Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Serry

on Israel's decision to resume the transfer of construction material for UN projects in Gaza

Jerusalem, 09 December 2013

The Special Coordinator confirms that the Government of Israel has decided to resume the transfer of construction materials for UN projects in Gaza.

The United Nations is implementing a package worth US$500 million of critical construction projects such as schools, social housing and water and sanitation facilities in Gaza. The United Nations will continue to preserve the integrity of these works through their uninterrupted and transparent implementation in accordance with agreed procedures.

The situation in Gaza remains concerning and the United Nations is engaged with relevant parties in trying to address the most urgent issues such as energy, water and private sector construction. The United Nations hopes that a solution will be found quickly to the particularly pressing energy situation, and calls on the support of the international community in this regard. Now is the time for those considering a contribution to step forward, urgently and decisively.

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