

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE VISIT OF GENERAL ABDEL FATTAH AL-BURHAN, PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSITIONAL SOVEREIGN COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN TO SIERRA LEONE**

1. His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone met His Excellency General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of the Republic of Sudan, on 13th January 2025 in Lungi, Sierra Leone and discussed a range of issues relating to peace and security in Sudan and in the region.
2. The Leaders discussed and emphasized that the current conflict in Sudan continues to have devastating effects on the political and socio-economic fabric of Sudan as well as the African continent and beyond. The protraction of the conflict in Sudan is therefore not in the geostrategic interest of Africa.
3. The Leaders further discussed and reaffirmed strong commitment to peace, de-escalation of the conflict, the need for a complete and immediate cessation of hostilities, and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sudan, through an inclusive Sudanese-led and owned process, supported by the United Nations and the African Union. They acknowledged the value of collaboration and cooperation with international partners, respecting the sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Sudan.
4. The Leaders also discussed and underscored the obligation to protect civilians in the Sudan conflict, in particular children, women, and ethnic minorities, who invariably bear the brunt of the conflict, underlining the further significance to implement agreed commitment to protect Sudanese civilians, and ensuring accountability.
5. The Leaders in addition discussed the concerning dire humanitarian situation and acute food insecurity in Sudan, and the need for steps to be taken to facilitate safe, swift, efficient, and unhindered humanitarian access and aid delivery into and throughout Sudan.
6. The Leaders in acknowledging Sierra Leone’s current membership of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, agreed to maintain engagement to ensure both Councils constructively work towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Sudan.