
NEWS RELEASE

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CANADA ANNOUNCES A PLEDGE OF \$2.5 MILLION TO THE UN CENTRAL EMERGENCY REVOLVING FUND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announce that Canada is contributing \$2.5 million to the newly created United Nations Central Emergency Revolving Fund. This decision was conveyed to the UN Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros-Ghali, by Mrs. McDougall today in New York.

The Fund, created following a UN resolution adopted on December 19, 1991, will be used to advance cash resources to international organizations at the onset of a humanitarian emergency. The resolution also creates the position of a UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator whose mandate will be to co-ordinate the relief efforts of UN and non-UN agencies involved in humanitarian assistance. The resolution provides, as well, for the establishment of a central register of specialized personnel and relief supplies.

"The appointment of a strong and effective UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator and the establishment of the \$50-million Fund should allow the UN system to respond more efficiently to emergencies and to use the resources made available to it in a more rational fashion," said Mrs. McDougall.

The appointment of a UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator was one of the main Canadian priorities at the UN General Assembly in September 1991. Indeed, Canada has been very active in the negotiations leading to the creation of the Fund and the position of co-ordinator.

"By contributing these funds to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, Canada demonstrates once again its continuous support to relief agencies in their humanitarian assistance efforts in cases of disasters," said Mrs. Landry.

The funds come from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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