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Plenary on Item 11b:
Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

Speaker: Indonesia

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**DRAFT STATEMENT BY
INDONESIAN DELEGATION
FOR ITEM 11 (B) REPORT ON UNCTAD ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the G-77 and China and Iraq on behalf of the Asian group.

Indonesia welcomes and commends the excellent report of the UNCTAD Secretariat on UNCTAD Assistance to the Palestinian People: development in economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Mr. President,

Indonesia, like many who have spoken earlier, strongly deplores the worsened situation on economic development due to the prolonged Israeli restrictions on the movement of Palestinian people and goods, the expansion of settlements, the growing inability of Palestinian producers to access their productive resources, the decline in aid flows and pervasive political and economic uncertainty.

These conditions are expected to deteriorate further. The Palestinian fiscal crisis deepened, owing to less aid and Israel's withholding of Palestinian revenue, posing risks to the whole economy. Such unfortunate circumstance is totally unacceptable.

Mr. President,

The report highlights updates on how 46 years of Israel's occupation of Palestine has caused serious economic and social repercussions associated with living for decades without the protection of laws and rights and with stifling restrictions on movement of people and goods.

The recommendations contained in UNCTAD's report are insightful, timely and urgent and provide possible solutions that are not limited to trade but also address the Palestinian development as a whole. Indonesia reiterates the crucial importance of mobilizing additional resources to meet the special needs of the Palestinian economy, the provision of advisory services and delivery of technical cooperation support.

Mr. President,

My Government and the people of Indonesia share the suffering of the Palestinian people and reiterate our readiness to assist them in any way possible in order to alleviate this heavy burden.

In this light of spirit, Indonesia has determined to continue its efforts in empowering the Palestinian people through the capacity building project conducted under the umbrella of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), together with South Africa as the Co-Chair of this project. I am pleased to say, on behalf of my government, that as of May 2013, Indonesia has successfully completed the training for 1246 Palestinian officials and citizen of the total 1.000 beneficiaries within the duration of the program which shall take place in 2008-2013.

We are also offering scholarship for the young generation of Palestinian people, to pursue their degrees in Indonesia.

In addition to the assistances through intra-regional initiative such as NAASP, Indonesia has also been extending financial assistances toward Palestine, including the pledges that Indonesia extended during Paris Donor Conference in 2007 as well as during the Gaza Crisis 2008-2009, numbered on US\$ 1 Million each. Furthermore, Indonesia has allocated a sum of 20 Billion IDR to build Indonesian Cardiac Facility at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, Palestine.

To conclude Mr. President, Indonesia warmly welcomes positive steps which have been taken by UNCTAD in extending their support to the Palestinian cause. Indonesia calls upon the international community to continuously widen the worldwide support towards Palestine to achieve sustainable development.

Thank you.