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**STATEMENT  
BY  
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**BEFORE  
THE FOURTH COMMITTEE**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 52**

**“UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS  
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES  
IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)”**

**NEW YORK  
7 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Mr Chairman,**

**Let me add my voice to join the distinguished representatives who spoke before me, to convey our gratitude to you and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, for convening today's meeting on this important agenda item.**

**My delegation wishes to thank Mr. Filippo Grandi, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for his comprehensive briefing on the valuable work of UNRWA in addressing the plight of the refugees.**

**The report highlights the extremely difficult circumstances under which UNRWA personnel carry out their daily tasks. While my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Mr. Eshagh Al Habib, the distinguished Deputy Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the NAM, allow me also to make additional comments on behalf of my country, Namibia.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The United Nations seeks "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". Therefore, we come here today to**

**register our support and add our voice to the call for additional funding for UNRWA from the United Nations regular budget. This will enable UNRWA to continue providing essential programs and services, such as education, health care, vocational training, and emergency relief, to nearly 4.8 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.**

**Mr Chairman,**

**The assistance to refugees is a responsibility that the UN is morally bound to discharge. The Palestinian refugees are human beings with the same hope, aspiration of a better future, but for more than six decades they have been denied the basic right to "better standards of life in larger freedom". They continue to live perpetually in camps deprived of essential means, necessary for the pursuit of happiness, which most free people take for granted. The moral trumpet has been summoning our conscience to be compassionate with the people of Palestine until the realization of their most cherished dream, the independent and viable state of Palestine.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**While strengthening of UNRWA is critical to the agency's operational success, we must not forget**

**the issue of occupation, which remains the major source of perpetuating the suffering of Palestinians and relegate them to refugee status. The Palestinians deserve to live in dignity and are entitled to create a state of their own.**

**It is out of this conviction that Namibia supports the admission of Palestine into the United Nations as a full member. The United Nations was created to give hope to those who live in despair. Let us, therefore, lived to the true meaning of the creed of the United Nations "social advancement of all peoples" including Palestinians.**

**I thank you.**