

CANADA
The International Ebola Recovery Conference
July 10, 2015

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Thank you, Mr. Secretary General.

Excellencies, Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to join others in thanking our hosts for organizing this important conference here in New York.

The Ebola outbreak has taken a terrible toll on Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Canada remains deeply saddened by the many lives that have been lost or changed forever.

We pay tribute to the incredible bravery and self-sacrifice of health care workers who have given their lives protecting others, and we are humbled by the determination of all those who continue to work on the front lines day after day.

We owe it to those who have fought and endured this outbreak to maintain our collective resolve to get to zero cases and avoid a resurgence of the disease.

This will require a sustained focus on the emergency response in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, as well as ongoing preparedness in the region. We must also commit to improve national and international mechanisms for preventing and responding to public health crises.

As we work together to get to zero cases, we recognize the importance of simultaneously addressing the recovery needs of the three most affected countries.

Essential public services, such as health care and education, must not only be revitalized, but also strengthened to build resilience to threats to public health.

The restoration of livelihoods for those most affected by the crisis, as well as the reinvigoration of local markets, is also critical.

As the current Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, we recognize the importance of ensuring that hard fought peacebuilding gains are not reversed as a result of this devastating Ebola outbreak.

Canada urges all three affected countries, and the broader international community, to view the recovery process as an opportunity to further strengthen stability, trust, and peace.

We have been inspired by the steadfastness of the governments of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in dealing with the crisis, and we commend your resolve to reduce vulnerability and build back better through the recovery plans presented this morning.

To date, Canada has committed more than \$110 million to help address the health, humanitarian, and security implications of the crisis and provided significant in-kind assistance, including the deployment of mobile laboratories, technical expertise, Canadian Forces medical teams, as well as Canadian-developed vaccines.

Moving forward, we will further review the recovery plans presented here today to determine how we can best provide additional support.

Canada stands ready to help all three countries emerge from this crisis more resilient, secure, and prosperous.

Thank you,