

United Nations  Nations Unies

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to advise you that I will be leaving OCHA and the United Nations at the end of March next year. When I arrived in August 2010, the humanitarian community was in the midst of our response to the major flooding in Pakistan and in each of the years since then our capacities have been tested as never before. For example, in Somalia we faced a famine while in the countries of the Sahel and South Sudan we were able to avert one. In South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Syria and Iraq we have worked hard to protect people caught in the midst of conflict, violence and brutality. In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines we deployed quickly in support of the people and the Government.

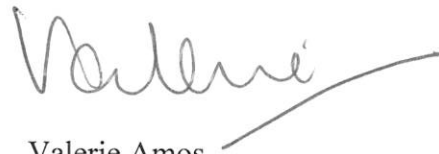
Many of you have heard me describe this as the most challenging, demanding and rewarding job I have ever done. I have seen the very worst of what we as human beings can do to each other but I have also seen the very best: people with almost nothing share what little they have, supporting each other in the most difficult circumstances and remaining hopeful and positive. I have also seen the dedication and courage of humanitarian workers, often risking their own lives every day in conflict zones to serve the people most in need.

I am now the longest serving Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and am extremely proud of the way we have worked together to make the humanitarian response system more effective. We have speeded up response times, improved coordination and reduced duplication. We put people at the centre and drew attention to the impact of crisis and conflict on people's day to day lives – helping the world understand the human cost, the face behind each and every tragedy.

I would like to recognize and commend the contribution that each and every partner is making to humanitarian response. None of this would have been possible without your personal commitment and dedication to OCHA, the many hours you have put in, and the sacrifices endured often under the most difficult circumstances.

I am particularly grateful to the Secretary-General, not only for his personal support but also for his strong commitment and belief in humanitarian work and the principles which guide it.

Thank you all again,



Valerie Amos
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Emergency Relief Coordinator