

# Canada

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SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS

STATEMENT BY

HEIDI HULAN  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA

TO THE FOURTH COMMITTEE  
60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 30: THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY  
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

NEW YORK, 1 NOVEMBER 2005

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DÉCLARATION DE

HEIDI HULAN  
REPRÉSENTANTE DU CANADA

À LA QUATRIÈME COMMISSION  
60E SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES

POINT 30 : L'OFFICE DE SECOURS ET DE TRAVAUX DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS DE PALESTINE DANS LE PROCHE-ORIENT

NEW YORK, LE 1ER NOVEMBRE 2005

**Mr Chairman,**

I would like to thank Commissioner General AbuZayd for her statement and for the comprehensive annual report on UNRWA submitted to the General Assembly.

Canada's commitment to UNRWA remains strong. We recognize UNRWA's critical work and pledge to continue our support for its endeavours.

Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank this year has opened new opportunities to improve the lives of the Palestinian people and to renew efforts on the Roadmap. Canada recognizes the work that needs to be done to maximize those opportunities, and in that context, Prime Minister Martin has committed Canada to enhancing its engagement and support to the Palestinian Authority during this crucial time.

UNRWA's role in humanitarian relief and the provision of essential services to Palestinians in the education, health, and social welfare sectors remains of vital importance. In recognition of this, in addition to a contribution of \$10 million to UNRWA's core budget, Prime Minister Martin announced in September a further \$6 million contribution to UNRWA's job creation and micro-credit lending initiatives in Gaza.

We see the current situation as opening up opportunities for a new level of partnership between UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority in the planning and programming of services. This is a priority for Canada, as it is for other donors, and we are prepared to help facilitate this partnership if we might be assistance.

Canada also understands the crucial importance of access to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We are working very closely with our Palestinian, Israeli and donor partners to ensure the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, including to the West Bank.

**Mr Chairman,**

Canada would like to commend Commissioner General AbuZayd for the process of institutional change that she is leading within UNRWA. We continue to encourage the reform of various programming and management mechanisms and procedures. These reforms should help to ensure the well-being of Palestinian refugees, and provide for greater accountability to the international community, particularly donors. We believe continued reform efforts will be key to maintaining donor support.

We have no doubt that the international community will continue to respond generously to appeals for humanitarian assistance. Canada believes, however, that the only path to a peaceful and prosperous future for the peoples of the Middle East lies, in the longer term, in the negotiation of a just and lasting peace.

Thank you.