

**Statement by Robert H. Serry,
United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
on new Settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territory**

For immediate release

Jerusalem, 21 October 2010

Reports detailing the commencement of hundreds of new Israeli settlement housing units in the occupied Palestinian territory since the 26 September expiry of Israel's moratorium are alarming. Renewed settlement construction, which is illegal under international law, runs contrary to the international community's repeated appeals to the parties to create conditions conducive to negotiations, and will only further undermine trust. We continue to strongly support efforts to create conditions for the resumption of successful negotiations.