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**PRESS RELEASE**

**UNWOMEN ENGAGES SPEAKER ON GENDER BILL**

Following the debate on the Gender Empowerment Bill, a delegation from the United Nations Women's Organization (UN Women) led by Head of Office, Setchene Mongbo on Thursday 10/11/2022 paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu. In a brief meeting held at the Speaker's Office at Parliament Building Tower Hill in Freetown, the head of the delegation thanked the Speaker for his support on the Gender Empowerment Bill. Madam Mongbo also assured the Speaker of the plan to give technical support to the Legislative Committee on the passage of the bill. She also spoke about international best practices relative to the attainment of women's 30% quota in all walks of life and their human capacity buildings as well as their participation in politics.

Responding, the Speaker expressed profound thanks and appreciation to the UN Women and explained the importance of the Gender Empowerment Bill. He also, eloquently explained the merit and other critical aspects of the said document. In light of the implementation of the bill, when enacted into law, the Speaker said it would enhance the strongest participation of women in politics, especially in the parliamentary elections. The Speaker reaffirmed the political will of the Government towards the essential document and went on to disclose to UN Women, what they envisaged of the composition of the next Parliament. In light of the implementation of the proposed law, the Speaker told the delegation that, President Bio had demonstrated his political commitment towards the legislation and would concurrently ensure that his cabinet trends on the same platform.

Other members of the delegation include; Soulef Guessoum the Regional Advisor Women's Political Participation and Baindu Massaquoi-Taylor, Programme Specialist

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