



In response to the Security Council's letter of 6 September, I intend to focus my remarks on the path forward for Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission's anticipated contribution.

Sierra Leone faces an important moment in its history. The elections scheduled for November represent a crucial test and are widely viewed as a core benchmark for peace consolidation. The Peacebuilding Commission has monitored developments over the past year, including through regular contact with Freetown and by inviting the Chair of the National Electoral Commission to New York to brief on preparations. As Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen has just outlined in greater detail, the necessary logistical and financial arrangements are largely in place. There is good reason to expect technically sound and well managed elections.

The greater challenge is political. All national stakeholders must fulfill their responsibility to create an environment conducive to successful elections. In each of the Commission's previous visits, interlocutors have raised concerns about persistent tensions between the major political parties, the

Third, transitions inevitably risk producing strategic and funding gaps. The Peacebuilding Commission could play a potentially useful role by helping to ensure overall coordination. Sustained multilateral and

bilateral assistance will be especially important in the period before revenues from the extractive sector reinforce Sierra Leone's budget position. The configuration intends to engage more extensively with these issues in the coming months.

Mr. President,

Let me close by noting that much has been invested and much gained in Sierra Leone. The

Merci, Monsieur le Président,

Cette intervention fait suite à la lettre du 6 septembre du Conseil de sécurité. Je voudrais centrer mon propos sur l'orientation future pour la Sierra Leone et la contribution prévue de la Commission de

*l'Union de la paix*

La Sierra Leone se trouve à un tournant important de son histoire. Les élections prévues en novembre constituent un test crucial et il est largement admis qu'elles seront une étape charnière pour la

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s'attaquer à ces problématiques. À cet égard, il faut se réjouir que l'emploi, la gestion des ressources naturelles et la gouvernance fassent probablement partie des piliers du Programme pour la prospérité. Il est également important d'apporter une aide soutenue en ce qui concerne les