

## Eric Bloom (Mercury)

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**From:** Eric Bloom (Mercury)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 9:28 AM  
**To:** farnaz.fassihi@nytimes.com  
**Subject:** U.N. Reform - Sierra Leone President Calls for Transformative Change

Hi Farnaz,  
Good morning.

I saw your article about reforming the U.N.

One of the strongest and most vocal critics of the status quo last week was Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio. In his U.N. speech he called for transformative reforms and referenced the historical injustices endured by Africa. For far too long the world dictated to the continent how things should operate with little recourse in the world body for its leaders. As you mentioned in your article, President Bio also called for Africa to have two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats moving forward **(Sierra Leone will be joining the security council in 2024 for the first time in 53 years.)**

Without this type of representation, the inequity and imbalance will persist, and the U.N. will struggle to address Africa's unique circumstances.

If you would like to schedule a time to speak with President Bio on this topic, we can help coordinate a time to discuss the issue in more detail.

Thank you.

Best,  
Eric

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