



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. AMADU KOROMA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

ON

***AGENDA ITEM 132: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2014 - 2015,
FOR THE FINANCING OF UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR EBOLA
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING THE SECOND RESUMED SESSION OF THE
FIFTH COMMITTEE, SIXTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

NEW YORK, 21ST MAY 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Let me firstly thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General and Mr. Carlos Riuz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing the related report on this important agenda item.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Togo on behalf of the African Group and would like to make few additional comments in our national capacity.

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for establishing the High-Level Panel on the Global Response to International Health Crises, with the mandate to make recommendations to strengthen national and international systems to prevent as well as manage future health crises. We profoundly appreciate the Secretary-General's demonstration of his continued determination to not only put an end to the Ebola epidemic but also to ensure that the international community remain focused and prepared for possible future global health crises.

We are also grateful to the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola for the progress made in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources to the Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Furthermore, we are grateful to Member States who have contributed to this trust fund to enhance the work of UNMEER.

Mr. Chairman,

The collective efforts of the Governments of our three most affected countries with the assistance of our development partners, especially in the deployment of medical supplies, expert personnel, financial resources and necessary infrastructure that have been put in place, we have achieved impressive results in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

It could be recalled that during the recent Mano River Union (MRU) Summit convened in Conakry, Guinea on 15th February this year, our Heads of State resolved to attain zero cases in sixty (60) days as from the date of that pronouncement at the end of the Summit. As we are all aware, the World Health Organization has declared the Republic of Liberia an Ebola-free country on 9th May 2015 while we still grapple with challenges of sustaining zero cases. The good news is that all the new cases are coming from known contacts. This means that all of the new infections in the country are people who were under surveillance, making it likely that they will get treatment faster and reduce the

possibility of further spread. IRC Senior Health Director Emmannel d'Harcourt explained that Liberia experienced similar periodic flare-ups as the outbreak waned there earlier this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Victory against the virus is in sight, but we must guard against complacency. There would not be total victory until we get to a resilient zero in our three worst affected countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Ebola has not only ravaged our health and education sectors but has also pushed our economy into recession. If we are to ensure a permanent and lasting recovery from the Ebola outbreak, we have to adequately respond to the many ways this disease has rendered our three countries more fragile and vulnerable. We need to deliver social services more effectively than we have ever done before. In this regard Mr. Chairman, as UNMEER prepares for its drawdown, my delegation looks forward to a seamless transitional strategy that would support sustainable capacities of our affected countries as well as the implementing partners, including those of the UN agencies, funds and programmes working on the ground. National sensitization and social mobilization campaigns should continue to be a high priority for UN Specialized Agencies in the sub-region. UNMEER should also consider further enhancing the capacity for cross-border surveillance, collaboration and coordination among our countries in the sub-region as Liberia will not be free of the Ebola virus threat when cases continue to spike in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

At the Extraordinary Summit of the Mano River Union of 15th February 2015, the three countries formulated a sub-regional socioeconomic recovery program, the "MRU Marshall Plan", to ensure the return to stability and prosperity. The plan is focused on nine key areas - health, including sanitation and hygiene, gender, youth development, social protection, agriculture, fisheries, food security, trade and private sector development, infrastructure, roads, energy, water, ICT and finally governance, peace and security, and program management. We look forward to the continued support of our development partners for effective and successful implementation of the plan.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, while we pay special tribute to the courageous men and women who lost their lives in the service to our people, we would like to equally express sincere appreciation to the frontline workers who continue to risk their lives to save those infected by the virus.

I thank you.