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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS UNAMSIL'S MANDATE**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone* – The United Nations Security Council at its 5037<sup>th</sup> meeting of 17 September 2004, adopted resolution 1562 which decided that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) be extended until 30 June 2005.

The Council, having considered the report of the UN Secretary-General of 10 September 2004 (S/2004/724), commended the Mission for the progress made to date in the adjustments to its size, composition and deployment. It also underlined the importance of additional efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Sierra Leone Police and armed forces to maintain security and stability effectively.

The new resolution urged the Government of Sierra Leone to intensify its efforts to develop an effective and sustainable police force, armed forces, penal system and independent judiciary, so that it could take over full responsibility for maintaining law and order throughout Sierra Leone, including in the sensitive diamond-producing areas. It encouraged donors and UNAMSIL, in accordance with its mandate, to continue to assist the Government in this regard, as well as to assist the Government in restoring public services throughout the country.

It further welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to keep the security, political, humanitarian and human rights situation in Sierra Leone under close review.

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