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PRESS RELEASE

**FORCE COMMANDER INAUGURATES UNAMSIL-GOVERNMENT SECURITY
WORKSHOP**

Freetown – The Force Commander (FC) of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Major General Sajjad Akram, yesterday opened a two-day workshop on “National Security” organized by UNAMSIL to train local security agencies and UNAMSIL at the headquarters of Bangladesh Signals 4 at Goderich, west of the capital Freetown.

Declaring the workshop open, the Force Commander noted that it was crucial to hold such a workshop to discuss security matters that were pertinent to the state, adding that the involvement of the Sierra Leone’s national security agencies would prepare them for the handling of security matters of the state at the exit of UNAMSIL. He further stated that the workshop was timely in this period of UNAMSIL’s drawdown and would further elucidate the role of UNAMSIL in the area of security.

Major Gen Akram urged participants to take the course seriously to enable them make useful suggestions and recommendations that would benefit the state security wise.

Speaking on the significance of the workshop, Sierra Leone’s National Security Coordinator, Brigadier General Kelly Conteh (Retired) said the purpose of the workshop was to synchronize decisions that were earlier made in several security committee meetings to be able to formulate policies, rules and procedures on coordinating security activities of the state. He noted that participants at the workshop would examine the area of channel of communication in the sharing of responsibilities and reactions to state security situations.

Brigadier Conteh expressed confidence in achieving full cooperation and coordination amongst the national security agencies through the workshop especially with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP).

Participants at the Workshop were divided into four syndicates with each group comprising three RSLAF officers, three SLP officers and three UNAMSIL officers.

Others present at the workshop were UNAMSIL Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier Adrian Forster, Commanders Sector West, Brig Gen Nuhu Bamali, Sector Centre Brig Gen Shaffiq Zamman and Sector East Brig Gen Ahmed Bakshi. RSLAF and SLP top brass were also in attendance.

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