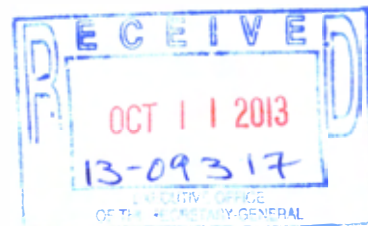




the commissioner-general

ACTION COPY AG
DSC
CAL
SA



10 October 2013

AG

Dear Secretary-General,

I would like to thank you and the Deputy Secretary-General for participating in the Special Meeting of a Group of Supporters of UNRWA on 26 September and for agreeing to co-chair the meeting with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Nabil El Araby. Your presence helped the meeting receive the attention and assume the priority it needed during UNGA week. The high level of participants, especially on the side of UNRWA's traditional donors, reflected the importance that they attach to UNRWA's work for Palestine refugees at a time of great uncertainty in the Middle East.

While there were no new concrete pledges of financial support to UNRWA made at the meeting from LAS countries, notably from the Gulf States, I am encouraged nonetheless that in the conclusions of the meeting there was an engagement "to achieve and sustain the 7.8% target for Arab government contributions to UNRWA's core budget as set out in numerous resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States since 1987". At present this figure stands at only 2%.

We intend to press Gulf countries, in particular, to match this engagement with new resources which are vital to enable UNRWA to overcome its worsening funding problem. This is all the more justified because, as noted in your own address to the meeting, the amounts involved are relatively small (around \$50 million per year).

UNRWA will track carefully new funding commitments made by Member States of the Arab League and I will report the results to you and to Dr. Nabil El Araby on a regular basis. In the meantime I would be most grateful if you could continue to urge support for UNRWA in bilateral or multilateral meetings, notably with Gulf countries, referring to the conclusions of the meeting.

Let me thank you again for your support, which is so important for UNRWA, for our staff and, above all, for Palestine refugees.

Yours sincerely, *and with grateful wishes,*

Filippo Grandi

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Cc Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



FIN/06/001, INR/04/001