



Bangladesh

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Statement
by
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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh to the UN
At the General Debate of the Fourth Committee of the 66th UNGA
on
Agenda Item 52: United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
01 November 2011

Madam Chair,

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 2010.

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.

Madam Chair,

UNRWA is providing assistance to the basic needs and services to approximately 5 million Palestinian Refugees in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab republic. We deeply appreciate UNRWA's dedicated and unflinching efforts in this regard.

Madam Chair,

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. The situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is no less worrisome. Many

Palestinians continue to suffer major restrictions on movement, residence and other fundamental freedoms, while Israeli settlements expand with each passing month. In addition to its regular work, UNRWA is supporting in particular some of the most vulnerable and marginalized refugee communities, including those directly affected by the West Bank barrier and Bedouin communities whose meagre economic assets and means of livelihood are subject to demolitions on a recurring basis. In East Jerusalem, UNRWA is rehabilitating and expanding its schools to improve educational performance and equip the next generation of Palestinian refugee students with the skills they need in their quest to seize opportunities and achieve a decent standard of living.

Madam Chair,

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 Madam Chair.