

Eric Bloom (Mercury)

From: Eric Bloom (Mercury)
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Tom.Goldstone@turner.com
Subject: UNGA Interview - President of Sierra Leone

Good afternoon, Tom,

I hope you have been well.

I wanted to reach out about the progress made by Sierra Leone on several fronts. The country has transformed into one of the leaders in Africa in several key areas such as advancing the rights of women and children, combatting terrorism, rooting out corruption, and sustainability and climate initiatives.

Because of those efforts, international organizations and countries have acknowledgement the country's incredible achievements, including:

- Being elected overwhelmingly to the U.N. Security Council for 2024, the first time in 53 years.
- President Biden choosing Sierra Leone as one of the few African countries to qualify for the [Millennium Challenge Corporation \(MCC\)](#).
- Leading the key organization Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Largely responsible for pushing through these milestones is President Julius Maada Bio. He will be attending next month's United Nations General Assembly and will be available the week of September 17th-22nd for interviews to discuss the country's current status, future promise, security challenges on the continent, and climate commitments.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like to schedule something.

Thank you.

Best,
Eric

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

According to Amnesty international these are some of the key steps Sierra Leone has taken to improve rights for women and children:

- The Customary Land Rights Act gives women an equal right to own and use family land.
- The National Land Commission Act was introduced, which established a commission that will take a gender-sensitive approach to land administration.
- A bill stipulating that one in three parliamentary candidates be women.
- A bill was passed stipulating that 30% of all positions in government, and in companies with at least 25 employees, be reserved for women.
- 800 children were reintegrated into schools nationwide, including pregnant girls, girls who had dropped out of school because of pregnancy, children with special needs, children living in remote areas and those from poor families.

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