



## Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)  
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

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Our contribution to changing the climate is next to nothing, yet our people face floods, mudslides, coastal erosion, and lost harvests. We borrow at higher cost than advanced economies, and we borrow to rebuild after disasters we did not cause. That cycle is not a development strategy; it is a trap, and that trap must be broken.

This is why Sierra Leone warmly welcomes the Vulnerability to Viability Compact. Its principle is the right one: countries lead and finance institutions align. We ask our partners to lower the cost of capital, speed up access, and channel resources through strong national investment platforms. Sierra Leone stands ready to be an early partner.

Sierra Leone also endorses the governing instrument of the Lifeline Fund. We urge partners to capitalize it adequately and to keep it fast, predictable, and free of burdensome conditions.

Excellencies, climate action is no longer a matter of political goodwill; it is law. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 2024 and the International Court of Justice in 2025 confirmed binding obligations, including the duty to cooperate through financial assistance to vulnerable states.

The V2V Compact and the Lifeline Fund are concrete ways to give effect to that duty. We do not seek sympathy; we seek fair terms and real partnership.

Let the Leaders Declaration we adopt today move from ambition to delivery, and let us carry this momentum together to COP31. Sierra Leone fully supports Ghana's proposal. I thank you all.

**H.E. DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO**

President  
Republic of Sierra Leone