

## **Sierra Leone's comments at multi-stakeholder round table 9:**

### **Data, monitoring and follow-up**

*Please check against delivery*

Thank you Madam/Mr Moderator.

I also wish to thank **Mr. Peter Chowla** for setting the scene for our discussion this morning and **Ms. Claire Melamed** for her opening remarks.

Firstly, I fully subscribe to their interventions. Yes, the FfD Goals have high ambitions and data have to be a substantive issue in FfD4.

Investors have to move in the dark when investing in new markets.

In some countries, even the simplest information about life and death is not available. For instance, patients record in health clinics are often written by hands and then kept in a corner. In most cases, when governments try to publish these data, the numbers are difficult to be collated and analysed.

With this, I want to make a few points.

**First, we have to build trust in official data and statistics:** This is extremely important.

Making policy without reliable fact is just difficult. Insufficient data has left our governments guessing about where to build schools, hospitals or make roads. But one event that spotlighted the importance of having good data is the fight against COVID-19. Even that, we questioned the credibility of these data.

But we all know that better data allow government to make better decisions.

And on this I agree with Claire, better data transforms a country's prospect.

For example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is digitizing Agricultural services providing farmers access to market data and weather forecast that we believe will empower farmers, enhance productivity and promote sustainable agriculture. This is a huge boost to the Government "Feed Salon" Program that aims to make Sierra Leoneans food self-sufficient.

**Second, we have to measure what matters:** we do not live by GDP alone. We must look beyond a mere command of economic resources. The 2024 report on financing for development did mention that GDP is not a good measure of Sustainable Development and Welfare. So let's change the speedometer, it really has to be changed.

I thank you!