

Mr President the Secretary General Excellencies distinguished ladies and gentlemen I congratulate you Mr President on assuming the responsibility of steering the work of the 76th session of the General Assembly I assure you of Sierra Leone's fullest support during your tenure I also commend your predecessor His Excellency Volkan Bozkır of the Republic of Turkey for the effective and efficient conduct of the 75th session of the General Assembly We deeply appreciate his efforts in galvanizing a multilateral approach to containing the COVID-19 pandemic and handling its multifaceted challenges through several high-level meetings I also congratulate the Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres on his reappointment I assure him of Sierra Leone's continued support as he leads and coordinates the United Nations' response to persistent global challenges Sierra Leone associates with his call among other equally important global matters for prioritizing COVID-19 response vaccine access equity tackling poverty and inequality the impact of climate change and promoting gender equality human rights protection and promotion Mr President collective aspiration for a safe equitable and prosperous future has been challenged over the last two years as the world rests with the tragedy trauma and adverse adversity impact of the COVID-19 pandemic Sierra Leone appreciates all COVID-19 specific resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council Sierra Leone is also fully supportive of all policy initiatives that advance multilateral cooperation on fighting the pandemic and implementing measures to mitigate its long-term effects on lives and livelihoods We believe that our collective commitment through multilateral partnerships we see our world through the throes of this pandemic build resilience and recover sustainably the theme of this 76th session of the General Assembly building resilience through hope is therefore most appropriate and timely The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lives and economies constrained development due to repurposing of development finance and the withholding of private capital escalated the threat of climate change food insecurity broadened the inequality inequalities and justice and increased fragilities Nations risk not meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and building resilience against future shocks However a premature pessimism that the familiar world order has unraveled Sierra Leone seizes the possibility for renewed optimism and new growth as a nation We are grateful to the United Nations friendly Nations and multilateral institutions that have worked with us to navigate the stormy period since March 2020 Mr President in Sierra Leone through our quick action economic response program we are building fiscal resilience by investing in agriculture human capital development and expanding productivity through economic diversification but we believe our post-COVID recovery will be anchored in increased private sector investments international trade and development financing in growth sectors In that regard we have created a conducive business ecosystem amicably resolved business disputes ratified international trade and labor instruments and continued to make progress on the fight against corruption because it is good for business and governance Our structured health preparedness plan that has been implemented with close attention to science and data has helped save lives and life and protect livelihoods mindful of the need to save lives and preserve human dignity Sierra Leone has been proactive in interrupting transmission chains

curtailing infection minimizing death and mitigating the effects of covid 19 on our population we commend global solidarity around the provision of covid 19 vaccines to our nation especially we thank the people's republic of china france the united states of america the kovacs facility and other multilateral institutions we are ramping up vaccination rates and gaining greater vaccination coverage of our population the worst of the data variant may be behind us but we remain ever vigilant mr president throughout the covid19 period we have done more to improve human capital development support the most vulnerable of our citizens and communities build strong institutions create more inclusive democratic spaces build infrastructure and ensure public service delivery to our minds resilience is not to be held for it is to be worked for and diligently and proposed fully so we no longer wish to be perceived as a nation that is saddled with tragedies and failures of the past we no longer wish to be seen and spoken about as a nation recovering from civil strife to ebola and from bad governance and economic gridlock to food and climate insecurity we are a nation striving ever harder to fulfill our enormous potential our peaceful democracy has matured predictable regular and peaceful elections are the norm civil society actors are partners at all levels of governance and public service delivery we have established an independent national commission for peace and national cohesion to foster social cohesion and further consolidate peace in the country mr president we continue to remove threats to democratic freedoms and human rights we have repealed a half a century old seditious libel law no politician or rights activist is imprisoned for expressing his or her beliefs no journalist is imprisoned for the practice of journalism in syria we have abolished the death penalty in our nation throughout the covid period we have promoted the rights to education through creative solutions including nationwide distance learning and hybrid education technologies we have added eight hundred thousand more learners increased domestic education financing to 22 percent of national budget and learning has continued throughout the period of this pandemic our policy of radical inclusion grants tuition-free and safe access to quality education to all learners including pregnant girls parent learners children from poor and rare areas and children living with disabilities coupled with comprehensive school safety measures a revamped curriculum hybrid education technologies credible transition examinations school feeding school health and other forward-looking policies we are making steady progress in syria we seek partnerships to further expand these investments in education technical training higher education and entrepreneurship only then can our young person see the opportunity to expand the economy innovate and take advantage of four ir technologies and create new possibilities for our nation in fulfillment of the right to health we simultaneously battle covid 19 and other disease bodies such as malaria hiv tb thanks to global fund gavi has supported the provision of more vaccines we are reducing maternal and child mortality right across the country and look forward to more partnerships to make even more progress in respect of the right to work we have regularly paid salaries throughout the covid 19 period and provided support for vulnerable populations in syria there is greater internet penetration and we are increasing energy access through the country through a mix of sources including

solar energy mr president syrian associates with international efforts to protect the rights of women get more women workforce ready expand access to resources and promote gender empowerment and equity building resilience and inclusive post-coverage societies involves increasing access to justice in a safe and secure society in syrian we have expanded legal aid advice services to poor and underserved persons and establish special courts to fast-track cases for sexual offences social security corruption and small claims among others syrian orgies global solidarity on access to justice and remedies for survivors of sexual violence this is building upon our domestic effort against sexual and gender-based violence in that regard i have directed the mission of sridean to the united nations to sponsor a standalone resolution on this issue at the general assembly let this be the year that the united nations we give all survivors of sexual violence the remedy they deserve we will continue to work closely with partners on cyber security digital public good and to call irregular migration of persons we have complemented international action with local initiatives and corporation motors mr president the strength of climate change in land degradation erratic rain rainfall patterns rising sea levels and temperatures loom large these together 13 food and water security fish resources and energy access syrian is committed to all global climate action commitments and looks forward to participating in the upcoming un climate change conference in glasgow and in the 15th meeting of the conference of parties of the united nations convention on biological diversity we are integrating climate smart policies and projects into our development priorities last year we established a statutory agency to enhance our capacity to deal with the full circle of disaster management but as with other ldcs the climate financing gap remains a key challenge to implementing our mitigation and adaptation measures accordingly syrian joins other least developing countries developed countries in calling for a green climate fund to meet the 100 billion dollars target to support the mitigation and adaptation plans of developing countries thus we can create new green jobs especially for the youth and women create sustainable and inclusive communities and build resilience against climate change shocks mr president in spite of this progress our sub-region in africa are confronted with peace deficit arising from violent extremism piracy and other forces of instability the continental african union and sub-regional ecowas are fully engaged we urge greater collaboration and closer partnerships by the united nations with these bodies and governments to usher in a more success a peaceful sub-region my country provides leadership to the group of seven plus g7 plus conflict-affected and fragile countries we reiterate the nexus between peace and development and reaffirm our joint court for global ceasefires and the pursuit of peace through national dialogue and reconciliation only then can our nations walk out of fragility into sustainable development why the covet 19 pandemic is universal it has disproportionately affected countries such as ours in the g7 plus group the world's poorest nations face the grim challenge of global economic downturns reduction in foreign aid and increase in trade deficits therefore the success of global recovery efforts we deepen on the recovery of these we depend on the recovery of these countries in fragile situations we have undertaken voluntary national reviews and peer reviews as self-assessment tools

to take stock of the progress we have made and challenges with which we must contend we believe that with ongoing reforms we can transition from fragility to a sustainable and resilient future by investing in human capital development and building effective accountable and inclusive institutions we believe that that future is attainable mr president a fairer and more equitable post-2019 world order is possible when all nations and regions of the world can dialogue as equals we must eradicate hierarchies of power and discourse our common concerns and shared aspirations as equals syria notes the remarkable progress made by united nations and member states on decolonization we therefore encourage member states to map out fresh approaches for the advancement of the decolonization agenda in line with the mandates contained in resolution 1514. a post-2019 world order requires more partnership and more collaboration with improv from all nations and all continents across the world we cannot exclude the voices of 54 nations of the world and 1.2 billion of the world's population that live in africa we cannot justify those exclusions with power structures said 75 years ago we must reaffirm our common values and address our shared aspirations as equals we can start to redress these gross imbalances by reaffirming by reforming the security council to make it more broadly representative efficient and transparent and thus to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions syria recognizes the demonstration of the commitment to instill new life in the discussion on the reform of the security council as the coordinator of the african union committee obtained on the reform of the security council sierra leone is pleased to note progress made during the 75th session of the general assembly in the acknowledgement of the wide recognition and broad support by member states for the legitimate aspiration of africa to play its rightful role on the global stage as asserted in the african common position articulated in the erzowini consensus and sad declaration redressing this historical injustice against africa is an urgent priority africa demands no less than two permanent seats with all the rights and prerogatives of permanent members including the rights of veto if retained and two additional assists in the non-permanent category of the security council on behalf of the african union member states i urge our members to demonstrate their renewed commitment towards reforming the security council and making it more representative inclusive democratic transparent and accountable mr president excellencies ladies and gentlemen let me conclude by reiterating the australian we work with partners to enhance the multilateral rules-based order collaborate on our shared post-covid global agenda and build back better and more sustainably so thank you all for your attention