

## MEETING AGENDA

Venue: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN  
885 2nd Ave, 21st floor, 10017 New York

### DAY ONE: 8 December 2025

**08:00 – 08:30 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME COFFEE (30 min)**

**08:30 – 09:00 Session I: Welcome and introductory remarks (30 min)**

- Objective**
- Opening remarks.
  - Introduction of new members.
  - Brief overview of the agenda and the intended outcomes.
- Speakers**
- Ms. Nicole McHugh, Chair of the CERF Advisory Group
  - Ms. Alice Armani Sequi, Chief, Pooled Funds Branch
- Documents**
- Agenda
  - Recommendations and Conclusions from the June 2025 meeting
  - Biographies of CERF Advisory Group members
  - Overview of key CERF allocations and trends in 2025

**09:00 – 12:15 Session II: CERF and the Humanitarian Reset**

**9:00 – 9:30 Part 1: CERF and the Humanitarian Reset – Progress to Date (30 minutes)**

- Objective**
- Positioning the Pooled Funds within the Humanitarian Reset and UN80 – an overview of the emerging vision for CERF and update on progress.
- Speaker**
- Ms. Alice Armani Sequi, Chief, Pooled Funds Branch
- Documents**
- Background Note on UN80, the Humanitarian Compact and OCHA
  - Aligning OCHA-Managed Pooled Funds with the Humanitarian Reset: Assessment Summary & Emerging Recommendations
  - CERF Advisory Group Recommendations on CERF and the Reset – Summary Notes from Webinars on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and Recommendations to the ERC
  - Examples of CERF and Country Funds Complementarity [Infographic]

9:30 – 11:00

Part 2: CERF in the Humanitarian Reset – Way Forward (90 min)

**Objective**

- Discuss the way forward on aligning the CERF with the Humanitarian Reset – building on the progress to date and the RC/HCs feedback. This will include the following themes:
  - CERF as the UN’s humanitarian response engine
  - CERF as a mechanism for ‘hyper prioritized’, strategic impact
  - CERF as a champion for more accountable, localized and anticipatory humanitarian response
  - CERF as a catalyst and funding ‘force multiplier’

**Speaker**

- Mr. Michael Jensen, Chief, CERF secretariat

**Documents**

- OCHA Pooled Funds in a Reset Humanitarian System: Vision Paper
- OCHA Pooled Fund Reset Implementation Plan Overview
- The Future of CERF in the Humanitarian Reset [Summary note]
- OCHA Pooled Funds’ Support for Common and Enabling Services
- Overview of CERF support to Anticipatory Action [Background note & Infographic]
- CERF Allocations for Climate-Smart Humanitarian Action [Infographic]
- Review of CERF/CBPF support for Accountability to Affected People [Summary note]
- Review of CERF Localization efforts [Summary note]

**Guiding questions**

- What reflections does the Advisory Group have on CERF’s role within the Humanitarian Reset, and what might be key next steps in its direction of travel?
- Which aspects of CERF’s ongoing work require further refinement to fully support the Reset?

11:00–12:15

Part 3: A field perspective on CERF and the Reset (75 min)

**Objective**

- A field perspective on CERF and the Reset - Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) will describe how CERF is supporting the operationalization of the Reset, including progress and challenges.

**Speaker**

- Ms. Nicole McHugh, Advisory Group Chair
- Mr. George Conway, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Deputy Special Representative to the UN Secretary General, Somalia
- Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Deputy Special Representative to the UN Secretary General, Afghanistan

- Mr. Ally-Raza Qureshi, Director of the New York Office of the UN World Food Programme

**Documents**

- Background note: CERF's support to humanitarian operations in Afghanistan and Somalia

**Guiding questions**

- How are CERF funds being strategically used to advance reset priorities in your context? What are opportunities and challenges?
- What suggestions do the RC/HCs have for the CERF Advisory Group in terms of enhancing the way CERF can support the humanitarian system's 'reset'?

**12:15– 13:30 LUNCH (75 min)**

**13:30 – 15:15 Session III: Resource mobilization and advocacy for CERF in a “reset environment” (105 min)**

**Objective**

- Update on CERF's resource mobilization and advocacy efforts, including CERF's current funding level, outlook (incl. expected pledges at the Pledging Event).
- Discuss plans for 2026 to celebrate the CERF 20 years anniversary.
- Discussion on priority actions that the Advisory Group members can take to support fundraising for CERF, including the Climate Action Account.

**Speakers**

- Ms. Lisa Doughten, Director, Financing and Outreach Division
- Mr. Jean Verheyden, Chief, Donor Relations Section
- Ms. Najwa Mekki, Chief, Communications Branch

**Documents**

- Advisory Group “Action Roadmap” to support Resource Mobilization for CERF
- CERF 2025 Funding Data
- Concept Note - CERF High-Level Pledging Event for 2026
- Facts and Figures - CERF High-Level Pledging Event for 2026
- Key messages: Why invest in CERF
- Brochure: The CERF Climate Action Account
- Brochure: Become a CERF Champion

**Guiding questions**

- How can CERF be positioned as a “go-to” fund within ‘a reset humanitarian system’ and a constrained funding environment? What qualities are the most persuasive to position CERF?
- What barriers are preventing additional contributions, and how may these be addressed? Are there underused opportunities to showcase CERF’s impact?
- What specific advocacy or outreach actions can Advisory Group members commit to in support of CERF’s resource mobilization and visibility?

**15:15 – 15:30 COFFEE BREAK (30 min)**

**15:30 - 16:45 Session IV: Internal group discussion – Part 1 (75 min)**

**Objective**

- Agree on Advisory Group recommendations from the first day, in preparation for the session with the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC).
- Agree on ways to improve the follow-up on Advisory Group action points.

**Speakers**

- Ms. Nicole McHugh, Advisory Group Chair

**Guiding questions**

- What bold and forward-looking recommendations should the Advisory Group propose to the ERC to strengthen CERF’s role in the Humanitarian Reset?
- What concrete, time-bound commitments can the Advisory Group make in support of the prioritized areas for action—particularly to advance CERF’s resource mobilization and positioning during this period?
- How can OCHA and the Advisory Group institutionalize stronger follow-up mechanisms to support members in their commitments?

**16:45 – 17:00 OVERVIEW OF PLANS FOR DAY TWO (15 min)**

**18:00 – 19:30: Reception at the Residence of the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations - One UN Park, Apt 42K, 685 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, NY 10016**

**DAY TWO: 9 December 2025**

**09:30 – 10:00**      **ADVISORY GROUP PHOTO WITH UN SECRETARY-GENERAL - United Nations General Assembly Building - 405 E 45th St, 10017 New York – East Foyer. Meeting Point: General Assembly entrance – by the statue of Mandela.**

**10:00 – 13:00**      **CERF HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT for 2026 - United Nations General Assembly Building - 405 E 45th St, 10017 New York – ECOSOC Chamber**

**13:30- 14:30**      **Lunch (60 minutes) Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN - 885 2nd Ave, 21st floor, 10017 New York**

**14:30 - 15:15**      **Session V: Integrating reflections from the HLPE into the Group’s recommendations (45 min)**

- Objective**
- Integrate reflections on the outcomes of the CERF High Level Pledging Event in the Advisory Group’s recommendations.
  - Finalize recommendations to the ERC on topics discussed during the meeting.
- Speakers**
- Ms. Nicole McHugh, Advisory Group Chair
- Guiding questions**
- What bold and forward-looking recommendations should the Group propose to the ERC to strengthen CERF’s role in the Humanitarian Reset?
  - What concrete, time-bound commitments can the Group make in support of the prioritized areas for action—particularly to advance CERF’s resource mobilization and positioning during this period?
  - How can OCHA and the Advisory Group institutionalize stronger follow-up mechanisms to support members in their commitments?

**15:15 – 16:30**      **Session VI: Session with the Emergency Relief Coordinator (75 min)**

- Objective**
- Share reflections, recommendations and commitments with the ERC on topics discussed during the meeting, particularly on CERF adapting to – and supporting – the Humanitarian Reset, as well as efforts of the Group to support resource mobilization for CERF.

- Speakers**
- Mr. Tom Fletcher, ERC
  - Ms. Nicole McHugh, Advisory Group Chair
  - Ms. Lisa Doughten, Director, Financing and Outreach Division
- Guiding questions**
- *What are the top areas of action that the Advisory Group wants the ERC to champion to position CERF as part of the Humanitarian Reset?*
  - *What commitments can the Advisory Group offer to support the ERC in advancing these efforts, particularly in securing greater visibility and resources for CERF?*

**16:30 – 17:15**      **Session VII: Wrap-up and looking forward (45 min)**

- Objective**
- Agree on main conclusions to the Secretary-General.
  - Agree on tentative focus areas for next Advisory Group meeting
- Speakers**
- Ms. Nicole McHugh, Advisory Group Chair
  - Ms. Lisa Doughten, Director, Financing and Outreach Division