

Statement by India at the 73rd Regular Session of the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD under Item 6: Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people; delivered by Mr. Gaurav Kumar Thakur, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India

Geneva, 15 September 2026

Madam Chair,

India thanks the secretariat for TD/B/73/2 and for sustaining its assistance programme under exceptionally difficult conditions.

The report presents a grave development picture. It estimates Gaza's recovery and reconstruction needs at US\$71.5 billion as at early 2026, and documents the collapse of productive capacity, deepening poverty and acute fiscal and banking risks. These are not temporary humanitarian effects; they threaten long-term recovery and the material foundations of a future Palestinian State.

India's position is principled and long-standing. We support a negotiated two-State solution leading to a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine, living within secure and recognized borders in peace and security.

India acknowledges the need for rehabilitation, recovery, reconstruction and development, particularly in Gaza. Safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian assistance must be accompanied by a development-centric recovery that restores basic services, productive capacity, jobs, trade and investment, while strengthening Palestinian institutions.

India's partnership is human-centric and demand-driven. **India's projects in Palestine are tailored towards institution building, human resource development and livelihood and employment generation, with specific focus on health and education. We have also provided direct budgetary support to the Palestine Authority. During the current crisis, we have sent humanitarian assistance of 135 metric tonnes, that includes 81.5 metric tonnes of life saving medicines and medical supplies. Another 15 tonnes of life saving medicines have been recently sent at the request of Palestine Authority.** India's recent engagement with the State of Palestine have advanced health and skills cooperation, including a 200-bed Indian super-

speciality hospital in Jenin and a technical and vocational education and training centre at the Palestinian National Printing Press. India has also announced a US\$5 million contribution to UNRWA for 2026, **taking India's cumulative contribution to around US\$55 million**

Madam President,

UNCTAD has a distinct role in linking relief to development. We welcome its participation in the United Nations multi-agency recovery trust fund and support continued, adequately resourced policy research, capacity-building and technical cooperation on trade, finance, enterprise and investment. UNCTAD's analysis should continue to guide coordinated support to rebuild the Palestinian economy on a viable and sustainable basis.

Thank you.