

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES - Saturday, September 26, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has admitted that the Ebola virus disease was a wake-up call for Liberia that its healthcare system was weak and needed more attention including primary healthcare.

She made these comments at a major side event on the margins of the UN General Assembly focused on “Securing a Healthy Future – Building Resilient Health Systems to Fight Epidemics and Ensure Healthy Lives” at the Westin New York Grand Central, Madison Ball Room.

President Sirleaf indicated that Liberia made particular progress in controlling maternal mortality, infant mortality, and HIV/AIDS in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals which will now be replaced with the 2030 Global Agenda which contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

Also making interventions during special statements and panel discussion, Ghanaian President John Mahama, German Chancellor Merkel, World Health Organization’s Dr. Margaret Chan, Tanzanian President Kikwete, Norwegian Prime Minister Solberg, and Microsoft’s founder Bill Gates, among others defended the performance of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone and battling the Ebola virus diseases.

They argued that the state of the healthcare system was understandable due to decades of conflicts experienced by them compared with countries that have enjoyed stability for years. They pointed out that it was now time for the world to work with them to promote security and stability, as well as help develop a healthcare system that is resilient and works.

- In a related development, President Sirleaf has told global stakeholders in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector that water and sanitation also play a very important role in delivering quality healthcare to mankind and urged concerted efforts in bringing needed relief to a huge number of global citizens who need such services.

The side event on “Securing a Healthy Future”, sponsored by Germany, Ghana and Norway, was to enhance focus on building resilient healthcare systems; while the WASH was organized by Water Aid and Global Health Council that brought together key stakeholders in the Water and Sanitation sector aimed at accelerating global actions to address the challenges in the sector.