Mr. Chairman,

India accords the highest importance to the role of the United Nations in coordinating emergency humanitarian assistance and of providing support to national authorities in responding to humanitarian emergencies. India also values the multilateral setting, voluntary and impartial nature of United Nations humanitarian assistance.

My delegation reiterates that humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law only must provide the basis for humanitarian assistance. The letter and spirit of these principles needs to be scrupulously respected.

India believes that the capabilities and role of the United Nations in coordination and delivery of international humanitarian assistance need to be strengthened. We are in favour of strengthening OCHA and CERF.

India has made a commitment of contributing US$1.5 million to CERF over a three-year period from 2009. In accordance with this we had had contributed US$500,000 in 2009. I am happy to announce that we will contribute US$500,000 in 2010.

Thank you.