



Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before
the Fourth Committee of the 66th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

on Item

United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

Delivered by

First Secretary, Abdulmohsen F. Alyas

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Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I congratulate you on your election to chair the fourth committee. I am confident that your expertise will enable your Excellency to conduct the work of this Committee successfully. I also want to convey our appreciation to His Excellency, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe and his bureau for the exceptional performance of the work of the Committee during the last session.

Madam Chairperson,

I am honored to express my greatfulness to all the staff of UNRWA and its Commissioner-General, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for their sacrifices and efforts despite the dangers they face in performing their responsibilities. We also thank Mr. Grandi for his report to the General Assembly and his detailed briefing to the Committee today on UNRWA's activities over the past year. We greatly value the vital and humanitarian role that UNRWA has played since its inception. We also urge it to continue offering its services to all the Palestinian refugees. Since the performance of the Agency's work requires an increase in the number of its employees as a result of the expansion of programs and the increase in the number of refugees, the international community, especially, the donor countries should double their donations to finance the Agency's programs in an effort to alleviate the financial troubles that the Agency endures.

Madam Chairperson,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aware of the importance of supporting UNRWA in order for it to perform its services for the Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza, as well those who live in host countries, has increased its donations to \$ 86.7 million in 2011 to become the Third highest donor in that year. It has also allocated \$ 200 million for projects under study with Al-Aqsa Fund, which is

managed by the Islamic Bank for Development, UNRWA and the World Bank.

Madam Chairperson,

From this platform, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms its support of UNRWA so that it can achieve its objectives by alleviating the tragedy and sufferings of the Palestinian people until they return to the lands from which they were evicted, and given adequate compensation for their enormous material and moral losses they have suffered for decades in accordance with UN Resolution 195 which affirms their natural right to return to their lands.

Madame Chairperson,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns the continuous seige on the Gaza Strip and demands the immediate cessation of this unjust blockade and cease all arbitrary measures and restrictions imposed on all international aid agencies. We also demand the removal of these segregated separation wall in the West Bank because of its illegality in accordance with the opinion of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions of the General Assembly which affirmed the illegality of building this wall on the occupied Palestinian land. We also call for the international community to compel Israil to componsate UNRWA for all the damages and losses it has caused to the Agency's properties and buildings.

Madam Chairperson,

The Middle East problem remains one of the most persisting obstacles affecting international peace and security. The Israeli colonization is practically the last remaining vestiges of the age of colonialism and apartheid. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has participated in all international peace conferences, and proposed the peace initiative, which was adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in

2002 and which was supported by all peace-loving countries around the world.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the financial support for the refugees is not the sole solution to their problems. Rather, what is largely required at this stage is political support, especially from the international community to resolve the Palestinian issue, and to recognize their state by the UN in accordance with the borders of 4 June 1967, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and the return of the refugees to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions to restore security and stability in the entire region of the Middle East.