



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

---

**STATEMENT**

BY

**H.E. DR. MICHAEL IMRAN KANU**  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**SPECIAL SESSION ON THE REVIEW OF THE AMENDMENTS ON  
THE CRIME OF AGGRESSION**

NEW YORK, 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

(Please check against delivery)

228 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017  
2126884985 | [sierraleone@pmun.net](mailto:sierraleone@pmun.net) | [www.slmissionun.gov.sl](http://www.slmissionun.gov.sl)

**Madam President,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Sierra Leone is pleased to participate in this Special Session and reaffirms its unwavering support for the International Criminal Court, and the Rome Statute. We remain firmly committed to a more just, fair, and effective international criminal justice system, one that responds credibly to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
2. Our commitment is grounded in our belief in the international rule of law, and more recently, the lessons of our transitional justice and the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. These experiences have shown that sustainable peace must rest on the pillars of justice, accountability, and the rule of law.
3. The inclusion of the **crime of aggression** in the Rome Statute and the adoption of the Kampala Amendments were landmark achievements. The activation of the

Court's jurisdiction over aggression in 2018 was a necessary and historic step toward ending impunity for unlawful uses of force.


4. However, the current jurisdictional framework, requiring both the aggressor and victim States to have ratified the amendments, or a referral by the Security Council, has revealed significant accountability gaps. Unlike the Court's jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, this regime risks reinforcing perceptions of selective justice and undermining the Court's credibility and impartiality.



5. Sierra Leone is yet to ratify the Kampala Amendments, partly based on principle. In recognizing the political nature of the compromise that led to the achievement in Kampala, we also believe that all four core crimes under the Rome Statute must be subject to the same, consistent, and universal standards.
6. The current asymmetry is therefore difficult to justify in law and in practice. Sierra Leone is therefore pleased to have joined like-minded States Parties in proposing the

harmonisation of the jurisdictional regime for the crime of aggression with that applicable to other core crimes, pursuant to Article 12.

7. We commend the important work of the Group of Friends on Harmonisation for fostering constructive dialogue, and we call on all States Parties to support universal ratification of the Kampala Amendments as well as to embrace the reforms required to close the accountability gap.

- 
8. These steps are essential to upholding the integrity and universality of the Rome Statute system. Only then can the ICC fully realise its promise to deliver justice without fear or favour, and to ensure that the unlawful use of force by States is no longer met with silence.

I thank you.

