



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 November 2007

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the High-Level Conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that will be held on Thursday, 13 December 2007, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

As you know, the CERF was established by General Assembly resolution 60/138 of 15 December 2005, in an effort to make humanitarian assistance more timely, equitable and predictable on a global scale. The Fund was launched by the Secretary-General in March 2006.

Since its launch, the Fund has received broad support from Member States. In 2006, 54 generous donors contributed almost USD 300 million to the CERF, and 67 donors have pledged almost USD 350 million for 2007. These funds have been used to respond to new and neglected emergencies in more than 50 countries in the past two years.

The goal of the High-Level Conference is to galvanize further support for the Fund, to expand its donor base to at least 100 countries and to help attain the Fund's grant element target of USD 450 million by 2008, as set by the General Assembly in 2006.

Your presence at this High Level Conference would highlight the importance of this United Nations Fund and help to demonstrate the global nature of its donor base and of the populations it aims to serve.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over the typed name.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York