

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

Closing Remarks at International Ebola Recovery Conference

10 July 2015, at approximately 6:00pm (possibly earlier)

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On behalf of the UN Development Group and UNDP, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your participation in and generosity at this International Ebola Recovery Conference.

In the last two days, the three most-affected countries – Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and the Mano River Union have clearly articulated what they need to help them build back better from the Ebola crisis and put their countries on a sustained development trajectory.

Yesterday, the Ministers of Finance of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone presented the national recovery strategies, and the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union presented its complementary sub-regional strategy. These strategies set out the key priorities for recovery; the specific actions which countries will take locally and regionally to achieve these priorities; an estimate of the resources needed; and the resource gap for which international support is so urgently needed.

There were also productive discussions across four thematic areas which are critical components for Ebola recovery. These were rich discussions. One of the overarching messages from across the panels is the need to stay the course. The sessions also helped to forge new partnerships in support of recovery across government, civil society, private sector, and communities. Community engagement has been essential to the Ebola response, and yesterday's discussions reiterated the importance of sustained community engagement for recovery.

Earlier today the three Heads of State highlighted the key priorities of the national and sub-regional strategies. The needs and priorities they have stated for the next 24 months are clear. They include health sector capacity strengthening, revitalizing the economy, job creation and financial inclusion, enhancing private sector participation in the economy, strengthening the effectiveness of essential services delivery, enhancing national-level and decentralized capacities for governance, and strengthening sub-regional capacity for the overall peaceful and economic transformation of the Mano River Union region.

The three Governments have made it clear that international support is needed for the path to recovery. They have also underscored the importance of mutual accountability frameworks.

The international community has responded generously in a spirit of global solidarity. I am happy to inform you that a

preliminary tally of pledges and commitments of support resulting from today's donor pledging session amount to \$xxxxx (place hold for the total pledged amounts). This is a tremendous effort towards meeting the financial gap requirements and jumpstarting recovery.

The African Union's conference in Malabo later this month offers a chance to build on the momentum generated today. Going forward, the United Nations will continue to support countries in mobilizing resources for recovery and for putting those resources to work.

Now the commitments and pledges made today need to be followed up. That will include setting out frameworks for receipt, allocation, and accountability, with the three countries in the driving seat, working in partnership with the Mano River Union Secretariat.

As we do this, I encourage donors and partners to continue to engage with the countries, noting that the journey to “getting to and staying at zero” is a long and bumpy one – just as the recovery process will be. We cannot afford to lose momentum. And we cannot afford to disappoint the many women, men, children, and vulnerable communities who are counting on our help. This is our call to action, and I thank you all for your generous support.