I would like to thank the Secretary General, OCHA, and the Governments of the UK and Germany for convening this important event. Today we are focused on an issue that has the potential to transform how we engage in troubled spots in crises right across the globe.

In March 2018 at the ‘Casement Lecture’ in Dublin OCHA set out an ambitious vision for anticipatory action. Inspired by that, as Chair of the CERF Advisory Group, Ireland hosted important discussions about how the CERF should best take this forward and indeed implement it. Since then we have seen many promising initiatives and pilots, importantly underwritten by a wealth of hard data and analytics.

We now have the evidence base to prove that anticipatory action is a highly effective strategy in preventing and mitigating disaster impacts before a shock is felt. Put simply, anticipatory action is more effective and is better value for money. More
importantly, it supports action that upholds the dignity and agency of affected populations.

We know that the impact of climate change means that floods, droughts, hurricanes and other weather related events are on the rise. In September, as part of Ireland’s Presidency of the UN Security Council, we will convene a high level Open Debate on how climate change is affecting peace and security. We will discuss the practical actions the Security Council can take to address climate-related security risks. The realities of climate change across the globe underscores the urgency of scaling up anticipatory action.

Ireland stands ready to play its part. Approximately a quarter of our humanitarian funding, that is just over 50 million dollars, goes directly to mechanisms that support anticipatory action – this includes the CERF, Country Based Pooled Funds, the DREF and the START Fund. We also provide pre-positioned financing to our NGO partners.

Right across our development missions, Ireland has advanced anticipatory action by scaling up our work on shock responsive social protection mechanisms. In countries such as Malawi, Uganda and Zambia we see
first-hand how this type of swift and targeted action effectively reduces humanitarian need.

By planning ahead, rather than rushing in at the peak of a crisis, means that we are able to reach those most in need – girls, women, the elderly and those living with a disability.

So we have the all the evidence we need – now is the time for action. Let us build on the fantastic work to date and truly deliver for those whom we are here to serve.

Thank you