



STATEMENT BY MR. AJAI MALHOTRA, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
AT HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND
AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON DECEMBER 07, 2006

Mr. Under-Secretary-General,

We thank the Secretary-General and OCHA for organizing this High Level Conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund.

India strongly supports the CERF. We were involved in the process of setting it up and are committed to the ideals that it represents. The launch of the CERF was a momentous event in the evolution of the international community's response to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. It represented the effort of the international community to secure a more predictable response to the inevitable challenges that the world would continue to face from future disasters.

The speed with which the UN has moved to put in place an emergency response fund to deal with future challenges is commendable. It is equally satisfying that the international community has responded promptly to the need for adequate funds. The contribution of close to \$ 300 million by over 50 countries, cutting across the traditional dividing line between donor and recipient countries, reflects the wide and enthusiastic support for CERF.

Reflecting its support and commitment to CERF, India had announced a pledge of US\$ 2 million to the CERF in March 2006. We have already disbursed \$ 1 million and will be disbursing the remaining \$ 1 million in 2007.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you, Mr. Jan Egeland, for your commitment and dedication that has helped make CERF a reality, and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Thank you.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)