

A Strong UNRWA in a Challenging World – Mobilizing Collective Action Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference – June 23, 2020

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Michal Mlynár
Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York**

Excellencies,

At the outset, allow me to express my gratitude to the honorable Ministers of Sweden and Jordan for convening and co-chairing this extraordinary pledging conference.

Slovakia has been a long-term supporter and donor of UNRWA, which continues to serve as a beacon of hope for millions of Palestinian refugees.

We recognize the indispensable role of the agency in advancing humanitarian work, as well as in contributing to the stability in the greater Middle East region. Slovakia particularly appreciates the commitment and dedication of UNRWA to the women and youth through its educational and health services, offering more than half a million students a perspective for a brighter and safer future.

This conference takes place at the time of a global pandemic and heightened socio-economic and political tensions in the Middle East. Now is the time for the international community to join hands, work together and show solidarity, especially to those, who are most vulnerable.

On this occasion, I would like to announce a modest pledge of financial contribution to the Agency on behalf of Slovakia, which will be processed in the next couple of weeks.

In conclusion, allow me to express our confidence in the work of UNRWA under the leadership of Commissioner General Philippe Lazarrini and offer the Agency the assurances of Slovakia's continued support.

Thank you.