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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  
1 NOVEMBER 2011**

Madam Chair,

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. Maged Abdel Aziz, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Egypt, on behalf of the NAM, allow me also to make additional comments on behalf of my country, Namibia.

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. My delegation shares the same view that UNRWA provides 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.

Madam Chair,

The assistance to the refugees who have perpetually lived in camps for decades is vital, pending a just resolution of their plight and realization of their most cherished dream. The preamble to the Charter of this organization pledges to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. The people of Palestine have for many decades not seen the benefits of the lofty ideal I have just quoted. The United Nations was created to give hope to those who live in despair.

While the region has experienced sweeping and profound changes this year, the people of Palestine continue to face uncertainty under occupation and economic hardship. The international community cannot welcome sweeping changes in the same region and at the same time remain unresponsive to the genuine desire of the people of Palestine to live better standards of life in a viable state of their own, free from occupation and hardship.

Madam Chair,

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 people of Palestine, just like any other people on every corner of the globe, have rights to their land and a creation of a viable state to live side by side with the state of Israel in peace and security. Namibia believes that this is the right path that leads to a viable and durable solution in the Middle East.

I thank you.