



UNRWA Ministerial Meeting

New York, 27 September, 2018

Swiss intervention

Secretary General,
High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
Ministers, Commissioner-General,
Excellencies,

Allow me first to express Switzerland's thanks to the co-organizers for having convened this Ministerial meeting today.

In a period of great uncertainty, Switzerland is worried that instability risks further tension in a region torn by conflict. Switzerland believes that investing in the region, is an investment for the collective and regional security.

Also in 2018, Switzerland has continued its decades' long support to the organization. Against this year's shortfall of currently USD 186 million, Switzerland has provided the organization in January 2018 with CHF 19 million. On the occasion of the extraordinary ministerial conference in Rome in March, Switzerland has announced an additional CHF four million.

Switzerland is particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. In an attempt to prevent a major humanitarian crisis, Switzerland allocated an additional contribution of CHF one million towards the Agency's emergency operation in Gaza to provide food assistance for one million refugees.

Switzerland is supporting the agency to establish new partnership and expects to see a World Bank Trust Fund take formal shape this year. We welcome this strategic partnership between the World Bank and the United Nations. The Trust Fund offers prospects for sustained funding and a potential to transform the current way of working.

Finally, Switzerland will continue supporting measures that aim at improving the quality and the efficiency of programmes. As a long-term donor, Switzerland wishes to maintain its active role in the UNRWA reform process and with other partners, we will actively contribute to the discussion on the future of the organization. We remain committed and supportive, at the same time we estimate that regular reviews remain essential, as requested by our Parliament for any funding allocated to international organizations.

Thank you Mr. Chair