



Bangladesh

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**Statement by
Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, DPR of Bangladesh to the UN
Agenda Item 52: United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
07 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman

I would like to begin by thanking the Commissioner General Filippo Grandi for his comprehensive presentation of annual report.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman

We have noted with great appreciation that United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is continuing its pursuit of sustainable, efficient and quality services to Palestine refugees. We have full confidence that the Agency will be able to fulfill its humanitarian and human development mandate by providing protection and essential services to the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, and in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Chairman

We remain gravely concerned about the security of UNRWA staffs. Attacks on UNRWA staffs engaged in noble services are unacceptable. We regret that detention of UNRWA staffs has not yet been stopped despite repeated appeals to the Israeli authorities. We urge that detailed information on detained staffs be provided to UNRWA. We are also concerned at the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of UNRWA personnel and vehicles in the occupied territories. The restrictions imposed severely hamper UNRWA's humanitarian activities. These sanctions have led to further deterioration of socio-economic and living conditions of the Palestinians.

Imposition of transit charges on shipments of UNRWA and intrusion of military and security forces to UNRWA premises are demonstration of disrespect to the Charter of United Nations, the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions.

We believe that removal of blockades imposed by Israel is essential to restore peace and security in the region and to uphold dignity of the Palestinians. We also reiterate our

demand on Israel to ensure unrestricted mobility and non-interference in the activities of the Agency so that it can fulfill its mandated responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman

The situation in Gaza Strip and the West Bank is appalling. We have been witnessing, with utter frustration, since December 2007, the Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank violating fundamental and human rights of the Palestinian refugees. Unabated and intensive Israeli military operations and increased settlement activities in the occupied territories have caused widespread displacement of civilian population. Bangladesh strongly condemns the illegal expansion of Israeli settlements by encroaching on the Palestinian lands. If one issue that can make creation of a viable state of Palestine is the increasing number of settlements. We regret that despite repeated appeals of the international community, Israel continued its illegal activities within the occupied territories.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the donors and host countries and relevant agencies for the support and services extended to the Palestinian refugees and towards the sustainability of UNRWA and its operations. Refugees are always among the most vulnerable groups that depend on international assistance. Hence, we appeal to the international community to come forward with generous contribution particularly for funding the rehabilitation and emergency assistance programs for the refugees.

I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the commendable job done by the Commissioner General and all the staff of the Agency. They deserve a special word of thanks for their commitment and hard work in the face of continued adversities.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.