

Ebola Conference, 3 March 2015 – Session on "Getting to Zero"

Talking points for Dr David Nabarro,

UNSG's Special Envoy on Ebola

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: Please allow me to add my emphases to the Commissioner's excellent points.

1. First – The extraordinary first phase of this response (Slide) dedicated to reducing the incidence of disease
 - a. (Click) National efforts with support from hundreds of partners led to a massive increase in response capacity – five times more treatment beds, three times more laboratories, many more safe and dignified burials, plus support from hundreds of health workers, social mobilizers and contact tracers.
 - b. (Click) Now ten times fewer people are diagnosed with Ebola each week than in September last year.

2. We recognize
 - a. the leadership of the Presidents and Governments,
 - b. the courageous actions by people themselves,
 - c. the new behaviours adopted by affected communities,
 - d. the constant and disciplined efforts of health workers,
 - e. the partnerships with civil society and NGOs,
 - f. the support by regional organisations - African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union,
 - g. the powerful assistance from donor agencies, development banks, foundations, businesses and the European Union and its member states.
 - h. the extraordinary engagement of the UN Secretary General, WHO and the rest of the UN system, and the dedicated Mission UNMEER.

I wish I had time to mention everyone individually

3. (Slide) Second: Phase 2 of the response – where we are now - is the hardest part. It is a bumpy road. Numbers have plateaued over the past 4 weeks. We have seen flare-ups: some communities are reticent about working with responders. All must remain fully engaged till the task is completed: no one should be complacent or distracted.

4. Capabilities are needed in 63 districts throughout the region - to identify people with Ebola, to ensure they are effectively treated, to trace and monitor those with whom they have been in contact, to support affected people and their communities, to respond rapidly to any new developments. The outbreak is controlled when all new cases come from the lists of contacts.

5. Third: (Slide) Communities engage if they trust responders: the 22 million people living in the affected countries need to be able to access the employment, markets and services that enable them to stay healthy, obtain essentials, attend school, and maintain livelihoods - safely. (Slide Animation).

6. (Slide) Fourth: Here are the challenges facing responders:
 - a. the outbreak *is in urban areas and the coastal and cross-border region between Guinea and Sierra Leone as well as within Guinea.*

- b. *Some communities are reticent* about being engaged in the response: this greatly reduces effectiveness.
 - c. *A regional approach* is now being pursued: it is vital.
 - d. *The virus is moving:* (Click) People with Ebola are taking the virus to different locations in the region: this can only be contained through effective tracing of those who have been contacts of persons with Ebola.
 - e. As their Excellencies the Presidents have said, the response requires *high quality coordination at local level and joint working by all the affected nations*.
7. (Slide) Fifth: Governments and their partners all seek the necessary finance to end the outbreak. We have explored the minimal requirements of the UN system and some NGO partners in the coming six months. Of the estimated \$1.5 billion which will be spent, \$600m has already been made available through the generous contributions of donor governments and others.
 8. This leaves a gap of around \$900m: of that around \$400m is urgently needed for critically important activities to get to zero.
 9. One way to provide support is through the UN Ebola Response Trust Fund – a strategic, efficient and closely monitored financing mechanism for local level actions.
 10. (Slide) Sixth: It is now time to renew the commitments made last year - to intensified and coordinated action to eliminate the outbreak, safe revival of services, agreement on gaps in the response and concerted action to fill them, mobilizing the funds and people to get to zero and ensuring they are spent to best effect. Let us all support the co-chair's statement to be issued tonight. Let us redouble our efforts to help people of the affected nations end this Ebola outbreak now!