favourable economic governance policies.

4. We, therefore, welcome and applaud Turkey's multidimensional approach to diplomatic and economic relations in Africa – one based on mutual friendship, mutual respect, and mutual cooperation with win-win outcomes.

5. As the Coordinator of the African Union Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, I acknowledge, with great appreciation, the support by Turkey for the Common African Position, as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration. We will continue to count on Turkey's support for our position on the reform agenda.

6. We remain strongly committed to working with Turkey in the international system on issues of mutual interest to our continent and

Turkey. We also thank Turkey's efforts in strengthening peace and security on the continent and for supporting our development aspirations.

7. Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at the national level, Turkey was, for years, a member of the Sierra Leone configuration of the United Nations Peace-building Commission and Turkey has continued to provide development assistance to Sierra Leone in various areas through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency [TIKA].

8. Since 2018, Sierra Leone and Turkey have entered a new era of heightened diplomatic relations with the establishment of Embassies in both Freetown and Ankara. This was a bold step forward by our two countries to consolidate and deepen our warm bilateral ties and cooperation in several areas, ranging from cultural exchanges, human capital development, to business and investment.

9. My Government has made great progress in consolidating peace and democracy, ruling justly, and investing in people. Our development aspirations are outlined in our comprehensive Medium-Term National Development Plan that is also aligned with both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union. We believe that a skilled, healthy, and productive population is a critical enabler of sustainable and inclusive development. Ours is a commitment to do right by our people and we will continue implementing the right reforms that prime Sierra Leone for sustainable development.

10. Permit me, Your Excellency, President Erdogan, to express Sierra Leone's profound gratitude for Turkey's continued support and unfailing interest in the Government and people of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

11. We have signed and ratified a number of Agreements, Protocols, and Memoranda of Understanding with the Republic of Turkey that seek not only to further strengthen but also to operationalise mutual cooperation in various sectors.

12. Equally important, Your Excellency, the Government of Sierra Leone acknowledges and commends the activities of Turkish institutions and

businesses in various sectors in Sierra Leone. We are committed to further heightening the growing economic and trade ties between our two countries.

13. Turkish businesses will continue to be favourably considered for various investment portfolios. We will spare no efforts to make the business ecosystem ever more conducive to attract more Turkish capital and for those companies to maximise returns on their investment. We want to encourage more and larger-scale investments in diverse sectors of our economy from mining, agriculture, tourism to healthcare, infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing, among others.

14. In that regard, we have put in place investment-friendly tax incentives and policies; streamlined processes for expediting the establishment and protection of the interests of credible investors; and we offer diverse opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, and mining to Turkish businesses.

15. Let me conclude by reaffirming our commitment to strengthening and deepening the great friendship between Sierra Leone and the Republic of Turkey.

I thank you for your kind attention and I wish this summit fruitful deliberations.