

**Remarks by Dr. David Nabarro, United Nations  
Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola  
International Ebola Recovery Conference**

**11:00 – 11:55 a.m.  
(10 July 2015, New York)**

Secretary-General, Your Excellencies,

Ladies, Gentlemen,

It is a real privilege to be able to address this meeting. I would like to reflect on five points.

1. Exceptional solidarity and dedication has been shown by the people, Governments, institutions, and businesses from within the affected nations and across Africa, alongside the financial, material and human resource support of the international community, partner organizations and the hard work of many international responder. People, governments and world leaders really have faced up to the challenge head on, with unstinting courage.
2. We do face a challenge now. Because although the end of the outbreak is tantalizingly in sight, as Madam President said at the beginning, the final part of the response is challenging. Around 30 people are being newly infected each week. Intense efforts are still underway to describe each transmission chain, identify people at risk, follow them up and ensure that if they have signs of illness they receive prompt attention. It really is intense detective work. Because it is likely that the virus can persist, preparedness to respond rapidly to come-backs is key.
3. We must pursue perfection in the response and sustain it. It is vital that those who have been in contact with persons who have Ebola are not lost to follow-up. We must continue to ensure that there are real incentives for contacts to stay in touch with responders.
4. As some communities are battling the outbreak, others are rediscovering their lives and reviving their livelihoods. It was wonderful to see this when travelling through the region. This recovery – and the strength it brings to affected communities – is a key part of people staying safe in the face of occasional flare-ups of disease in these final stages. Resilient communities are better able to respond to each and every case. They are more likely to participate in the response with full energy, hence the absolute importance of this recovery conference happening now.
5. How will the world decide whether this conference is a success?  
First – participation. We can already recognize the range of people that are present. It is important that so many people have come together at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General and the Presidents.

Second – levels of pledging. The scale of the support that is pledged will be important given that the outbreak has had such severe consequences and recovery does require substantial investment.

Third – The kind of commitments that are made by all present. The words that are expressed by people are important, including words from those who cannot offer substantial financing. I anticipate that we will hear commitments of solidarity, a willingness to be called to account and preparedness to stay engaged over time – for the long haul – from all participants. These matter a great deal.

Fourth – The impact cannot be assessed for some time to come. The actions initiated as a result of this conference should lead to better lives and livelihoods for all people in the region. The “partnership for a better future”, referred to by the Secretary-General this morning, should be just that.

I commend the persistence and dedication applied to build robust recovery plans through the Mano River Union. Implementation of these plans is key to resilience of the affected nations and also to health security for people all over our interconnected world. It is key for the goal of “getting to zero and staying at zero”.

Adequate investments and support that underpin the foundations for the revival of health services, building resilience and fostering longer-term development – creating the conditions for return of private investment – are a contribution to the health security of our whole world.

Your generous and continued support to the response has been critical. Your valuable engagement as catalysts for recovery in the region is indispensable – for the people of the affected nations and for the world.

The partnership we have built in the face of Ebola matters more than ever: let us be sure that it is sustained for the years to come. My colleagues and I in the UN system will do all we can to catalyse, facilitate, and sustain this vital joint effort for as long as is needed.