

LAUNCH OF
THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND



BY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Secretary General, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Our meeting today is about attention. We are trying to catch the attention of the media, the world public. Our meeting is also about the lack of attention, the lack of attention for the plight of millions of people who are suffering or dying silently in neglected emergencies.

The unprecedented scale and number of humanitarian emergencies in recent years has brought to light the best and the worst of our capacities to react to such crisis. While the humanitarian response has been abundant in one case, in others it has been almost nonexistent.

The creation of the new CERF is, without any doubt, a very promising step to redress this imbalance. Liechtenstein is very pleased to be part of the founding donors of the new CERF, as it was when the original fund was established.

Liechtenstein's humanitarian assistance policy is based on a "niche-approach" since, in absolute terms, our financial contributions will never be able to match those of larger countries. That's why Liechtenstein has been using its contributions for under-funded appeals. The new CERF gives us the opportunity to continue this approach together with other donors, thereby increasing its live-saving impact.

Our meeting is also about action. We very much hope that it will trigger enough attention among additional donor governments, but also the private sector, to help put into action a fully-fledged CERF as soon as possible.

I thank you.