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Cuba's Ebola Response Thrills UN Envoy

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David Nabarro, UN Special Envoy on Ebola, on Friday commended Cuba's response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

He said at a news conference during a two-day International Ebola Recovery Conference, in New York, that Cuba was one of the first nations that responded to the request by the UN Secretary-General for help.

Nabarro said Cuba contributed more than 250 personnel who were posted to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three worst affected countries in the Ebola crisis.

He said Cuba had sought to place itself at the forefront of the international response to the Ebola epidemic, sending 165 doctors and nurses to Sierra Leone to combat the disease.

Nabarro said he had personally been to Cuba to convey his thanks for the Caribbean country's support.

"I went to Havana and spoke with President Raul Castro about this Cuban response.

"I just told him how personally impressed and grateful I was for the speed and the generosity of the response. If I am a Cuban, I'd be super proud," he said.

Nabarro also praised the international solidarity shown during the Ebola response, adding that he was also impressed by the contributions of the African Union (AU).

"It was an amazing response. The AU had been successful in mobilising support from public and private sources.

The special envoy said AU must move forward with plans to establish an African Center for Disease Control during the AU International Ebola Conference scheduled to hold between July 20 and 21 in Equatorial Guinea.

