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Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 22 Palestine refugees

1. At its 17th meeting, on 14 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 22)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Views were expressed in support of the programme and the important and enormous amount of work carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to alleviate the situation of Palestine refugees, despite the volatile environment.
4. Appreciation and recognition were expressed to donors for their generous contributions in support of the Agency's activities and to the host countries of the Palestine refugees. The view was expressed that it was essential that UNRWA maintain its political neutrality in carrying out its activities.



5. Concern was expressed about the growing number of Palestine refugees, and clarification was sought of the registration process of Palestine refugees and the determination of eligibility for UNRWA services, as well as of the status of the refugees in the host countries.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts undertaken by UNRWA to mainstream a gender perspective into its activities. It was noted that universal access to education was important.

7. Clarification was sought of the coordination and collaboration efforts undertaken by UNRWA and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure implementation of programmes in a complementary manner.

8. Concerns were raised regarding the Agency's high dependency on voluntary contributions and the chronic funding deficits, and in this regard, the view was expressed that support for the important work of UNRWA should be demonstrated by providing voluntary contributions.

9. The view was expressed that UNRWA should collaborate with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to create greater awareness of the Agency's work among OIC member States with a view to increasing their participation in the funding of its activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.**
