



**EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairman
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Your Excellency Filippo
Grandi
Deputy Secretary General
Distinguished Delegations and Delegates
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation like other delegation before me congratulates you upon the assumption of your position as chair and I am confident that knowing your capability, you will do very well. The delegation of Sierra Leone will support you throughout these coming days in ensuring that your tenure is a success.

My Delegation fully understands the implications of the statement of the Distinguished High commissioner and we equally align with the African groups statement, the LDCs intervention. As a country that went through eleven years of one of the most brutal conflict in the 21st century, Sierra Leone clearly understands the positions as explained by the High Commissioner. However, what makes its most sanguine is the peculiar nature of COVID-19. Its destruction to human lives has left us all mystified as to what next. Let alone to those who are saddled with walking hundreds of miles to safety. The Life of these people is unprecedented and Dear High Commissioner; we will support your proposal, at all times knowing fully well the nature of being a refugee.

The nature of the pandemic needs drastic measures to curtail its spread yet the life of refugees is that of movement to safety away from war, from hunger, from political and religious persecution.

Mr. Chairman, we implore all host countries to show some form of solidarity at the time to ensure these persons stay indoors and away from premature death.

We cannot give solutions but we can advise on solutions, as we at one time were some people who transverse the glob are.

Let me use this opportunity to show empathy and solidarity to all who have in diverse way supported the work of the High commissioner and to his team I way thank you for creating that plat form for the faceless and the voiceless.

Thank you Charmin for giving me the floor, and I thank colleagues for listing.