



IRELAND

Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Paul Kavanagh
Permanent Representative**

**At the High Level Conference on the
Central Emergency Response Fund
(CERF)**

ECOSOC Council Chamber

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Mr Chairman

On behalf of Ireland I would like to make a pledge of 20 million Euros for 2009, which at today's exchange rate amounts to roughly 25 million dollars.

This pledge should be seen as a confirmation of Ireland's continuing strong support for the CERF.

My authorities were pleased with the positive tone and content of the recent evaluation. We believe that this was merited. We believe that the CERF has made a real difference and has made a substantial contribution to improving the speed and quality of the response of the International Community to sudden onset humanitarian emergencies.

We are glad that this has been confirmed by the evaluation. We also attach particular importance to the CERF's contribution to those crises which are styled as the "forgotten Crises". This is an important aspect of its work.

Mr Chairman

The report shows that the CERF is almost reaching its target annual budget of 500 million dollars. In that regard, the evaluation team has recommended that the Fund be allowed to increase progressively in line with demands, and in parallel with improvements in implementation capacity.

We support this recommendation. **However**, we are concerned at the continuing narrowness of the support base for this Fund.

A situation where almost **85%** of the funding comes from just **7** donors is not a situation which I think any of us should find particularly comfortable.

May I suggest that based on the acknowledged success of the CERF, it would be timely for a pro-active engagement by all concerned, support groups among member states, as well as the Secretariat, to seek significant funding from new sources.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.