



Bangladesh

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Statement
by
Ms Sharke Chaman Khan
First Secretary
The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN
at the General Debate of the Fourth Committee of the 65th UNGA
on
Agenda Item 51: United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
02 November 2010

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset we would like to thank the Commissioner General Filippo Grandi for his comprehensive annual report to the General Assembly and his briefing to the Fourth Committee on the activities of the UNRWA. The report outlines achievements as well as the challenges faced by the Agency in continuing with their duties during the year 2009.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of The Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). We would however mention some issues of our interest.

Mr. Chairman,

UNRWA is providing assistance to the basic needs and services to 4.76 million Palestinian Refugees in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab republic. We deeply appreciate UNRWA's dedicated and unfaltering efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNRWA personnel and vehicles in the occupied territories severely hamper UNRWA's humanitarian activities. We reiterate our demand on Israel to ensure unrestricted mobility and non-interference in the activities of the Agency so that it can perform its mandated responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation notes with appreciation that the Agency's micro-finance department financed 28,300 loans worth over \$37 million for small businesses and micro-enterprises to reduce unemployment and poverty, empower women and provide economic and financial opportunities for youth as well as improving the quality of life of the micro-entrepreneurs. Bangladesh, being the birth-place of the concept of micro-credit, it is gratifying for us to observe the success of micro-finance and micro-enterprise programmes of the Agency and its resultant rapid growth and wide acceptance in the region as a major tool for poverty alleviation and economic development. We call for further extension of the programme with a particular focus on empowering the poor Palestinian women. Given our experience in this field, we would be happy to share our expertise particularly to fine-tune the programmes to meet the specific need of the Palestinian brethren and the region as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to thank the donors and host countries and relevant agencies for the support and services extended to the Palestinian refugees and towards the sustainability of UNRWA and its operations. We call upon the international community to come forward with generous contribution in response to the Commissioner General's appeal for funding the rehabilitation and emergency assistance programmes for the refugees in the Nahr Al Bard Camp in Lebanon. My delegation extends its deep appreciation to the Commissioner General and all the staff of the Agency for their commitment and hard work in the face of continued adversities.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.