



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY RAYMOND O. WOLFE
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL DONOR CONFERENCE FOR THE
CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)**

NEW YORK, 7 DECEMBER 2006

Madam President,

We regard the upgrade of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to the Central Emergency Response Fund as one of the most important decisions of the General Assembly, in implementation of the outcome of the World Summit in 2005, in improving the humanitarian response capacity of the United Nations.

My delegation is therefore pleased to participate in this second High-Level Donor conference on the CERF. We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jan Egeland and his team from OCHA for organizing this event and for their outstanding contribution and dedication to this important aspect of the work of the United Nations.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his report on the detailed use of the Fund, contained in document A/61/85/Add.1 – E/2006/8/Add.1. The report indicates that the implementation of the upgraded Fund, during its first six months of operation, has made great progress towards its objectives of promoting early action and response to reduce loss of life, enhancing response to time-critical requirements based on demonstrable needs and strengthening core elements of humanitarian response in under-funded crises.

We note in particular that several countries facing emergency situations and those with under-funded crises have already benefited tangibly from disbursed funds.

Madam President,

The donor community, including traditional donors as well as those from poor developing countries must be recognized for their early response to the Fund since its launch earlier this year. The interest shown by so many contributors is a clear recognition that all countries are vulnerable to natural and other disasters, which may strike at any time.

The political commitment shown by the participation of so many of us in this conference is heartening. However we will all agree that the effectiveness and success of the CERF will depend not only on the political support demonstrated here today, but in ensuring that we follow through on these pledges.

My delegation is grateful for this opportunity to identify with others participating in this meeting and pledge an amount of \$5,000 US, to be disbursed shortly. We encourage others to contribute to this most worthwhile endeavor.

I thank you.