



the commissioner-general
المفوض العام

29 March 2021

Dear Ms. Jackson,

UNRWA welcomes the re-engagement of the United States and its intent to resume humanitarian assistance to UNRWA. The United States has historically been a close partner of UNRWA, and we look forward to resuming the historically strong and collaborative relationship.

UNRWA is committed to continuing its partnership with the United States to provide humanitarian assistance, human development, and protection to UNRWA-registered refugees and other persons falling under UNRWA's United Nations General Assembly mandate.

Pending a new Framework, UNRWA concurs that this exchange of letters serves to renew the U.S.-UNRWA relationship, addressing our shared goals and priorities; monitoring and reporting; and communication and partnership.

UNRWA commits to hold consultations with the United States with the goal of completing a new comprehensive Framework for Cooperation by June 15 and looks forward to deepening the relationship to address mutual issues of concern.

In our joint mission to improve the neutrality, transparency, accountability, and financial sustainability of UNRWA, UNRWA makes the following commitments and assurances with respect to the following shared goals and priorities as the basis of our continuing cooperation and which will be reflected in our new Framework for Cooperation:

Shared Goals and Priorities

--The United States and UNRWA are jointly committed to addressing the needs of UNRWA's beneficiaries through effective provision of humanitarian assistance and protection, and to promoting the enhanced human development potential of UNRWA's beneficiaries until a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement is secured.

Ms. Nancy Jackson
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State

--Conformance with conditions on U.S. contributions pursuant to section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), specifically that UNRWA is taking "all possible measures to assure that no part of the United States contribution shall be used to furnish assistance to any refugee who is receiving military training as a member of the so-called Palestine Liberation Army or any other guerrilla type organization or who has engaged in any act of terrorism," and conducting operations consistent with UN humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, independence, and impartiality, remain shared priorities.

--The United States and UNRWA expect to continue to work in partnership to promote UNRWA's financial stability, both through efforts to control and contain costs, as well as to mobilize additional resources and highlight the value of UNRWA's contributions to regional stability.

--UNRWA intends to continue to strengthen the Agency's transparency, accountability, and internal governance and oversight processes.

--Further, the United States and UNRWA condemn without reservation all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, including anti-Semitism.

UNRWA confirms that it is meeting the conditions on U.S. contributions pursuant to section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) and is applying the UN humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, independence, and impartiality, as demonstrated in the reporting outlined in the section below. UNRWA commits to upholding its neutrality in the conduct of its staff, its education materials, the review of host state curricula, and the management of its buildings, and in ensuring the proper use of its assets. UNRWA further commits to taking all possible measures to ensure funding provided by the United States to UNRWA does not provide assistance to, or otherwise support, terrorist or terrorist organizations.

UNRWA commits to working with the United States to develop and implement special projects mutually identified by both parties, recognizing the United States priorities of strengthening UNRWA's oversight and accountability and commitment to neutrality, as well as the Agency's human rights, conflict resolution, and tolerance education materials.

Monitoring and Reporting

UNRWA acknowledges that while specific reporting requirements for contributions will be addressed within contribution agreement award provisions and in a future Framework, UNRWA will provide regular reports on emergency appeals, special projects, visibility efforts, and expenditures on U.S. contributions, and continue to adhere to the established conditions and understandings regarding the use of U.S. funding. In order for the United States to meet the conditions for funding UNRWA pursuant to section 301(c) of the FAA and section 7048 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021 (Div. K, P.L. 116-260), UNRWA commits to continue to provide semi-annual reports on activities outlined in the Annex of the 2018-2019 U.S.-UNRWA Framework for Cooperation until a new Framework has been signed.

Communication and Partnership

UNRWA commits to continuous information sharing and cooperation with the United States at all levels.

UNRWA understands that the United States plans to monitor its funding to, as well as the policies and programs of, UNRWA on an ongoing basis and in a number of ways, including by actively participating in the meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as well as the Advisory Commission, regular meetings of the Sub-committee of the Advisory Commission, regular meetings of the Harmonized Results Working Group, and other ad hoc working groups; analyzing UNRWA's regular reports and updates; undertaking field visits by PRM staff; holding bilateral discussions between PRM and UNRWA staff at all levels; and attending briefings by UNRWA staff. UNRWA welcomes the United States to share the results of its monitoring and analysis, as well as its recommendations.

I also look forward to discussing the development of a new U.S.-UNRWA Framework for 2021 and to strengthening the UNRWA-United States relationship. I trust that you will find the above terms of this exchange of letters satisfactory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Lazzarini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Philippe Lazzarini