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Statement
by
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at the
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in New York

Germany's involvement in post-Ebola recovery
in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

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(check against delivery)

Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Representatives of the member states and of international organizations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Only **a year ago**, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – and the international community along with them – were faced with an unprecedented **challenge** posed by the outbreak of the deadly **Ebola fever**.

Germany has contributed to the effort to **contain the epidemic** and **mitigate its consequences**, providing some **195 million euros** and a **large number of experts** in order to help people on the ground

- through **education campaigns and training**,
- **through medical and humanitarian assistance**, and
- through **institutional development measures**.

It is a good sign that we are **already talking about recovery**. However, we are still faced with many challenges:

- we must continue our systematic efforts along the road toward "**zero infections**";
- **health systems** need to be **enhanced and strengthened** for the future; and
- we need **investment to foster swift social and economic recovery**.

At the same time, we need to **learn** from the crisis. The work of the Secretary-General's **High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises** is of crucial importance in this connection.

It is already clear that the devastating **dimensions** of this health crisis were a **reflection of structural weaknesses**. The plans for the post-Ebola period show that **recovery** therefore needs to be based on a **multi-sector approach**.

In line with the debate about the post-2015 agenda, a **high level of transparency and accountability** are **indispensable** in the recovery effort. This is the only way to make sure that resources are used in a **targeted, efficient and swift** manner, for the benefit of the people. A **continuous dialogue** among all partners **based on mutual trust** will be the basis for reaching the targets we are setting for ourselves.

Germany has had such a dialogue for almost **60 years now** as part of its **bilateral development cooperation** with Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Our current activities are thus a continuation of that tradition and at the same time a considerable expansion of our involvement. Germany wants to help boost growth and development and **strengthen the countries' resilience** by

- improving access to **basic social services** and **education**,
- helping to develop the **energy and transport infrastructure**, and
- creating **income and employment opportunities**, especially for women and for young people.

Germany will also use its **special program for health in Africa** to support **health system development** by means of training, education campaigns and the provision of equipment. We are thus meeting our promises made at the Elmau G7 summit.

To that end, Germany is planning to make available a **total of 196 million euros** for bilateral development cooperation with the three countries in **2015 and 2016**.

Excellencies, President Johnson-Sirleaf, President Condé, President Koroma,

Germany will **continue to stand by your countries as a strong and reliable partner**, and Germany will actively support you as you design and implement your long-term development strategies.

Thank you for your attention.