

# United Nations

## Press Release

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Biographical Note

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### JAN ELIASSON OF SWEDEN APPOINTED EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Jan Eliasson, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, as Emergency Relief Coordinator at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

Mr. Eliasson will, in that capacity, assume the functions presently carried out by the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator. He will also assume responsibility for all emergency relief activities, including programmes currently under way in the Horn of Africa, South-East Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Central America.

Mr. Eliasson will be in charge of the management of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, to be established by the Secretary-General as a cash-flow mechanism of \$50 million to ensure the rapid and coordinated response of the organizations of the system.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator will head a Department comprising a secretariat based on a strengthened Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and consolidation of existing offices which deal with complex emergencies. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat will become an integral part of this secretariat.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator will work closely with organizations and entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organization for Migration and relevant non-governmental organizations. At the country level, the Emergency Relief Coordinator will maintain close contact with, and provide leadership to, the Resident Coordinators on matters relating to humanitarian assistance.

A career diplomat, Mr. Eliasson has been Sweden's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since March 1988. Concurrently, from 1988 to 1991, he was the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on issues relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), which concerns Iran-Iraq matters. Prior to that, from 1980 to 1986, he was

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