



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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UNMEER

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

Madam Chair,

At the outset, let me thank the Controller, Assistant-Secretary-General, Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas for her presentation of the report containing the revised estimates for the biennium 2014-2015 for the Office of the Special Envoy for Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). I would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report of that Committee.

Madam Chair,

Only a few months have passed since last autumn, when the crisis caused by the Ebola virus outbreak was spreading at an alarming rate, and there was deep concern about the ability of the international community to come to grips with such an unprecedented situation.

Under the leadership of the Secretary General, a UN coordination system was created to ensure that all relevant parts of the UN system were activated and working coherently, and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response was established. The EU Member States strongly supported these initiatives as well as the provision of the urgent means required to ensure their successful outcome. At the same time, the EU and its Member States also played an important role in delivering assistance to the most affected areas, and joined national and international efforts in helping tackle the disease as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

The results of all these initiatives are before our eyes. Thanks to the improved and better coordinated collective efforts by the affected communities, the Governments of the most affected countries, and regional and international actors, the rate of transmission of the Ebola virus disease has declined dramatically and the acute phase of the crisis is behind us. Once again, we wish to thank the dedicated service and commitment of the personnel of the United Nations and all other actors engaged.

With the emergency phase behind us, we welcome the proposals of the Secretary-General to facilitate the transition of UNMEER's responsibilities to those parties best suited to respond to the medium- and longer-term challenges, that is, the Governments themselves, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other implementing partners. We note the important ongoing work of the Office of the Special Envoy to support this transition process.

Madam Chair,

As, at the time of the establishment of the mission, the Secretary-General was not in a position to provide us with detailed budget proposals for the Mission, we now welcome the receipt of the

information contained in the report before us. It is our job to review it and scrutinise it. As always, please rest assured, Madam Chair, that we will engage constructively in our discussions on this item.

Thank you, Madam Chair.