

the Secretary-General

--

Remarks to the press

Addis Ababa, 27 October 2014

.....

In our meeting with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister and briefly with Dr. Zuma of the African Union – tomorrow we will have more in depth discussions on how to address the Ebola outbreak -- we discussed the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and the determination of the United Nations system in collaboration with the regional institutions and countries to do all in our power to beat the virus through rapid and robust action. In this battle, each day, each hour matters. It is also clear that we need to isolate cases – not countries. Ebola is a global problem that demands a massive and immediate global response.

The entire United Nations system, including the World Bank, is mobilized to do all it can, including through UNMEER, the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. For my part, as Secretary-General, I am on the phone with world leaders day and night to raise funds for these efforts. The curve of transmission can be bent down if the needed resources and organization are available. We must intensify our efforts in achieving a substantial increase in materials and financial contributions to save lives and protect communities.

I commend Dr. Zuma of the African Union for visiting the three affected countries. I am grateful for the many pledges by African nations to send medical personnel. Regional solidarity will be crucial in ending transmission of the virus and helping the affected countries on the road to recovery.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about all this stigma. Returning health workers who have managed to avoid infection are exceptional people who are giving to humanity. They should not be subjected to restrictions that have no scientific basis. They should not be stigmatized for their selfless service. We depend on them to fight this battle. Please do not quarantine them because they have volunteered to serve in the affected countries.