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## STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

## AT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

## **NEW YORK, 3 DECEMBER 2013**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to Ms. Margot Ellis, Deputy-Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for her earlier remarks. Allow me also to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl on his nomination as UNRWA Commissioner-General, and we wish him well in carrying out his task.

Mr. President.

- 2. Malaysia attaches great importance to the work and support provided by UNRWA, as reflected in our statement at the Fourth Committee debate on UNRWA on 7 November 2013. We continue to remain seriously concerned on the dire financial situation which the Agency is currently facing.
- 3. As an expression of our continued support for the noble work of UNRWA, I am honoured to announce that this year the Government of Malaysia is pledging a voluntary one-off contribution US\$250,000 towards the Agency's emergency appeal. We will also continue to maintain our level of annual contributions for UNRWA's regular budget. This contribution to the Agency is over and above our direct bilateral assistance and cooperation programmes towards the Palestinian people. Malaysian civil society and volunteers have also maintained their active role in contributing financially and in kind to the people of Palestine. My delegation further calls upon all member States to continue to support the work of UNRWA, by contributing financially to this important organization, in particular for the financing of the Agency's regular budget.

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## Mr. President,

4. Our participation in this Ad Hoc Committee meeting today reminds us of the urgent and dire need to alleviate the plight of Palestinian refugees. Malaysia's humble contribution bears testament to the humanitarian efforts of UNRWA. It also symbolizes our strong reaffirmation that the Agency's continued operations in the area remain as crucial as ever.

Thank you Mr. President.