



STATEMENT BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON

AT

**THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS (ESTABLISHING THE
CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND)**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

NEW YORK

15 DECEMBER 2005

Mr Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all have reason to warmly welcome that the General Assembly today has adopted this landmark resolution on “Strengthening the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations”, thereby establishing the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This represents a major modernisation of the basic framework of the United Nations’ coordination of international humanitarian assistance, which was set out in General Assembly resolution 46/182 adopted in 1991.

All of you have worked hard on achieving this important outcome. I would like to express particular thanks to Ambassador Anders Lidén of Sweden, and to the Coordinator of the draft resolution, Mr Pelle Enarsson, for successfully concluding the negotiations on this matter.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the overall coordinator of the humanitarian resolutions considered directly in the Plenary, Ambassador Jean-Marie Hoscheit of Luxemburg, for his able leadership in ensuring coherence and timely conclusion of the humanitarian resolutions.

By today’s action on the Central Emergency Response Fund, we have fulfilled the mandate given by our leaders, who last September called upon us in the Summit Outcome Document to make concrete improvements of the humanitarian response system, including the timeliness and predictability of humanitarian funding.

By establishing the Central Emergency Response Fund we have taken a critical decision to ensure that the international response to today's humanitarian crises is more effective and equitable. Moreover, we have demonstrated that the Member States of the United Nations are willing to meet the demands of the 21st century in this important area in a flexible and responsible way.

With this resolution a sizeable grant element has been added to the existing CERF to help launch relief operations in the crucial days of a crisis, to prevent a crisis from spiralling out of control and to address imbalances in emergency funding. We have called upon the Secretary-General to make the necessary managerial, administrative and advisory arrangements to launch and implement the new CERF. We have also affirmed the importance of the General Assembly and ECOSOC in providing guidance for the use of the Fund in line with the principles laid down in resolution 46/182 of 1991.

Improved humanitarian financing, however, is only one of the key components of the humanitarian reform process. We also need to strengthen the capacity of the global humanitarian system and continue to improve the coordination of humanitarian activities in the field. These components of the humanitarian reform agenda must be taken forward together if they are to be effective; all three of them deserve the continued attention and support of Member States.

We have adopted this resolution today with the support of donor and recipient countries, from those most prone to disasters and those most able and willing to lend assistance. Such broad ownership of this resolution

demonstrates the truly global nature and impact of humanitarian crises and reinforces the need to act with common resolve. It is through our collective action and continued support of these reforms that we will succeed in improving the global humanitarian system.

I am gratified that we are ending a particularly difficult year in terms of humanitarian crises on a more positive note. Here I would like to pay tribute to OCHA under the strong leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr Jan Egeland, and all the humanitarian organizations and staff who have helped alleviate the pain and suffering brought about by far too many man-made and natural disasters around the world. 2005 demonstrated - in lives lost and livelihoods destroyed - just how destructive, indiscriminate and widespread humanitarian emergencies can be.

Let us make a strengthened humanitarian response system our common commitment and our goal for 2006.