

**Remarks by Dr. David Nabarro
Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola
to the General Assembly
New York, 2 June 2015**

Your Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Avant tout, je souhaite rendre hommage à la manière dont vous, Monsieur le Président et les membres de l'Assemblée générale, avez maintenu votre attention sur l'épidémie à virus Ebola. Et je rends hommage en particulier à la manière avec laquelle les dirigeants et les gouvernements des pays affectés ont répondu à cette crise. Je tiens également à remercier les États Membres pour leur généreux soutien et leur extraordinaire engagement. Je rends hommage aux efforts inlassables du Secrétaire général de l'ONU, à la MINUAUCE et à toutes les entités du système des Nations Unies qui ont participé à cet effort.

Mes remarques porteront en particulier sur les sept questions suivantes : les progrès réalisés, les tâches à achever, les priorités, les ressources, la reconstruction, les études rétrospectives et les engagements à venir.

[I pay tribute to the way in which you, Mr. President, and members of the General Assembly, have maintained your focus on the Ebola outbreak and to the ways in which leaders and Governments of affected nations have responded. I thank Member States for their generous support and extraordinary commitment. I pay tribute to the relentless efforts of the UN Secretary General as well as UNMEER as well as all UN system entities who have been involved.]

My remarks focus on seven issues: progress, unfinished tasks, priorities, resources, recovery, analyses and commitment.]

Progress: The people of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have led the response: vast areas within each country have been free of Ebola for many weeks. The green shoots of safe and early recovery have been planted and will contribute to the

tapestry of trust and confidence so needed by societies in the countries. But everybody should be prepared in case the disease recurs and needs to be controlled especially in the coming twelve months.

Unfinished tasks: The outbreak is not finished. It continues to challenge and confound us all. It is driven by a contagious and deadly virus. It is fueled by the ways in which people go about their lives. And it is still embedded within a few societies that have yet to own the outbreak and engage fully in the response.

Priority: Our priority is to ensure that the outbreak ends as soon as possible and that communities have the strengths and defences for resilience in the face of future threats. This will take several weeks and may take a number of months.

It will be a bumpy road filled with frustrations and challenges - hence the need for all involved to stay engaged, focused, vigilant and committed until the task is done.

Resources: The responders need resources and capacities to stay the course and finish the job.

Resource use is being tracked and impact is being monitored. The minimal needs of the UN system and partners between July and December 2015 have been estimated. There is still a substantial funding gap.

I take the opportunity to thank all who have committed so generously to the Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This has proved to be a most effective means for targeted support for response priorities which is especially important at this stage of the response.

Recovery: Governments are advancing recovery efforts. The International Ebola Recovery Conference that the Secretary-General referred to – to be held on 9 and 10 July in New York – is designed to help them get the resources they need. The African Union is focusing on ways to galvanize African people, their governments and their business leaders in solidarity with the affected communities and countries at its July 20th 2015 conference in Malabo.

Analyses: Last week the World Health Assembly examined how the response could have been better organized and more rapid. How could suffering, deaths and other consequences have been reduced.

It is right that all involved are thinking through the changes that must be made so as to respond better to the next health emergency.

Commitment: The challenge facing us all is not only to end the Ebola outbreak but to ensure a healthier and safer future for all the world's people.

We must all commit to stay engaged despite the many calls on our time and our energy from elsewhere.

We still have so much to do.

Thank you.
