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وكالة الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

UN Officials Praise Abu Dhabi Initiative to Host Global Launch of 2009 Humanitarian Appeal

(20 November 2009, Abu Dhabi): UN officials today praised the initiative taken by the Government of the UAE, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to host the launch of the 2009 Humanitarian Appeal, in addition to the traditional launch at the United Nations office in Geneva.

On 24 November, under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the event will raise awareness of the annual Appeal for humanitarian crises across the world, and mobilise support for the millions of people who are in need of immediate, life saving assistance.

“The first event of its kind in this region, this is an excellent initiative to raise awareness of the Humanitarian Appeal, with the ultimate objective of providing the best possible assistance to people whose lives have been affected by conflict and calamity,” said John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Representing the United Nations system will be Antonio Guterres, the High Commissioner for Refugees and ex- Prime Minister of Portugal. The UNHCR representative in the United Arab Emirates, Saado Quol, today spoke as follows:

“We are grateful to the UAE for all of the support that it has extended to our programmes in the previous years. We look forward to expanding this strategic partnership and enhancing our mutual future cooperation in the humanitarian arena.”

The launch is being held in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

“OCHA is very pleased with Abu Dhabi’s generous offer to host the launch of the 2009 Humanitarian Appeal, which is the latest in a series of developments that have enhanced the UAE’s support to the international humanitarian system,” said Abdul Haq Amiri, the Head of OCHA’s Regional Office in Dubai. “We hope that this event will further strengthen the relationship between the UN, other multi-lateral mechanisms, the Government of the UAE and the Gulf countries.”