

International Conference on Ebola Recovery

Thematic Discussions

Fourth thematic session: Socio-economic revitalization

Date: 09 July 2015

Time: 16:40-18:00

Location: New York Headquarters

Introduction

The thematic sessions on 9 July are designed to provide the space for the three Ebola-affected countries to present in depth their respective recovery plans, including costs and implementation strategies. The day begins with the full overview of the plans and then move into four thematic sessions around health, nutrition and WASH; governance, peacebuilding and social cohesion; education, social and child protection and basic services; and socio-economic revitalization.

Objective

Despite the devastating impact of the Ebola outbreak on all the affected countries (social and human toll, economic slowdown, evacuation of expatriate staff, fall of government revenue), there were no destructions of economic infrastructure and, with the exception of health systems mainly, the public administrations and state structures in general remain functional and can be fully operational as soon as the epidemic is under control.

The session will discuss how a stronger private sector can support the recovery strategies of the three Ebola affected countries to ensure economic revitalization with a view to better and more efficient delivery of social services.

Outcome

The need to attract foreign investment and increase economic activity is a central element of all three recovery plans and it is considered that a more structured dialogue between all stakeholder could contribute to improve the business environment. It is proposed that governments of the affected countries, donors and the private sector commit to a new partnership, that could take the form of the creation of local platforms for regular dialogue on business environment and sustainable development.

At the end of the session, participants will have a better understanding of the main priorities and needs of the government and of the private sector and how the international donor community can best support the new partnership.

Topics we expect to be covered

How to ensure government revenue for macroeconomic stability and delivery of social services: tax reform, tax collection, investment & corporate social responsibility, budget support from donors.

How to improve business climate and trade for sustainable growth, job creation and redistribution: administrative reform, fiscal reform, rule of law, justice system.

How can we build better and more efficient public administration & delivery of social services, including preparedness to future outbreaks: public finance management, institutional support & capacity building, accountability, dialogue with civil society

Panelists

Chair:

Ms Carla Montesi, Director for West and Central Africa, European Commission, Directorate General for International cooperation and Development

Panel members:

HEM Mohamed Diaré, Minister of State, Minister of Economy and Finance, Republic of Guinea

HEM Amarah Konneh, Minister of Finance and Planning, Liberia

HEM Kaifalah Marah, Minister of Finance, Sierra Leone

Mrs Diane Layfield, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Region for Standard Chartered Bank

Mr John Panzer, Director, Macroeconomic and fiscal management, World Bank tbc

Mr Abebe Selassie, Deputy Director, African Department, International monetary fund (IMF)

Representative of the private sector tbc

Description of the Format

Introduction by chair: 5 mn

Opening remarks (3 mn per panelist) – 20 mn approx..

Discussion between panelists:- 10 mn

Q&A: 30 mn

Closing remarks by panelists (2mn per panelist) : 10 mn approx.

Closing remarks by chair: 5 mn
