



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
24 August 2020

Original: English

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## Seventy-fifth session

Item 141 of the provisional agenda\*\*

### Proposed programme budget for 2021

#### **Letter dated 24 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 17 July 2020 and to the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) concerning financial challenges that the Agency has been facing.

The UNRWA chronic funding shortfalls, which undermine its mandate delivery and jeopardize its ability to deliver health care, education and other essential services to Palestinian refugees, are a matter of serious concern.

Against the backdrop of the financial crises that UNRWA regularly faces, the United Nations Secretariat has not come to the General Assembly with requests for additional resources since 2011. At the same time, the Secretariat included in the proposed programme budget for 2020 the financing of the so-called “mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011”, which does not enjoy the broad support of Member States that the financing of UNRWA does. Such an approach is, at the very least, inconsistent.

In this regard, we ask you to consider making proposals for the allocation of additional resources from the United Nations regular budget to UNRWA, to be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly, as previously requested in paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution [65/272](#), noting that the Assembly allocated an additional \$5 million for the biennium 2012–2013 as the first step on that path.

We should like to request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under item 141 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 16 October 2020.

\*\* [A/75/150](#).

