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PRESS RELEASE



UNICEF TO COMMEMORATE CHILDREN'S DAY AT PARLIAMENT

Sequel to the Open Parliament Initiative, the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu has on Wednesday 16/11/2022 granted permission to the international organization, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to commemorate this year's International Children's Day event around the precincts of the Parliament of Sierra Leone. In a brief meeting held at the Speaker's Conference Room at Parliament in Freetown, the Speaker granted the request of UNICEF to conduct the celebration, which is slated for Monday 21/11/2022 at 5:00 PM at Parliament.

Speaking to the Speaker, the UNICEF Representative, Dr. Suleiman Braimah discussed areas of possible collaboration in promoting children's rights. He said this year, they want to use the Parliament of Sierra Leone to conduct a symbolic International Children's Day event. According to him, the symbolic

commemoration would turn the area of Parliament blue. This choice of Parliament, the UNICEF Representative said, was in line with Parliament's good performance, in light of its enactment of good laws especially those that are related to children. He used the opportunity to congratulate the Parliament of Sierra Leone for the recent passage of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment bill into law. He commended the Leadership and entire Parliament for making good laws and for ratifying international conventions in a timely manner. He also informed the Speaker of their readiness to respond favourably to any request for technical assistance with regards best practices in future lawmaking. The UNICEF Representative further told the Speaker about the level of cordial interactions he was receiving from some Parliamentary Committee Chairmen.

The Speaker graciously accepted the offer of technical assistance and support as and when the need arises. They agreed to stay in close touch and to strengthen the cordial relationship subsisting between their two institutions.

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