



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 November 2006

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you today regarding one of the most vital aspects of the United Nations reform, the reform to make humanitarian assistance more rapid, equitable and predictable.

As you know, the General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus on 15 December 2005 establishing a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This Fund is a standby reserve readily available to the Emergency Relief Coordinator to deploy resources with no delay in support of comprehensive humanitarian response programmes.

In 2006, 54 generous donors contributed USD 269 million to the CERF, enabling the United Nations to implement 280 time-critical projects in 26 countries. Thanks to these contributions, the United Nations was in a position to allocate USD 112 million for rapid response to new crises and USD 77 million to under-funded emergencies, providing humanitarian assistance to millions of people around the world.

I would like to encourage all Member States to participate in the High-Level Conference on the CERF at the United Nations on 7 December 2006 and to contribute according to their means to replenish the Fund for 2007 and make progress towards the USD 500 million target. By announcing a pledge at this event, your country would not only support important life-saving activities but also demonstrate its commitment to the success of the ongoing humanitarian reforms.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Haya Rashed Al Khalifa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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