THE COPENHAGEN ACCORD

A. SIERRA LEONE'S RESPONSE

Noting that the Copenhagen Accord (AC) was not formally adopted by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) due to objections by a number of Parties, and therefore is not an official outcome of COP15.

Recognizing that the Copenhagen Accord encapsulates concerns of Developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Sierra Leone, as one of most vulnerable LDCs to climate change recommends an increase in global temperature of at least 1.5 degrees Celsius and emission reductions above 40% below 1990 levels as the basis and reference point that Annex 1 Parties' individual mitigation targets should collectively achieve.

Noting that the Copenhagen Accord made no mention of the Kyoto Protocol and its extension beyond 2012 for which Sierra Leone strongly advocated. Sierra Leone therefore reiterates that the Copenhagen Accord must not replace the Kyoto Protocol and should not be subsumed under the Copenhagen Accord.

Acknowledging the importance of the obligations and spirit of the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan, Sierra Leone regards the Copenhagen Accord as an effort to advance the objectives and principles contained in the aforementioned instruments and an indication of the collective commitment by developed countries for new and additional resources for developing Countries to strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures.

Reaffirming Sierra Leone's association with the Least Developed Countries, African Group and G77 and China.

Committed to upholding, fostering and promoting a collaborative platform in order to achieve sustainable development and a socially equitable future for the people of Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone recognizes the accord and therefore wishes to associate with and support the Copenhagen Accord. However, Sierra Leone wishes to highlight the following:

1. The Copenhagen Accord recognizes the critical impacts of Climate Change and potential impacts of response measures on countries particularly vulnerable to its adverse effects and stresses the need to establish a comprehensive adaptation programme including international support. In view of this, Sierra Leone wishes to reiterate its desire for the full implementation of programmes and projects identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action for Sierra Leone on Climate Change.

2. That the Copenhagen Accord calls for cooperation in achieving the peaking of global and national emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that the time frame for peaking will be longer in developing countries and bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries and that a low-emission development strategy is indispensable to sustainable development. In this regard, Sierra Leone will require international support for the full implementation of programmes and projects identified in the Initial National Communications (INC) for Sierra Leone on climate change and the Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for Sierra Leone on climate change.

3. That the CA recognizes that Adaptation to the adverse effects of Climate Change and the potential impacts of response measures is a challenge faced by all countries and agrees that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology development and transfer, and capacity building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.

4. Sierra Leone in line with the CA recognizes the crucial role of REDD including REDD-plus. Sierra Leone is therefore requesting strong support for the establishment of national REDD strategies and mechanisms.

5. Sierra Leone applauds the decision to pursue various approaches, including opportunities to use markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote mitigation actions. However, as a developing country with a low emitting economy, Sierra Leone is seeking clarification on the incentives to be provided to continue to develop on a low emission pathway.

6. Sierra Leone welcomes the collective commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources, as prompt start financing, approaching USD30 billion for the period 2010-2012. Sierra Leone will however appreciate a breakdown of this amount to be benefited by each country and is deeply concerned that there is no guarantee the most vulnerable countries will benefit from this fund.

7. Sierra Leone appreciates the decision of the CA to establish a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer and in support of action on adaptation and mitigation, which will be guided by a country-driven approach and based on national circumstances and priorities. In this regard, Sierra Leone is soliciting strong support for the development of its second and subsequent national communications as well as the establishment of a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) mechanism for reporting mitigation actions taken and reported through national communications.

8. Sierra Leone emphasizes the pivotal role of the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency, statutorily designated as the focal point on all environmental matters.

B. APPENDIX II

In a bid to significantly contribute towards the reduction of the sources and potential sources of GHG emissions or enhancing carbon sinks Sierra Leone would undertake appropriate mitigation actions as listed in the table below.

Non-Annex I	MITIGATION ACTIONS
SIERRA LEONE	1. Establishment of the National Secretariat for Climate Change ((NSCC)
	2. Institutional strengthening and capacity building for environmental protection and management as well as the country's Mitigation and adaptation efforts to climate change.
	3. Increase conservation efforts in Sierra Leone. The Establishment of a network of twelve Protected Areas by 2015. Sustainable management and protection of Forest Reserves and Catchment areas in Sierra Leone including mangroves, coastal and inland Wetlands. Delineation and Restoration of Vulnerable Habitats and Ecosystems in the Western Area of Sierra Leone. Provide support for a national assessment on forest resources.
	4. Improve forest governance to maintain the proportion of land area covered by forests to at least 3.4 million ha by 2015, through the development of legislation, regulations and bye-laws for environmental protection, including control of deforestation, firewood collection and charcoal production and through capacity building, training and support to law enforcement services and the Ministry of Agriculture (Forestry Department).
	5. Setting/developing air, water and soil quality pollution standards, and ensure regular assessments and monitoring through control programs.

	6. Introducing conservation farming and promoting the use of other sustainable agricultural practices, eg. Agroforestry etc.
	7. Development of an Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management programme for Sierra Leone, including sustainable land management programmes, particularly in relation to Ecosystems.
	8. Expanding clean energy utilization (eg. solar, mini-hydro electric power, LPG, biomass stoves etc)
	9. Development of energy efficiency programmes through sensitization and awareness raising campaigns. Sustainable production of charcoal and reduce dependence on firewood.
	10. Development of alternative energy sources such as biofuels from sugarcane, corn, rice husk etc
	11. Developing agricultural and urban waste incineration programmes for energy production.
	12. Improved waste management through composting and recycling of waste.
	13. Development and enforcement of regulations on regular Maintenance of vehicles. Improving the use of mass transport(eg. Road and water) for passengers and cargo to reduce traffic congestion and GHGs emissions.