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Statement

by

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Attaché

at the Fourth Committee

of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 47: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

13 November 2026

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Madame Chair,

1. Thailand expresses its profound appreciation to UNRWA for its steadfast dedication to providing essential humanitarian services and life-saving assistance to Palestine refugees across the region.

2. We commend the exceptional courage and professionalism of UNRWA personnel operating under extraordinarily dangerous and complex conditions. Thailand honours the memory of those humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or sustained injuries in the line of duty and extends our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones.

Madame Chair,

3. UNRWA is the backbone of the international humanitarian response for Palestine refugees and a cornerstone of regional stability. For over seven decades, it has provided essential services that uphold the dignity, well-being, and fundamental rights of more than 6 million Palestine refugees across its operational fields.

4. Today, UNRWA faces unprecedented financial, operational, and security challenges that endanger its personnel, facilities, and beneficiaries. These demand our urgent, collective response, anchored in international solidarity, shared responsibility, and unwavering respect for humanitarian principles. As winter approaches, the continued restrictions on humanitarian supplies, coupled with critical shortages of shelter materials, fuel and essential medical supplies, further exacerbate the already dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

5. In this regard, Thailand wishes to emphasize three points:

6. First, **Thailand reaffirms its steadfast commitment to UNRWA's mandate and operational sustainability.** We recognize its irreplaceable role in delivering life-saving assistance, primary healthcare, education and emergency relief and have, therefore, consistently supported UNRWA through voluntary contributions. We are pleased to renew our multi-year pledge of 200,000 US dollars for the 2027-2031 period, together with an additional contribution of 50,000 US dollars to support the 2026 Flash Appeal.

7. We urge Member States to bolster their support for UNRWA, ensuring predictable, long-term and sustainable funding to enable the Agency to fulfil its mandate independently, impartially and without political interference.

Any impediment to UNRWA's mandate risks severe humanitarian consequences and further undermining regional stability.

8. Second, **UNRWA's central humanitarian role must be sustained and complemented by capacity-building initiatives.** Thailand believes that emergency assistance is most effective when paired with long-term human development. Through our active participation in the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD), most recently at its 5th Ministerial Meeting in Manila, Thailand continues to advance Palestinian socio-economic progress through targeted technical workshops and scholarships in public health, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and food security.

9. Third, **Thailand calls for the full protection of UN personnel and humanitarian workers in high-risk environments.** Safeguarding their physical security and respecting the inviolability of UN premises are non-negotiable legal obligations under international law and vital to guaranteeing the safe and uninterrupted delivery of aid. All relevant parties must respect and protect UN personnel, premises, property and assets, and ensure that humanitarian operations can proceed without obstruction.

Madame Chair,

10. Supporting UNRWA and advancing Palestinian human development are direct investments in lasting regional peace and human dignity, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. While these efforts are critical, they cannot substitute for a just and lasting political solution. Thailand therefore reiterates its support for a two-State solution, where Palestine and Israel live side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

11. Thailand remains committed to partnering with the international community to safeguard UNRWA's mandate, upholding the rights and dignity of Palestine refugees, and advancing a constructive path towards enduring peace.

12. I thank you.

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