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**UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, Mr. Maxwell Gaylard on electricity and fuel in Gaza

22 March 2012

Gaza

United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory Mr. Maxwell Gaylard, speaking from Gaza on Thursday 22 March 2012, expressed deep concern about the worsening effects of the critical shortages of electricity and fuel in Gaza.

Mr. Gaylard said, "These chronic shortages are reaching beyond the rationing of electricity and water for households which has been a feature over the past several years, to a situation where day-to-day life for Gazans is ever more difficult." He added that hospitals and ambulance services are finding it increasingly difficult to function, already fragile water and sanitation systems are failing, and the routine of daily life is increasingly compromised.

Mr. Gaylard welcomed the news of on-going negotiations among concerned parties to resolve the supply problems in both the short and longer term, and encouraged them to identify solutions as soon as possible.

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