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## PRESS RELEASE

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### UNDP Engages MPs on Climate Change

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 engaged Members of Parliament in a one day sensitization workshop on climate change, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at the Kona Lodge, in Freetown.

The aim of the workshop is to empower lawmakers and other stakeholders with sufficient information in order to educate their localities on the hazards of climate change and hygiene.

In his opening remarks, Chairman for the Committee on Water Resources, Hon. Sualiho M. Koroma highlighted the objectives of the workshop and some of the successful projects that have been implemented by Government and UNDP throughout the country relating to climate change, water, and sanitation.

Hon. Koroma also said that the workshop is the start of a long and sustainable campaign aiming at continued sensitization programme regarding community development, and how to make the various communities environmentally friendly for its inhabitants. The Committee Chairman referred to several efforts that have been made by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Committee including the development of projects and programmes for water and land sustainability, and the three bills that are before Parliament for enactment.

The MPs commended UNDP and the Ministry for the initiative to enable them to understand the issues raised with the view of informing their constituents accordingly.

The Deputy Director for Water in the Ministry of Water Resources, Augustine Tucker explained that at the moment the Ministry in collaboration with UNDP is implementing several projects and programmes in the country to make it climate resilient. Mr. Tucker disclosed that one of such programmes is on water and the environment with support from Global Environmental Facility (GEF), adding that UNDP is implementing this programme worldwide with Governments and other stakeholders.

The UNDP Project Manager, Ing. Sam Goba said that climate change is a subject of urgency, whilst noting that it is also a threat to global security and national development issues. He furthered that climate change has prevented a lot of people, especially women and children from accessing pure water, whilst describing the workshop as a dialogue forum aimed at bringing to the fore issues relating to climate change, water, and sanitation.

Some of the topics discussed include analyzing the vulnerability of women on climate change, and the mainstreaming of climate change issues in the country.