Since the end of the vicious civil war (1991-2002), Sierra Leone’s transition from conflict to peace and development has often been portrayed as a success story. Following three consecutive peaceful elections (2002, 2007, 2012), Sierra Leone was recently also classified as a ‘Low Income State’ and is no longer considered as a ‘Fragile State’ by the International Monetary Fund. Moreover, the U.N. Security Council will be reviewing a report on the U.N. mission in Sierra Leone UNIPSIL, focussing on the mission drawdown and transition to a U.N. country team. The Government of Sierra Leone is eager to continue this trajectory away from the country’s violent past to become a beacon of development. The Agenda for Prosperity, launched in July 2013, anticipates that Sierra Leone will become a middle-income country by 2035, and a net lender within 50 years, with 80% of its population above the poverty line. Despite significant achievements in Sierra Leone since 2002, various challenges remain.

This roundtable discussion will address and critically assess some of these challenges as well as emergent opportunities facing Sierra Leone going forward. The following questions will guide the discussion:

- Which aspects of peacebuilding and development processes have had and continue to have a particular good or bad track record, how and why?
- How could Private Sector Development complement the current developmental agenda of the country and how could Corporate Social Responsibility be better promoted? What role should the Government of Sierra Leone play in Private Sector Development?
- What is the current situation regarding the rule of law and human rights? What is the nature of the “corruption” problem and how can it be tackled?
- What can be done to address youth underemployment, intergenerational power imbalances and underlying conflict between elders and youths?
- Have the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community been successful in promoting the public health care system in the course of the peacebuilding process?
The round table will be followed by an open discussion with the audience on the future challenges for Sierra Leone.

**Preliminary Programme**

When: Friday, 6 December 2013  
2.30pm-6.00pm  
Where: London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE (Room: TBC)

2.30pm – 2.45pm: Opening remarks  
2.45pm – 4.00pm: Round Table  
4.00pm – 5.00pm: Q&A and open discussion  
5.00pm– 6.00pm: Small reception

Speakers:

**Ade Daramy** (Chair)  
Head of Sierra Leone Diaspora UK

**Sneha Baljekar**  
**Alexandra Malet**  
Postgraduate Diploma Adult Nursing S2012 Cohort KCL MSF Nursing Representative  
KCL Sierra Leone Student Partnership Affiliate King’s College London

**Jonathan Bhalla**  
Research Manager, Africa Research Institute

**Lisa Denney**  
Research Officer, ODI – Overseas Development Institute

**Dr David Harris**  
Research Associate, SOAS,  
Lecturer in African Studies, University of Bradford

**Francis Ben Kaifala Esq**  
Barrister and Solicitor, Partner at Wright & Co

**Kanja Ibrahim Sesay**  
Attainment Officer, Academic Development Unit, University of Bradford

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