



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO

Speech of the Delegation of Mexico at the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 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 General (UNRWA)

New York, December 3rd, 2013

Mr. President:

Mexico strongly supports the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and its critical task of continuing to provide humanitarian assistance, human development services and protection to Palestinian refugees.

As explained during last September's High Level meeting of the Group of Donors to UNRWA, we have before us a difficult juncture, an almost "*perfect storm*" situation created by the intersection of growing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields, a growing gap between those needs and financial contributions to the Agency, and the additional pressures resulting from the Syrian crisis.

We are particularly concerned by the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian conditions in the region, requiring UNRWA to manage crises of varying intensity in all of its five basic fields of operation.

Mexico emphasizes the importance of maintaining a strong, financially sound UNRWA and calls upon all Member States to contribute to it so that it can continue to fulfill its critical role as a contributor factor to the stability in the Middle East. In this context, Mexico decided this year to increase its contribution to UNRWA from \$15,000.00 to \$100,000.00 US dollars, and we expect to be able to strengthen it in the coming years.

Mr. President:

My delegation would like to acknowledge and thank the hard work that Mr. Filippo Grandi and his staff have developed over the past years in leading UNRWA, and we are confident that in replacing him as Commissioner-General, Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl will strengthen and widen UNRWA's capacities on behalf of Palestinian refugees. Mexico looks forward to working with the new team.

Finally, we would take this opportunity to pay tribute to the staff of UNRWA that lost their lives in the fulfillment of his duties over the past 12 months. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

Thank you