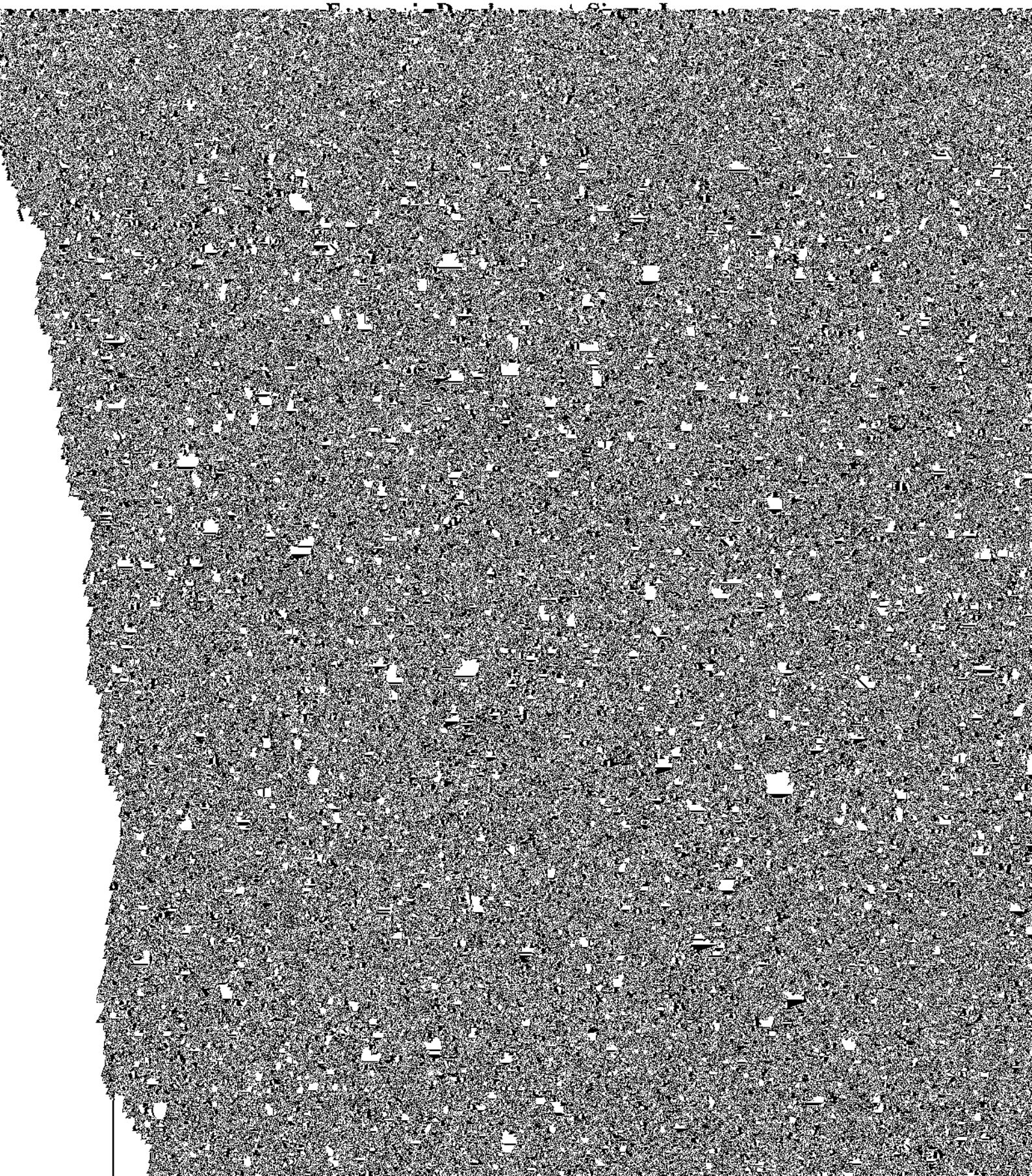
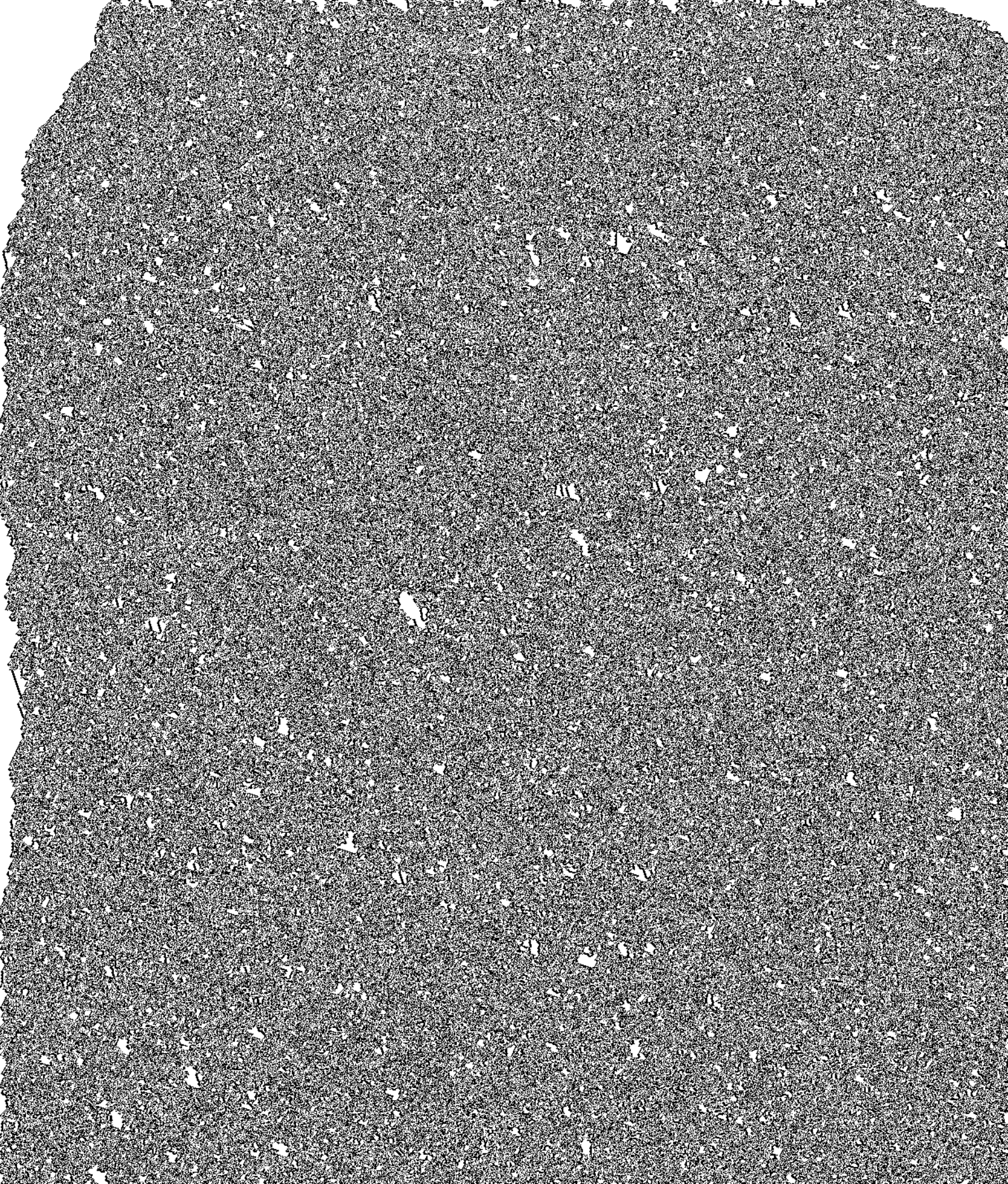


**Statement at the Third International Conference of Financing for
Development to be delivered by Dr. Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and**



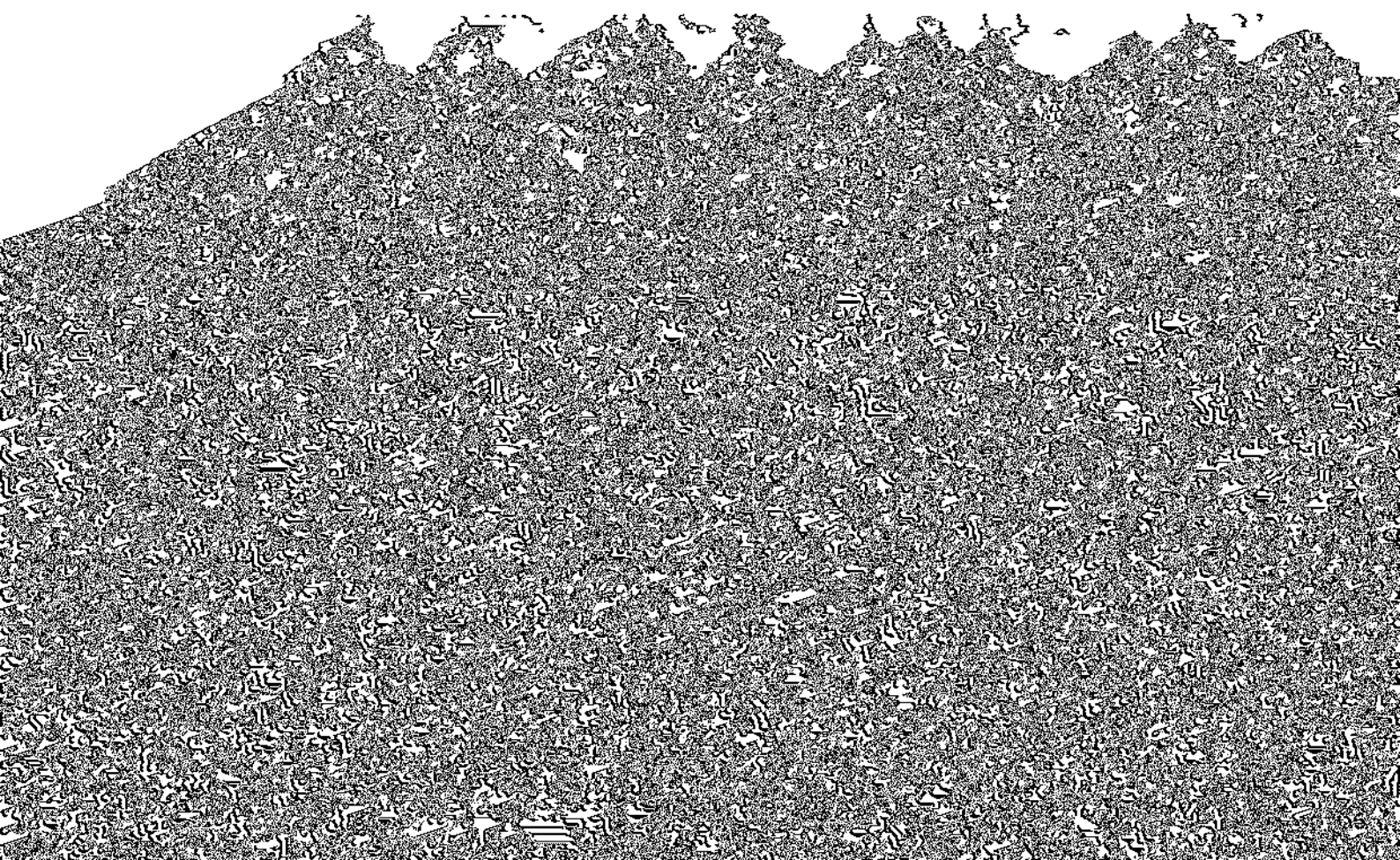
This year, we have a historic responsibility to shape an ambitious agenda that is truly transformative, to end extreme poverty by 2030 and achieve sustainable



The delegation of Sierra Leone therefore welcomes the recognition of the need for adequate resources for conflict-affected countries. We would further underscore the significance of a long term, stable and predictable flow of financing in order to reduce the inherent problems that are associated with uncertain or short term financial flows.

We wish to stress the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by fragile states and countries in conflict. To this end, we would like to emphasize the crucial need to support domestic tax resource mobilization as well as improve access to climate finance. These are critical in support of national development.

The delegation of Sierra Leone sees the need and supports the call to tackle climate



(MDGs) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. But ODA must be smart: it must focus on 'aid orphans' and not geo-politically important countries as is the case; and it must be delivered within the spirit of the 'New Deal'. On this note, we urge this Conference to strongly consider mainstreaming

Sierra Leone has adopted measures to address many of the root causes of conflict and is laying the foundation for medium and long term national development. W

To conclude Mr. President, amidst our current challenges, we will continue to build on progress made in addressing key development priorities, particularly in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, youth unemployment, management of natural resources, food security, effective delivery of public services and a robust private sector led growth that would translate into more tangible peaceful dividends. We therefore look forward to seeing a meaningful and ambitious Outcome for the Financing for Development Process, with the overarching objective of eradicating poverty and addressing the interests of all humanity.

I thank you.