

# *Jordan*



PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement**

by

**Mr. Haron Hassan  
Second Secretary  
of  
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item 30:  
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees  
in the Near East**

**New York, 1 November 2005**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me at the outset to convey my Government's sincere congratulations on the appointment of H.E. Mrs. Karen Abu Zayd as Commissioner General of UNRWA. We look forward to working closely with Mrs. Abu Zayd to advance the goals of UNRWA at a time when the agency's continuing role in the region is one of utmost importance and essence.

I also wish to convey my government's appreciation for the efforts exerted in producing the annual report included in document A/60/13, which was adopted by the Advisory Committee in Amman in September 2005.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would like to reiterate the following points with regards to the Palestinians Refugees problem, which is very important to my country:

- Jordan hosts approximately 1.8 million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA. They represent over 42% of the total number of Palestinian refugees and 90% of the total number of displaced persons in 1967. In 2005 alone the Government of Jordan spent over 463 million USD on providing education services, health, infrastructure, social welfare, and security services to those Palestinian refugees, in addition to improving their living conditions in 13 refugee camps in Jordan. Jordanian Government spending and commitment has been reoccurring every year since the Palestinian refugee problem began in 1948 despite the budgetary and financial difficulties that continue to face the Government annually and to this date, and despite the very limited resources available to Jordan. The government also covers the cost of any additional burdens that may arise from a decrease in UNRWA services due to the Agency's budgetary deficit. For comparative purposes I would like to note that at the time when UNRWA spent 76.1 million USD from its budget on operations in Jordan in 2004/05, the Jordanian government spent 463.5 million USD on refugee services for that same period.
- UNRWA should continue to operate in the region until a final solution to the Palestinian Refugees problem is (1) agreed between all concerned parties (2) implemented in all its aspects. Until then UNRWA's role should be enhanced and its continued operation guaranteed. UNRWA has proved vital over the years for both the Palestinian refugees and the host countries and we call on all donor countries to continue paying their contributions to UNRWA's budget. Our sincere gratitude goes to the donor countries for their support to the Agency over the years.
- A resolution to the Palestinian refugees problem should be on the basis of UNGA resolution 194 and the Arab Peace Initiative, in such a way that would guarantee the right of return and compensation to Palestinian refugees, and safeguard all the rights of host countries. Insofar Jordan is concerned, an agreed solution should also be in accordance with Article 8 of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty that refers to the resolution of the Palestinian refugees problem and displaced persons in accordance with international law.
- There should be no categorization of Palestinian refugees on the basis of (1) the geographic location where they are being hosted, or (2) the status of their living conditions. No preferences should be extended on such basis. The Palestinian refugees problem is one and the same for all concerned parties and should be treated as such.
- To facilitate the work of UNRWA, Israel should refrain from impeding the work of UNRWA personnel in the occupied Palestinians territories. Ch IV of the UNRWA report speaks for itself on the record of Israeli restrictions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On a different note, I would like to inform this distinguished committee that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan supports the expansion of the Advisory Commission in such a way that would help support the work of UNRWA, and we look forward to the discussion of the details regarding this matter during the work of our Committee.

Allow me to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by expressing once again my Government's sincere gratitude to Mrs. Karen Abu Zeid and all those working in UNRWA, who exert a great deal of effort to help improve the difficult living conditions of Palestinian refugees. I wish them all the success in their work.