

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES - Friday, July 10, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has emphasized that an effective long-term response to the Ebola virus disease will rest in plans and strategies for economic recovery and support for the transformation goals of the three countries worst-affected by the epidemic.

The Liberian leader made the assertion when she delivered the Mano River Union (MRU) Recovery Plan at the International Ebola Recovery Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

On behalf of the three countries worse affected by the Ebola virus disease (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone), President Sirleaf said in furtherance of the goal for long-term recovery, the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the MRU, held on June 28, in Conakry, Guinea, adopted the sub-regional Post-Ebola Socio-Economic Program, as well as the institutional and financing framework to ensure an effective implementation of the plan.

The MRU plan is clustered into two levels: Level One which is estimated at US\$1.76 billion, focuses on health, water, sanitation and hygiene, governance, peace and security, agriculture, fisheries and food security, gender, youth and social protection, among others; while Level Two focuses on sub-regional roads, energy access, information and communication technology estimated at US\$2.24 billion.

In terms of aggregate cost, the financing gap is estimated at US\$7.2 billion, of which US\$4 billion will finance the sub-regional plan.

President Sirleaf renewed calls to the international community for the cancellation of the debt of US\$3.16 billion and also for direct budget support to the three worst-affected countries.