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PRESS RELEASE

Mohamed Ibn Chambas commends a spirit of collaboration at the 46th Ordinary Summit of the ECOWAS

Abuja, 15 December, 2014- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Mohamed Ibn Chambas attended the 46th Ordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja, Nigeria on 15 December. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Chambas delivered a speech in which he commended the spirit of collaboration that characterized the ECOWAS, African Union and United Nations' joint initiative in Burkina Faso.

The Special Representative expressed the UN commitment to continuing to support the country, including through the newly established "Groupe International de Suivi et d'Accompagnement de la Transition pour le Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF)".

The Special Representative further stated the UN readiness to continue to "work closely with ECOWAS and other stakeholders in their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the region and to mobilize international energies towards its development".

With regard to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) which continues to affect the region, SRSG Chambas praised the tireless efforts and determination of the affected countries "to stand firm in their struggles to overcome the scourge despite the impact that the raging epidemic has on their economies and social fabrics".

He saluted the regional efforts to curb Ebola and expressed appreciation for the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Solidarity Funds. He further welcomed the appointment on 6 November of President Faure Gnassingbe of Togo, as Supervisor of the regional Ebola response and acknowledged the establishment of a Regional Action Plan as well as the roadmap for its implementation.

SRSG Chambas paid tribute to the medical personnel and other front line fighters who risk their lives to save others and assured the member States of the full cooperation of UNMEER and other UN bodies in the common fight against Ebola..

The Special Representative finally called for stepping up efforts to globally and comprehensively address violent extremism, including Boko Haram, and urged for an imperative solution to youth unemployment.

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