



## PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR BAKİ İLKİN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR  
THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA  
New York, 4 December 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Karen Koning AbuZayd, the Commissioner General of UNRWA, and her able colleagues at the Agency for their dedication and valuable efforts to ease the plight of the Palestinian refugees. I also thank the Deputy Commissioner General for his in-depth briefing and analysis of the situation. Since I have already stated Turkey's position on the Palestinian question, as well as on the situation in the Middle East at the General Assembly last week, I shall just confine myself to Turkey's support of UNRWA.

Mr. Chairman,

The Agency has been entrusted to deal with one of the most difficult aspects of the Palestinian question. In the absence of a political process, UNRWA has indeed proved to be an indispensable instrument in responding to the multi-faceted needs of the Palestinian refugees dispersed throughout the region. For its part, Turkey is fully committed to UNRWA's goals and mandate. We follow with deep appreciation the Agency's ability to sustain the provision of the relief and humanitarian development services to the Palestinian refugees, under very difficult conditions at times.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to the continuation and further intensification of the activities and services of the Agency as long as the conditions on the ground remain unchanged. As to the annual voluntary contributions for 2007, the Turkish Government will sustain its increased level of payment and pledges to contribute 500,000.00-USD to the Agency. In addition to its regular contributions, Turkey provides substantial in-kind assistance of food, medicine and medical supplies through UNRWA. Our direct bilateral assistance to the brotherly people of Palestine will also continue unabated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.