Thank you Minister Børge Brende for your personal commitment to the people of South Sudan and to the Government of Norway for hosting today’s conference.

There were some very moving messages this morning. First of all, the concern from everyone in the room that three years after independence, we had a South Sudan that was on a very positive trajectory, moving from dependence on humanitarian aid to a situation of economic and social development – all of which changed on the 15th of December with the outbreak of conflict.

What we are now facing as humanitarian workers is a complex situation on the ground where we have not only the impact of conflict which has killed thousands of people but where you have over a million people displaced, some of them to neighbouring countries - this is very much a crisis with a regional impact. We are also seeing its impact in terms of preventing people from planting or for example moving their herds so that next year, we have the possibility of severe, acute malnutrition in children and also the possibility of famine if we don’t do something now.

There were three key messages coming out of the conference: One on the importance of peace, security and stability and the importance of the Government and the opposition recognizing their responsibilities; that they both have to maintain a ceasefire which was agreed. Without that peace, stability and security we cannot, as humanitarian workers, do our work.

Secondly, the importance of putting the people of South Sudan first. And thirdly, the importance of ensuring the access that we need. UN agencies and their partners are trying to make sure that the people of South Sudan are protected, we are seeing for example high levels of sexual violence, children being recruited, all of which should not happen in this young nation.

We need to be able to deliver food assistance particularly now before the rains come when the situation on the ground will become almost impossible.

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We need people to get access to health care. The Minister has already referred to the outbreak of cholera in Juba. We do not want to see a major health care crisis. And of course we have 80,000 people who fled to UN bases inside South Sudan which are not set up to be camps and where people are living in crowded, unsanitary situations.

I am extremely pleased, and I join the Minister in thanking everyone who pledged today. The outcome has surpassed our expectations. We need those pledges to turn immediately into commitments because the work on the ground needs to be done now. And we need the interest in South Sudan to be sustained. We don’t want to see a repeat of this next year. We will continue to make sure that the world does not forget South Sudan. But there is also a responsibility on the South Sudanese Government itself to make sure that the right conditions are put in place so that it, as a Government, can continue with its responsibilities in terms of looking after its own people.

So thank you very much for being here and thanks to all those countries that pledged today.