



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 November 2021

Excellency,

Throughout 2021, climate-related weather events, conflicts, disease outbreaks and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause historically high levels of humanitarian needs worldwide. Several countries were struck by new emergencies, making life even more difficult for the most vulnerable people.

Thanks to your commitment and generosity, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided vital funding to allow humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to ensure that urgently needed humanitarian assistance reaches people caught up in crises. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 as the United Nations global emergency response fund, CERF enables humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance whenever and wherever crises strike.

Since its inception, CERF has allocated more than US\$7.2 billion to support life-saving assistance for millions of people across over 110 countries and territories. Spearheading substantial innovations and continuously adapting to new challenges, CERF and the humanitarian system are better positioned now than ever to help the most vulnerable.

Regrettably, over the past 15 years, global needs for humanitarian assistance have increased fivefold – from 32 million people in 2006 to 161 million people in 2021. Thus, the needs for humanitarian funding have risen both globally and for CERF in particular. With humanitarian needs expected to continue to increase in 2022, your support for this catalytic instrument has never been more critical.

I am therefore pleased to invite your Government to the CERF High-level Pledging Event, to be held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (New York time). The event will take place in a hybrid format. Member States are encouraged to participate at the ministerial level, and participants in New York may join in-person, in accordance with the latest United Nations COVID-19 guidance.

This year's event will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Fund – an opportunity to galvanize greater commitments and ensure that CERF remains fit to respond to the increasing levels and complexities of humanitarian needs. I urge all countries to uphold the endorsement by the General Assembly of the annual funding target of US\$1 billion for CERF. Every contribution is valued and helps to make CERF truly a Fund “for all, by all”.

I therefore encourage all Member States and partners to extend their generosity and announce pledges to CERF at this key event. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

António Guterres

United Nations  Nations Unies

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The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) presents its compliments to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations and other International Organizations in New York and Geneva.

All Permanent and Observer Missions and other International Organizations are invited to the ***High-level Pledging Event on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for 2022***. The event, which marks the 15th anniversary of the CERF, will include opening remarks by **UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres**.

The event is planned to take place in a hybrid format on **Wednesday, 8 December 2021 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. New York (EST)**. Member States are encouraged to participate at the Ministerial level. Due to space constraints in compliance with UN COVID-19 guidelines on social distancing, each delegation may register a maximum of one delegate to attend the event in person at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations and other International Organizations in New York and Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 10 November 2021