

**Oral Statement by the Secretary of the Fourth Committee
on Draft Decision A/C.4/60/L.18**

(10 November 2005)

In connection with draft decision A/C.4/60/L.18, entitled "Increase in the membership of the Advisory Commission on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", I wish to bring the following statement, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to the attention of the delegations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) under rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

1. In operative paragraph 1 b of A/C.4/⁶⁰/L.18, the General Assembly would decide to invite Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland to become members of the Advisory Commission, thereby expanding the Commission's membership from 10 to 20.
2. The expanded Advisory Commission is expected to require a dedicated secretariat support. Provisions for these will be included in UNRWA's 2008-2009 biennial extrabudgetary budget. Hence, adoption of the draft resolution would not entail any additional appropriation for the regular budget under Section 25, Palestine refugees, for the biennium 2006-2007."