

**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON
THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Half a year ago we met here to launch the Central Emergency Response Fund and even in this short period of time, the Fund has already proven to be a valuable tool for improving the predictability and timeliness of humanitarian funding and for swiftly filling financial gaps. Moreover, the Fund has found a good balance between rapid response to humanitarian crisis on the one hand, and response to under-funded emergencies on the other.

It is very encouraging that the Fund has started with a broad donor basis, including donors from the private sector. For the Fund to further evolve as an effective emergency tool, it is crucial that this momentum can be further enhanced and that the funding target of \$ 500 million can be achieved. Liechtenstein was part of the founding donors of the CERF, and I am very pleased to announce that it will increase its contribution to the CERF by some 20 percent, pledging 150'000 Swiss francs for 2007.

Liechtenstein's humanitarian assistance policy is based on a "niche-approach", since, despite high per capita contributions, our financial support, in absolute terms, will never be able to match that of larger countries. That's why Liechtenstein has been focusing its help on emergencies which, for one reason or the other, got less attention than others. The new CERF gives us the opportunity to continue this approach together with other donors, thereby increasing its life-saving impact.

This pledging conference is not only about replenishing the Fund, but also about giving a signal that Governments and the private sector are not indifferent towards the millions of people suffering in humanitarian emergencies. I sincerely hope that we can send out today the strong message that we all remain fully committed to the Central Emergency Response Fund.

I thank you.