



Advisory Commission expresses support for UNRWA's Organizational Development initiative

Amman – The Advisory Commission of UNRWA today concluded its first regular meeting, chaired by Ms. Rana Mokaddem, head of Palestine section of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressing strong support for the Agency's organizational development initiative.

In today's session, the Deputy Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi made a comprehensive presentation about the organizational development initiative, which aims to serve Palestine refugees more effectively. "The idea is to strengthen the management capacity of UNRWA to improve the quality of services and increase resources for our programmes", Grandi told the meeting.

The initiative is designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's management at all levels over a period of three years. If the initiative is funded, it should lead to improved living conditions and other benefits for Palestine refugees in the Agency's five fields of operations.

During the afternoon session, the directors of UNRWA operations in West Bank and Gaza provided a brief overview of current developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and their impact upon UNRWA activities. Following the presentation, participants showed understanding of the challenges facing UNRWA in carrying out its work under deteriorated security and humanitarian situation.

The Advisory Commission had opened its meeting on 19 June with the participation of 23 members and observers. During yesterday's session, the Advisory Commission adopted its work plan and rules of procedure. The participants welcomed UNRWA's plans for camp improvement in Lebanon and steps taken by the Lebanese government to create favourable conditions that will lead to improving the situation of Palestine refugees in the country.

In her concluding remarks, the Commissioner-General expressed her appreciation to members and observers for their advice and thoughtful discussion on these critical issues. "This meeting has demonstrated the importance of the expanded Advisory Commission in a strengthened relationship between UNRWA and its stakeholders", said the Commissioner-General, Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd.

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