

Statement by Mr. Mayank Joshi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations at the Special Meeting of the ECOSOC on “Ebola: A Threat to Sustainable Development” on December 5, 2014

Mr. President,

We thank you for your initiative in convening this special meeting of ECOSOC. We also thank the distinguished Minister from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea and also the Director General of WHO and Mr. Davi Nabaro as well as all participants in today’s session for briefing us on this pressing matter to focus attention on the serious challenge and threat posed by the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa.

The Ebola virus outbreak continues to cost lives and poses a possible threat to the fragile peace and stability in the affected regions that could have even wider implications. We express our heartfelt condolences to those who have been bereaved.

The requirement of medical attention through trained personnel and logistical challenges involved in bringing help to the affected people are huge. The scale of challenge requires urgent coordinated action by the international community.

India has a track record of participating actively in multilateral efforts to tackle public health emergencies like the response to the HIV/AIDS a decade ago in Africa and Asia. In the current crisis, India had provided immediate financial assistance to three of the affected countries -Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Republic of Guinea for purchase of medical supplies and subsequently offered half a million dollars to the World Health Organization

In addition, India is contributing US Dollars 10 million to the UN Secretary General’s Fund for Ebola and an additional US Dollars 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle Ebola.

India has historic ties of solidarity with the African people and extensive trade, investment and cultural linkages, including through a large Diaspora. Over 45,000 Indians live in the affected region. Our record of South-South cooperation with our African brothers and sisters is longstanding.

Mr. President,

Today, in this hour of need, we stand ready to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the international community to manage this global threat.

Thank you.