



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the suspension of the private import of cement into Gaza**

Jerusalem, 4 April 2016

“The United Nations has been informed by Israel of its decision to suspend the private import of cement into Gaza following allegations that a substantial amount had been diverted from its intended legitimate beneficiaries.

We are working closely with our Palestinian and Israeli government counterparts to assist in resolving the situation in order to prevent incidents that could lead to any future suspension of imports.

The people of Gaza depend on the entry of construction material to repair and reconstruct their damaged and destroyed houses following the 2014 conflict and to enable much needed infrastructure and development projects.

Those who seek to gain through the deviation of materials are stealing from their own people and adding to the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza. The reconstruction of Gaza remains critical to ensuring its stability and I urge a rapid resolution of this matter.”

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