

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Israel's measures to ease the blockade of the Gaza Strip

The Secretary-General welcomes the further measures announced by the Government of Israel in increasing the scope and quantity of materials entering the Gaza Strip from Israel. He also notes the agreement to facilitate the immediate start of construction of 12 United Nations education and health facilities. The Secretary-General has long called for a significant shift in strategy towards meeting the great needs of Gaza's population. Further steps must now follow to meet those needs and to allow the United Nations to accelerate and expand its efforts.

The Secretary-General reiterates that the full recovery of Gaza cannot be addressed without a durable solution consistent with Security Council resolution 1860. The United Nations will continue to work towards this aim and will closely follow the implementation of the steps already agreed.

New York, 6 July 2010