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**Mission permanente de la Suisse  
auprès des Nations Unies à New York**

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

**ASSEMBLEE GENERALE  
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**Quatrième Commission**

**Point 32 de l'ordre du jour  
UNRWA**

**DECLARATION**

**prononcée par Mirjana Spoljaric  
1ère secrétaire**

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Check against delivery

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
62<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Fourth Committee**

**Item 32  
UNRWA**

**STATEMENT**

**by Mirjana Spoljaric  
First Secretary**

**New York, le 8 novembre 2007**

**Unofficial translation**

Mr President,

My delegation wishes first of all to express its support for the activities of UNRWA and to reiterate its belief in the relevance of this institution in all its areas of operation.

We would like to thank UNRWA for the quality of its report and the programme budget for the years 2008-2009. The improvements mentioned in these documents should be accompanied on the ground as well as at the organisational level by a strengthening of the follow-up and evaluation of the Agency's programmes.

We are pleased with the constructive observations formulated by the Advisory Commission and we appreciate this substantive contribution by means of which the General Assembly will be able to carry out more effectively its mission of supervision of UNRWA's activities.

The Organisational Development Programme has produced encouraging intermediate results and we call on all parties concerned to support the continuation of this promising process.

Mr President,

The commitment of the Commissioner General of UNRWA and of the Agency's entire local and international staff in an extremely constraining and in some cases very dangerous environment deserve to be underlined here once again.

In this context, we are very concerned about the constant deterioration of the socio-economic and security situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in Gaza. We call on all the parties concerned to honour their obligations and to facilitate secure and unimpeded access by UNRWA personnel to Palestinian refugees in the occupied territory. We strongly urge the Israeli authorities to return without delay taxes imposed at the Karni crossing and to exempt the Agency of such fees in the future, in accordance with the international commitments made by the State of Israel.

Furthermore, my delegation calls on the host States, whose generosity towards the Palestinian refugee population we commend, to facilitate UNRWA's strategic approach to the management of its programmes. Switzerland for its part intends to continue as a predictable and reliable partner of UNRWA at all levels. To respond appropriately to specific needs, we also intend to demonstrate our flexibility. Following the example of the reconstruction activities that have started in Camp Nahr-el Bared in close collaboration with the Lebanese authorities and with UNRWA, we are willing to support projects aimed at enabling the Palestinian refugees to fully realise their rights and to improve their living conditions.

Thank you, Mr President.