



League of Arab States:

Eighty Years of Joint Arab Action



General Secretariat
Secretariat of League
Council Affairs

**The statement of
The Council of the League of Arab States at the Level of
Permanent Representatives
In its Extraordinary Session on the repercussions of the
enforcement of the Israeli Knesset's illegal legislation
prohibiting the operations of UNRWA in the Palestinian
territories occupied since 1967**

The Council of the League of Arab States at the Level of Permanent Representative convened an extraordinary session on February 3, 2025, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Yemen, in its capacity as President of the Ministerial Council. The session was held at the request of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in coordination with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Palestine, with the participation of ambassadors and permanent representatives of Member States, alongside Ambassador Said Abu Ali, Assistant Secretary-General for the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Sector, and Ambassador Hossam Zaki, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The Council, in its deliberations on the grave implications of the Israeli Knesset's illegal legislation to prohibit the operations of UNRWA in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967:

- 1- *Denounces* Israel's (the occupying Power) blatant disregard for international calls to cease enforcing the

unlawful legislation passed by the Israeli Knesset, which seeks to prohibit the operations of UNRWA in the occupied Palestinian territories; *affirms* that the continued implementation of these invalid measures will obstruct UNRWA's critical humanitarian efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, leading to catastrophic consequences for Palestinian refugees amid the absence of any alternative UN agency capable of providing the services and assistance UNRWA offers.

- 2- *Reaffirms* the nullity of Israel's (the occupying Power) prohibition of UNRWA's operations in East Jerusalem, which is based on its illegitimate and legally baseless definition of sovereign Israeli territory, being entirely devoid of legal effect, as Israel, the occupying Power, possesses no sovereignty over East Jerusalem or any part of the Palestinian territories it occupied on June 5, 1967 and, under international law, has no legitimate right to exercise any sovereign authority over these territories;
- 3- *Affirms* the illegitimacy of all Israeli actions targeting UNRWA's headquarters and assets in East Jerusalem, declaring them null and void with no legal standing, and that Israel, as the occupying Power, lacks any legitimacy or authority to undertake measures aimed at seizing private or public property under its occupation or altering the legal and administrative status of the occupied territories according to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Regulations of 1907;
- 4- *Reaffirms* that UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by UN General Assembly Resolution 302 of 1949 with the aim of providing humanitarian and development assistance to Palestinian refugees and that any attempt to obstruct or undermine its ability to fulfill this role in accordance with its UN mandate constitutes a

grave violation of an international resolution that embodies the international community's commitment to addressing the Palestinian refugee issue;

- 5- *Condemns* the Israeli legislation targeting UNRWA as a flagrant breach of Israel's obligations as the occupying Power under international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the United Nations Charter, and Security Council Resolution 2730 (May 24, 2024), which mandates Israel to respect and protect UN institutions and ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel, constitutes a direct violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 868 (1993) on the safety of UN personnel, Resolution 1502 (2003) on the protection of humanitarian workers, and Resolution 2175 (2014) aimed at strengthening safeguards for humanitarian and UN staff, and stands in clear contradiction to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which affirmed that Israel, as the occupying Power, holds no sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem;
- 6- *Stresses* that Israel, the occupying Power, in its relentless attempts to delegitimize UNRWA and obstruct its ability to fulfill its UN-mandated mission, seeks to erode the very foundations of the internationally recognized two-state solution and liquidate the Palestinian refugee issue and their right to return and for compensation, as enshrined in relevant international resolutions;
- 7- *Emphasizes* that the ban on UNRWA's operations constitutes a deliberate act of persecution, subjecting Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who rely on its services to conditions designed to bring about their total or partial destruction, while inflicting severe physical and psychological harm, and that these actions fall within the definition of genocide as stipulated in Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

especially given that UNRWA is the primary provider of services to Palestinian refugees, and that no other UN-affiliated body or international organization possesses the necessary infrastructure or capacity to replace it;

- 8- *Affirms* that Israel's, the occupying Power, baseless allegations questioning UNRWA's neutrality and credibility constitute a desperate and politically motivated attempt to dismantle the Agency as part of its broader scheme to liquidate the Palestinian refugee issue; *reiterates* that the independent review report on UNRWA, issued on April 5, 2024, clearly confirmed that the Agency has maintained a structured neutrality framework since 2017 and has since implemented extensive policy updates, mechanisms, and safeguards to ensure strict adherence to the principle of neutrality; *and asserts* the critical role of the UNRWA Advisory Commission and its Member States, which serve as a testament to the Agency's governance, transparency, and accountability before the international community;

- 9- *Urges* United Nations Member States to uphold their legal responsibilities under international law regarding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, particularly as outlined in UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/ES-10/24) which calls upon its states to work toward the realization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to remove all obstacles arising from Israel's unlawful status in the occupied Palestinian territories that impede the exercise of this right, and stresses the obligation of its states not to recognize the legitimacy of the situation resulting from Israel's illegal presence as the occupying Power, nor to acknowledge any unilateral alterations to the territory's physical character or demographic composition following the occupation of June 5, 1967;

- 10- *Affirms that* the legislation enacted by the Israeli Knesset constitutes a blatant breach of Israel's obligations as the occupying Power under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, which applies to UNRWA and its personnel as an integral part of the UN system, including the immunity of UNRWA, its property, and its assets, wherever they may be located;

- 11- *Warns* of the devastating consequences that the implementation of this legislation will have on Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip, where the international community is urgently striving to capitalize on the ceasefire in order to deliver vital humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza who are enduring widespread malnutrition after 471 days of relentless Israeli crimes; *reiterates* that UNRWA remains the sole entity capable of efficiently delivering this aid and restoring hope to the suffering population, given its international mandate, its extensive workforce on the ground, its accumulated expertise, and its logistical capabilities in the occupied Palestinian territories; *calls on* donor countries, in light of the exceptional circumstances the Agency is facing, to uphold their commitments; *and reaffirms* the significance of the Joint Commitments Initiative for UNRWA, launched in May 2024 by the State of Kuwait, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Slovenia, joined by 123 countries, which represents a wide-reaching international acknowledgment of UNRWA's crucial role in fostering regional stability and serving as a lifeline for millions of Palestinian refugees across its five areas of operation;

- 12- *Highlights* the reality that, despite Israel's, the occupying Power, relentless efforts to undermine UNRWA, including the destruction of 205 of its buildings and the killing of 272 of its employees since the onset of its aggression on Gaza—actions that are unequivocally condemned as war crimes—UNRWA continues to serve as

the backbone of the United Nations' humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza and remains steadfast in providing vital support and shelter to the majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents, including food assistance to 1.9 million people, polio vaccines to over 200,000 children, and health care to 15,000 individuals, accounting for more than 60 percent of Gaza's total primary health care provision;

13- *Warns* that the collapse of UNRWA would inevitably impose additional burdens on the host countries in the Agency's five areas of operation, exacerbating the economic and social crises already present, further straining these nations' capacities, and eroding confidence in the institutions established to uphold global peace and security;

14- *Expresses* unwavering support for the resilience of the Palestinian people in maintaining their presence on their land and their firm commitment to their legitimate rights under international law; *reaffirms* its rejection of any violation of these inalienable rights, including settlement activities, the expulsion and demolition of homes, the annexation of land, and any attempt to displace Palestinians or encourage the transfer or uprooting of individuals from their land, whether through coercion or under any pretext or justification; *and stresses* that these actions undermine regional stability, escalate the conflict, and jeopardize the prospects for peace and coexistence among the peoples of the region;

15- *Requests* the General Secretariat to circulate this statement to all Arab missions and ambassadorial councils, ensuring its contents are conveyed to the relevant countries, bodies, and international institutions accredited to them; *and calls upon* the Arab Group in New York to take the necessary actions to explore the possibility of issuing a resolution from either the UN Security Council

or the General Assembly, in alignment with the positions outlined in this statement.

(Statement No. 262 – Ex. O.S. S 1- 3/2/2025)

- **The Republic of Iraq** has reservations about the term (two-state solution) and anything that explicitly or implicitly refers to (Israel) as a state, requesting it be replaced with (the Israeli entity, the occupying Power) whenever stated.