



*Building European capacity to meet
the challenges of the 21st century*

October 29, 2014

Open Letter to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Six months after the Ebola outbreak started in a village in Guinea the situation in West Africa is deteriorating. The World Health Organisation has warned there may be 10,000 new cases of Ebola a week by early December. This is both a humanitarian tragedy and, as acknowledged in UN Security Council Resolution 2177, a developing threat to international peace and security as the disease threatens to overwhelm not only public health systems but entire governments and states in the region.

We know urgent calls are being made for more money to be committed to meet the challenge and for more clinicians, nurses and laboratory technicians to be made available. We support these calls. But the needs of a more effective response are more complex than this and cover a number of areas, including:

- Provision of additional capacity to conduct strategic airlift of globally provided equipment and materials to the Accra (Ghana) logistics hub;
- Provision of additional medium and heavy lift helicopters capable and crewed to conduct day and night operations in all weathers to distribute material, supplies and personnel throughout the affected area;
- Provision of additional mobile air traffic control and radar capacities, capable of working alongside existing air traffic arrangements in affected countries, to handle the anticipated increase in scale and distribution of incoming aviation assets;
- Additional capacity to conduct sealift of equipment and materials from Accra to port facilities in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea;
- Provision of additional offshore treatment facilities (hospital ships);

- Provision of immediately available foreign medical teams to help staff the new treatment centres being built in the region;
- Provision of additional technical expertise around disease detection and surveillance.

NATO has access to unique capabilities that could make a difference in this situation. Some member states like the United States and Spain either have hospital ships that could be deployed or other naval vessels with treatment facilities aboard that could provide extra hospital capacity to international standards.

NATO militaries have medical teams that could quickly help to staff new treatment centres and CBRN specialists that could offer technical help.

NATO military logistics assets (both air and sea) could also fill important gaps.

And NATO has a strong track record of coordinating the efforts of a wider range of international actors, as demonstrated both through its international partnership programmes and through its regional cooperation to meet the counter piracy threat off the coast of Somalia.

It is not always appropriate or necessary that military institutions play a part in humanitarian or health crises but NATO is rightly proud of its role in helping to respond to the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, and of its role in helping the African Union in Darfur. We believe that so long as any military assistance provided was consistent with the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief prepared by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, then a role for NATO would be justified, valuable and widely welcomed in this instance.

We therefore write to you today to ask that you make it publicly clear that if asked by the UN or WHO, NATO stands ready to respond positively. We have written simultaneously to Ban Ki Moon at the UN and to Margaret Chan at the WHO, asking that they make such a request. We hope you will also be prepared to discuss with the governments of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone the acceptability of any such assistance.

The international response to the Ebola epidemic must become a demonstration of commitment to our common humanity. NATO could and should be a part of this effort. We therefore hope you will respond to this request positively.

Signed:

1. **George Robertson** (Lord Robertson of Port Ellen), former NATO Secretary General, former Defence Secretary, member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
2. **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**, former NATO Secretary General, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands.
3. **Michel Rocard**, former Prime Minister and current Ambassador of the Polar Regions, France.

4. **Massimo D'Alema**, former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister, Italy.
5. **Ruud Lubbers**, former Prime Minister, the Netherlands.
6. **Des Browne** (Lord Browne of Ladyton), former Defence Secretary, current Chair of the ELN and member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
7. **Paul Quilès**, former Defence Minister and former President of the Defence and Armed Forces Committee of the National Assembly, France.
8. **Volker Rühle**, former Defence Minister, Germany.
9. **Hikmet Çetin**, former Foreign Minister, Turkey.
10. **Bob Ainsworth MP**, serving Member of Parliament and former Defence Secretary, United Kingdom.
11. **Mogens Lyketoft**, Former Foreign Minister, Denmark.
12. **Fatmir Mediu**, former Defence Minister, Albania.
13. **Volodymyr Ogrysko**, former Foreign Minister, Ukraine.
14. **Alan West** (Admiral the Lord West of Spithead), former First Sea Lord of the British Navy and member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
15. **Charles Guthrie** (General the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank), former Chief of the Defence Staff and member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
16. **Adam Daniel Rotfeld**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland.
17. **Uffe Ellemann-Jensen**, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark.
18. **Klaus Naumann**, General (ret), GEAR, former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Germany.
19. **John McColl**, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), United Kingdom.
20. **Sir Nick Harvey MP**, serving Member of Parliament and former Minister of State for the Armed Forces, United Kingdom.
21. **James Arbuthnot MP**, serving Member of Parliament and former British Chair of the Defence Select Committee, United Kingdom.
22. **Roderich Kiesewetter**, serving Member of the German Bundestag and former Bundeswehr General Staff, Germany.

23. **David Triesman** (Lord Treisman), member of the House of Lords, Foreign Affairs spokesperson for the Labour party in the Lords, former Foreign Office Minister, United Kingdom.
24. **Pierre Lellouche**, former Minister of European Affairs and Minister of International Trade, France.
25. **Laurens Jan Brinkhorst**, former Undersecretary of state of Foreign Affairs and former Leader of the D66-group in the Second Chamber of the Parliament, Netherlands.
26. **Sir Menzies Campbell MP**, serving Member of Parliament and former Leader of the Liberal Democrats, United Kingdom.
27. **David Owen** (Lord Owen), former Foreign Secretary and member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
28. **Douglas Hurd** (Lord Hurd), former Foreign Secretary and member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
29. **Werner Hoyer**, former State Minister, Germany.
30. **Hans van den Broek**, former Foreign Minister and European Commissioner for External Relations, Netherlands.
31. **Bernard Norlain**, former Air Defense Commander and Air Combat Commander of the French Air Force, France.
32. **Carlo Trezza**, Member of the Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General for Disarmament Matters and Chairman of the Missile Technology Control Regime, Italy.
33. **Wolfgang Petritsch**, former EU Special Envoy to Kosovo and former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria.
34. **Jan Kavan**, former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Czech Republic.
35. **John Kerr** (Lord Kerr on Kinlochard), current member of the House of Lords, former UK Ambassador to the US and the EU, United Kingdom.
36. **David Hannay** (Lord Hannay of Chiswick), current Member of the House of Lords, former Ambassador to the EEC and the UN, United Kingdom.
37. **Tedo Japaridze**, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Georgia.
38. **Giorgio La Malfa**, Former Minister of European Affairs, Italy

39. **Vahit Erdem**, former Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Chief Adviser to President Süleyman Demirel, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Turkey.
40. **Jaakko Blomberg**, former Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador to Estonia and Special Adviser on Cyprus to the European Commissioner for Enlargement, Finland.
41. **Simon Lunn**, former Secretary General to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, United Kingdom.
42. **Jaakko Iloniemi**, former Ambassador to the CSCE and Ambassador to the United States, Finland.
43. **Özdem Sanberk**, President of the International Strategic Research Organisation (USAK/ISRO) and former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey.
44. **Balázs Csuday**, serving Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, Hungary.
45. **Henrik Salander**, former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Secretary-General of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, Sweden.
46. **Rolf Ekéus**, former Ambassador to the United States and Director of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq, Sweden.
47. **Charles Clarke**, former Home Secretary, United Kingdom.
48. **Silvestri Stefano**, President of the International Affairs Institute of Italy, consultant for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries of Defence and Industry, Italy.
49. **Professor Raimo Väyrynen**, former Director at Finnish Institute of International Affairs.
50. **Francesco Calogero**, Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Physics at the Italy Università di Roma La Sapienza, former Secretary General of Pugwash, Italy.
51. **Professor Ivo Šlaus**, former Member of Parliament and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Honorary President of the World Academy of Art and Science and member of the Club of Rome, Croatia.

ELN Press Contacts

Dr Ian Kearns, Director, ELN

Tel: +44 (0)7939 604 915/ +44 (0)203 176 2552

Email: iank@europeanleadershipnetwork.org

Shata Shetty, Deputy Director, ELN

+44 (0)203 176 2554

Email: shatas@europeanleadershipnetwork.org