

*Office of the Ambassador*

**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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UN/PKO/601/53

February 27, 2006

The President of the General Assembly  
Secretariat Building  
United Nations  
C-204  
New York, NY 10017

Excellency,

*h2* **Invitation to the Peace Building Commission to Operate in Sierra Leone**

On the instruction of my government, I write to request that the Peace Building Commission consider selecting Sierra Leone among its first country – specific operations.

Sierra Leone experienced a violent armed conflict from 1991 to 2002, and is now going through a post-conflict recovery process. The country has earned the distinction of hosting the most successful United Nations peace keeping operation in recent times, by virtue of which it has become a model of peace processes emulated by other conflict situations in the world.

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, which at the height of the conflict was the largest UN peace keeping force in the world, completed its withdrawal on December 31, 2005, barely three years after the war formally ended, yielding the responsibility of state security to the country's recently reorganized security system.

To support Sierra Leone to address the causes of the conflict, consolidate the gains in peace and put the country back on the path to sustainable development, the United Nations has established an Integrated Office in Sierra Leone.

The Government has designed an Instrument, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, for post-conflict recovery effort, which has also been accepted by the donor community as the basis for their support for the country.

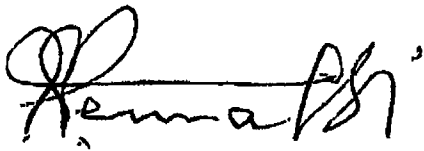
The above experiences added to those gained in formulating and implementing a highly successful DDR programme, hosting a highly successful UN - sponsored international conference on DDR, a national reconciliation strategy, governance and judicial reforms, capacity and institutional rebuilding, the work of two transitional institutions – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court – a rapidly developing democratic

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process, put Sierra Leone in a position to work meaningfully with the new Peace Building Commission.

In spite of the remarkable progress in the transition from war to durable peace and sustainable development, numerous formidable challenges remain in the way of the recovery process, for which we need the support of the Peace Building Commission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Robert Pemagbi', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Joe Robert Pemagbi  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative