

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: CDC (through DSG)

Please find attached for your approval on behalf of the SG, the text of a joint letter, which will be signed by the SG and the SG of LAS, requesting support for UNRWA by LAS Member States. [Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen].

Once the text is approved, PU will send it to DPA for onward transmission to LAS (through UNRWA). The office of LAS will then produce individualized letters to each addressee, secure SG El Araby's signature on the letters and return the whole batch to EOSG for SG's signature.

*Text Approved*

*AK*

Political Unit  
24 March 2014

**Received in ODSG**

24 March 2014

**Seen by:**

*ER*

*Rec'd in CDC on 25 Mar'14*

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xx March 2014

Excellency,

We are sending you this letter in follow-up to the "Special Meeting of a Group of Supporters of UNRWA" held on 26 September 2013 on the margins of the General Assembly in New York under our joint chairmanship.

24/03/14

The purpose of the meeting was to encourage greater financial support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as it faces mounting difficulties in providing basic services to Palestine refugees in Syria, Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon.

You would recall that in the agreed conclusions of the meeting, participants "welcomed the engagement of members of the Arab League to achieve and sustain the 7.8 per cent target for Arab Government contributions to the Agency's core budget". The target of 7.8 per cent of the Agency's projected budget for 2014 is approximately USD 55 million, which would go towards the Agency's estimated shortfall in 2014 of USD 70 million. It is imperative that the United Nations and its Member States, including Arab States, take all feasible measures to help promote economic, political and social stability in the Middle East during this dynamic period. The support of UNRWA for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees must be sustained until a just and final negotiated two-State solution has been reached.

We are calling upon all Member States of the League of Arab States to enhance their support to UNRWA and we count on your support for this initiative.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Nabil El Araby  
Secretary General of the League  
of Arab States

His Excellency  
Mr. / Mrs. Xxxxx  
Title  
city



14-02178

FIN/06/001

JNR/04/001

Le XX mars 2014

Monsieur le Ministre [Madame la Ministre],

Nous vous adressons la présente lettre comme suite à la Réunion spéciale du Groupe des amis de l'Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine au Proche-Orient (UNRWA), qui s'était tenue sous notre présidence commune le 26 septembre 2013 à New York, en marge de la session ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale.

Vous vous souviendriez que la réunion avait pour objet d'encourager un plus grand appui financier à UNRWA, qui fait face à des difficultés croissantes pour ce qui est de fournir des services de base aux réfugiés de Palestine se trouvant en Syrie, à Gaza, en Cisjordanie, en Jordanie et au Liban. Les participants se sont félicités de l'engagement pris par les Etats membres de la Ligue des Etats arabes d'atteindre et de maintenir l'objectif d'un financement à hauteur de 7,8 pour cent du budget de base de l'Office de la part des gouvernements arabes, 7,8 pour cent des prévisions de dépenses de l'Office en 2014 représentant en effet quelque 55 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis, montant qui pourrait grandement aider l'Office à couvrir un déficit estimé à quelque 70 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis en 2014.

Nous pensons qu'il est impératif que l'Organisation des Nations Unies et les Etats Membres, y compris les pays arabes, prennent toutes les mesures possibles en vue de promouvoir la stabilité économique, politique et sociale des peuples du Moyen-Orient. L'action fondamentale de l'UNRWA en appui aux populations vulnérables de réfugiés palestiniens dans la région doit être soutenue dans ce cadre, en attendant la mise en place de la solution négociée des deux Etats, sur la base d'un règlement juste et définitif.

Son Excellence  
Monsieur/Madame  
Titre  
Ville

Nous demandons à tous les Etats membres de la Ligue des Etats arabes de fournir leurs contributions financières à l'UNRWA et comptons sur votre appui à cette initiative.

Nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur le Ministre [Madame la Ministre], les assurances de notre très haute considération.

Le Secrétaire général  
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

Le Secrétaire général  
de la Ligue des Etats arabes

BAN Ki-moon

Nabil El Araby



ACTION AG  
COPY ASG/cdc /w. encl.

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		<input type="checkbox"/> Unclassified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Strictly Confidential
<b>RECEIVED</b>				
TO/A: Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General				
CC: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet, EOSG				
THROUGH/VICE PAR:				
FROM/DE: Jeffrey Feltman, USG, DPA				
MAR 17 2014 14-02178 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL				
Date: 14 March 2014		Ext: 3-5055		Room No. - No de bureau: S-3516
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER		
FOR YOUR ATTENTION		FOR VOTRE ATTENTION		
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION		
FOR APPROVAL / SIGNATURE		XX POUR APPROBATION / SIGNATURE		
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS		
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE		
RETURN		RETOURNER		

**Draft UN-LAS joint letter to League of Arab States Membership  
on UNRWA funding**

Please find attached a cover note and draft joint letter, to be signed by both Secretaries-Generals of the UN and the League of Arab States, prepared in consultation with UNRWA colleagues for your review and approval requesting support for UNRWA by LAS Member States.

*Silva.*  
For processing, please.  
Can you pls check how  
the "joint signature" will be  
coordinated (see cover letter  
in cdc)?  
Int.  
AK

FIN/06/001; INR/04/001



## General Assembly

Distr.: General  
20 November 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session  
Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(Fourth Committee)  
Agenda item 51  
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for  
Palestine Refugees in the Near East

### Letter dated 8 November 2013 from the Chair of the Arab Group for the month of November 2013 addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York for the month of November 2013, I have the honour to attach hereto a document entitled "Conclusions of the Special Meeting of a Group of Supporters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", issued at the Group's meeting in New York on 26 September 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51.

(Signed) Mohamed Khaled Khiari  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations  
Chair of the Arab Group for the month of November 2013



**Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2013 from the Chair of the Arab Group for the month of November 2013 addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Conclusions of the Special Meeting of a Group of Supporters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

New York, 26 September 2013

We, members of the League of Arab States and other supporters<sup>a</sup> of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), met today, 26 September 2013, in New York under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to reassert our support for the mandate of UNRWA in providing assistance and protection to Palestine refugees and to identify practical ways to strengthen that support.

We recalled that Palestine refugees represent the world's largest and most protracted refugee situation and that nearly 64 years have passed since the General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to assist Palestine refugees until a just and lasting resolution is reached in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions (General Assembly resolutions 194 (III) and 302 (IV)).

We welcomed the achievements of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in providing health care, education, social safety nets, infrastructure, microfinance, emergency assistance, protection and other humanitarian and human development services to the 5 million Palestine refugees currently registered with the Agency and in helping to alleviate their plight, achieve sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance and cope in times of crisis and upheaval.

We expressed awareness of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation and reiterated that the effective functioning of the Agency remains essential in all those fields.

We underlined that the Agency's work has been made possible by the active engagement of and the generous support and assistance from the international community, notably the members and observers of the UNRWA Advisory Commission, and in particular those hosting Palestine refugees.

However, we expressed our serious concern about the critical situation of UNRWA caused by increasing demands for services being placed on the Agency; the deteriorating socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions in the region requiring UNRWA to manage crises of varying intensity in all of its five fields of operation; and escalating financial pressures arising from the structural underfunding of the Agency leading to recurring and increasing core budget deficits. In that context, we

<sup>a</sup> The five biggest donors (the United States of America, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden and Norway), regional representatives (Japan and Brazil) and the Chair of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Turkey).



emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong, financially sound UNRWA as a contributor to stability in the Middle East.

To address those concerns and consistent with relevant United Nations and League of Arab States resolutions, we reaffirmed our collective commitment to provide UNRWA with the necessary, predictable and sustainable resources required to fulfil its mandate in all its fields of operation, in particular its core activities, and we rededicated ourselves to make all efforts to that end. In that context, we noted that the Agency's next medium-term strategy offers an opportunity to further address the sustainability of the Agency's core interventions and ensure that services are concentrated in areas providing the most value for refugees, in particular the most disadvantaged. Unearmarked contributions to the Agency's core budget (approximately \$650 million in 2013) are particularly important in enabling UNRWA to achieve this.

We welcomed the engagement of members of the League of Arab States to achieve and sustain the 7.8 per cent target for Arab Government contributions to the Agency's core budget as set out in numerous resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States since 1987. In that regard, we noted and encouraged the positive trend of increasing contributions to UNRWA by members of the League of Arab States in recent years, notably for the Agency's projects and emergency appeals.

We also welcomed the intention of other supporters of UNRWA to sustain and, wherever possible, enhance their support to the Agency and its work. We also encourage new donors to contribute to UNRWA.

We emphasized the shared international responsibility in respect of the Palestine refugee issue and committed to keep the Agency's financial situation under close review. We look forward to working with all of the Agency's friends and partners, notably through the General Assembly and, in particular, its Fourth Committee, the UNRWA Advisory Commission, the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA and other existing mechanisms of coordination and support, to strengthen the Agency and support its valuable work on behalf of the Palestine refugees as a stabilizing factor in the region.