



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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22ND DECEMBER, 2025

PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT AND CSOS VALIDATE ITS PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PARTICIPATION TOOLKIT TO STRENGTHEN CITIZENS ENGAGEMENTS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and the International Institute of Democracy and International Assistance (IIDEA) on Monday, 22 December 2025, held a one-day stakeholders' consultation and validation workshop on the Public Hearings and Participation Toolkit for the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

The event took place at the New Building Conference Hall of Parliament and brought together Members of Parliament, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders to review and validate the newly developed toolkit aimed at enhancing public participation in the parliamentary processes in light of standardization, inclusivity, transparency and accountable governance.

Stating the purpose and declaring the validation exercise open, the Director General of Parliament, Mrs. Finda Fraser, welcomed the initiative on behalf of Parliament, and described it as a major milestone towards making Parliament more open, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the

citizens. She emphasised that the consultation and validation process should prioritise three key areas in respect of standardisation, inclusivity, and feedback.

“As we proceed with this process, it is important that we ensure consistency in approach, inclusiveness in participation, and clear mechanisms for receiving and responding to public feedback,” Mrs. Fraser stated, before wishing participants a productive and engaging sessions.

The Chairman of the Legislative Committee in Parliament, Hon. Abdul Sulaiman Marray-Conteh, commended the organisers for producing the draft toolkit and expressed optimism that it would be institutionalised. He described the initiative as a foundation to further legislative strengthening, and noted that the toolkit would serve as an important bridge between Members of Parliament, CSOs, and the citizens in the law-making process.

Speaking on behalf of WFD, the Acting Country Representative, Mr. Wurie Bah, explained that the organisation’s support was aimed at helping Parliament to fulfill its Open Government Partnership (OGP) commitments through the inclusive design and validation of the Public Hearings and Participation Toolkit, developed jointly with CSOs.

He also commended the lead drafters, Mr. Mohamed Jalloh and Mr. Cyril King, for their dedication to finalising the draft document. “Our support focuses on sustaining CSOs’ engagement in the legislative processes, promoting constructive dialogue, and creating structured avenues for citizens participation and feedback,” Mr. Bah said. He further reaffirmed WFD’s commitment to continued collaboration with Parliament to advance accountable and inclusive legislations.

Presentations on the consultation and validation processes were delivered by the Director of the Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies (CSPS), Mr. Mohamed Jalloh, and the Consultant to the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Cyril King. Their presentations outlined the objectives of the consultation, progress made in developing the toolkit, its structure and key components, existing practices, and relevant international best practices.

During the mixed validation groups discussions, participants reviewed and validated the accuracy, quality, and alignment of the toolkit with provisions in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the parliamentary Standing Orders, ensuring that it is responsive to citizens needs, aspirations and practical for implementation.

The programme was moderated by the Director of the Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, Mr. Sheku Lamin Turay, who underscored the importance of the validation exercise towards strengthening public engagements and deepening citizens’ participation in understanding the workings, operations and the functions of Parliament.

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