



ARMENIA

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2014 High-Level Conference on Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF): Pledging Event
Remarks by Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

Md. Chair,

I am glad to announce my Government's renewed commitment and contribution to the overall goal of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

First, I would like to thank the UN Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for their insightful statements and express our appreciation of their outstanding leadership in coordinating international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities around the world. Taking this opportunity we would also like to commend the tireless work and important achievements in improving the UN humanitarian assistance system by the outgoing Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, and wish her success in her future endeavors.

No nation is immune from disasters and emergency situations. 26 years ago in December a powerful earthquake shook my country causing death and destruction on a large scale. The 1988 Earthquake of Armenia was a massive natural disaster of that time and struck at a moment when population was completely unprepared for and was in its most vulnerable state. It goes without saying that in this type of situations a rapid emergency response is a critical.

Recognizing OCHA's central role within the international humanitarian system we endorse CERF as a vital component of rapid, effective and coordinated response, which allows the United Nations to react immediately when disaster strikes. It is encouraging to see that through CERF the UN turns more flexible to intervene early and help underfunded emergencies.

Today, the growing scale and scope of global challenges in the Middle East, West and Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and other parts of the world require more efforts and stronger partnership for

creating a more responsive and enabling environment for humanitarian action. However, natural disasters are, unfortunately, not the only challenge the world is currently facing. Conflicts and, most recently, the outbreak of the Ebola virus pose a serious threat far beyond the actual affected countries. Coordinated efforts by the international community in addressing this scourges must continue unabated.

Armenia welcomes the broadening donor base of the CERF as it has proven to be successful in attracting funds also from corporations and foundations. We also welcome the continuous efforts of the Fund's Secretariat to take on the recommendations provided by the five-year independent evaluation of its activities to increase efficiency, transparency and accountability.

In conclusion, Armenia has been supporting CERF since its inception and will continue to do so by making contributions to this crucial fund.

Thank you.