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Statement by

**Ms Saša Jurečko,**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the United Nations**

**Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) High-level Pledging Event**

New York, 9 December 2022

Mr Chair,

As many speakers have already mentioned, the year 2022 marks a year of unprecedented humanitarian needs. A record 339 million people, that is one in every 23 people, are estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2023.

Acute food insecurity is escalating, driven by conflicts and impacts of climate change.

In addition, humanitarian assistance itself is becoming more expensive and thus widens the funding gap even more.

Slovenia recognizes that CERF remains the main global emergency response fund, providing life-saving support to millions in need.

As humanitarian funds are becoming increasingly insufficient, CERF nonetheless continuously demonstrates its ability to alleviate the suffering of those most vulnerable. Slovenia strongly supports this important mission.

In 2022, Slovenia increased its humanitarian funding by more than 75% as compared to the year before.

This year, Slovenia contributed 50,000 EUR to CERF. Due to our budgetary cycle, we are not yet in a position to announce our contribution for 2023; however, I would like to confirm that Slovenia will continue to support CERF, politically and financially, also in the following years.

I thank you.

