

United Nations Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

REFERENCE: OCHA/NV/135/2016

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations in New York and has the honour to invite you to **the High-Level Conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on 13 December 2016, from 10:00 – 13:00, in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN headquarters in New York. The event will be chaired by Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon.**

The ever-increasing scale and intensity of emergencies points to the need for a larger, more robust CERF commensurate with the scale of response required. To this end, the Secretary-General called for an expansion of CERF's annual funding target from the current US\$450 million to \$1 billion by 2018, and the ECOSOC welcomed the call by the Secretary-General in its resolution E/RES/2016/9.

All Permanent and Observer Missions are encouraged to ensure that this year's High-Level Conference on CERF will serve as a meaningful steppingstone towards the new target. A fully funded CERF able to deliver on its mandate is every Member State's responsibility and essential to ensuring a responsive and effective humanitarian system.

Participants are requested to fill in the on-line registration form and indicate their intention to make a short statement and/or pledge by 5 December 2016, by visiting www.unocha.org/cerf/hlcregistration.

To facilitate the preparation of pledge letters, the attached template may be used. In compliance with UN Financial Rules and Regulations, and in order to properly record your pledge and any eventual contribution, a pledge letter is required and should be dated, duly signed and presented on letterhead with an official seal. Pledges received prior to the Conference will be treated as confidential and will not be publicly released until the time of the Conference.

Confirmed pledges will be reflected on official documents to be distributed at the Conference. In order for your generous pledge to be highlighted at the event, you are cordially requested to submit your official pledge letter to OCHA by 5 December 2016. A sample template is attached for your reference.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent and Observer Missions of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 7 November 2016