

Mr Secretary-General, Excellencies,

I would like to express my appreciation for having the opportunity to participate in this High Level Pledging Event, in order to support the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

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.

CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to ensure that urgently needed humanitarian assistance reaches people caught up in crises.

Its unmatched speed, predictability and flexibility makes life-saving aid and protection accessible to millions of people involved in new emergencies, prolonged crises, as well as "forgotten crises", which do not receive adequate funding from other means.

The Fund has been also actively involved in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, from the first months of 2020 by allocating near \$ 600 million.

As an essential enabler of global humanitarian action, CERF's rapid response window allows country teams to kick-start relief efforts immediately in a coordinated and prioritized response, when a new crisis emerges.

CERF's window for underfunded emergencies helps scale-up and sustain protracted relief operations to avoid critical gaps, when no other funding is available.

Greece has always appreciated the effective way in which CERF funds emergency humanitarian response operations, and also guarantees that funds are allocated properly, timely and. transparently.

Greece is included in its list of important donors, as it has contributed a total of \$ 1,750,000 to the Fund (from 2006 to 2013).

In this vein, we support the UN General Assembly resolution back in 2016, as well as the call of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during the 2018 General Assembly, to expand CERF's annual funding target to \$1 billion, commensurate with today's humanitarian needs.

For all these reasons, my country recognizing the significant contribution and impact of CERF in our global effort- responding to the COVID-19 pandemic-, has decided to continue to demonstrate its solidarity to the Fund with a symbolic contribution (30.000 euros).

Thank you