



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMB. 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, 7 DECEMBER 2011

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Ms. Margot Ellis, for her comprehensive briefing.

2. Over the past six decades, UNRWA has been consistent in providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees. Throughout these years, the number of registered Palestinian refugees have increased to approximately 5 million, majority of which are living in deplorable conditions. In this regard, Malaysia highly appreciates UNRWA's works in mitigating the plight of the Palestinian refugees and fully understands the difficulties that the Agency is currently facing.

3. With regard to the Middle East peace process, the intransigence of the Occupying Power has and continues to cause the process to remain in stagnation. Under such a difficult situation, the commitment demonstrated by UNRWA personnel, who, at times even risked their own lives in discharging their responsibilities, deserve the respect and admiration by the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Since 1947, the United Nations has been dealing with the task of finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The perennial status quo is unacceptable and untenable. Should this be allowed to continue, more citizens of the world will be questioning the credibility of the United Nations as well as relevant international legal instruments in this regard. Hence, Malaysia reiterate its call to the United Nations Security Council, as well as the Quartet, to compel Israel to cease its illegal policies and practices, particularly its illegal settlement activities and the Gaza blockade, and to undertake concrete steps that would lead to the termination of the illegal occupation of Palestine as well as other Arabs territories.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Cognizant of the positive effect of peace and stability in the Middle East towards global peace and security, Malaysia has participated actively in the discussions and activities regarding the Question of Palestine at the United Nations and other platforms. In addition, Malaysia also views the assistance to the Palestinian people, including Palestinian refugees, as all-important as well, pending a just resolution of the Palestinian issue. To date, the

Government of Malaysia has contributed in total, more than 37.7 million US dollars to the Palestinian cause, with the latest contribution made in September this year, amounting to 2 million US dollars, to assist the Palestinian Authority in fulfilling its financial needs. In addition, 97 participants from Palestine have attended various short-term and long-term technical and administrative courses organized under Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

6. The Malaysian private sectors, as well as civil society organisations, have also made monetary and in-kind contributions to support the people of Palestine. These include the contribution of 32 tonnes of plastic pipes (UPVC) by “Perdana Global Peace Foundation” for Palestine through UNRWA, to help addressing severe disruptions of water supply in Gaza. Since 2009, Malaysian companies and NGOs including the New Straits Time Press, PETRONAS, Mercy Malaysia and Peace Malaysia have raised and contributed more than 4.2 million US dollars to the people of Palestine.

7. At the international level, this year saw Malaysia contributing 50,000 US dollars to the outreach and claim-intake activities of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNROD). Malaysia also has contributed an accumulated sum of 390,000 US dollars to UNRWA in the past twelve years. In light of UNRWA’s particularly difficult financial situation in fiscal year 2011, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Malaysia has made a voluntary one-off contribution of 100,000 US dollars to the Agency recently, thus bringing the total of Malaysia’s financial contribution to UNRWA to more than 490,000 US dollars. This voluntary contribution is a gesture of Malaysia’s continued support to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine, reaffirmation of Malaysia’s full support to the Palestinian cause and its solidarity with the people of Palestine. We will provide further contributions to the 2012 programme of UNRWA next year.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman