

High-Level Pledging Conference for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 8 December 2021

Statement by Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt

Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General, Excellencies, colleagues,

- Congratulations to CERF on its 15th anniversary!
- For 15 years, the Central Emergency Response Fund has assisted people affected by crises across the world. When earthquakes struck Haiti. When floods hit South Sudan. When violence broke out in Ethiopia. CERF has responded rapidly and effectively.
- Over the years, CERF has more than proven its worth. To give a recent example: When the COVID-19 crisis hit us all. Transport and distribution of food and medical supplies came to an abrupt halt. For countries in humanitarian crisis, this was disastrous. CERF took the lead and quickly released funds. And as a result, humanitarian agencies were able to continue operations. And save lives.
- Sexual and gender-based violence has increased during the pandemic. CERF has supported organisations working to empower women and fight the shadow pandemic of violence against women.
- The Fund delivers on its mandate. Both through rapid response funding and support for underfunded emergencies. But CERF does more than this. It also spearheads innovative approaches.
- Norway has been a strong and committed supporter of CERF from the outset. Overall, we have been the fourth largest donor to the Fund.
- Predictable and early funding is vital to ensure CERF's effectiveness. I am therefore proud to announce that Norway will contribute one billion eight

hundred thousand Norwegian kroner over the next four years. This is a significant increase from the current allocation.

- We must ensure that CERF can continue to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance. For crisis-affected people in Haiti, South Sudan, and Ethiopia - and many other places - it is a matter of life or death.

Thank you.