

## United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



### PRESS RELEASE

## Italian Government and UNDP/PAPP Sign an Agreement with the Armenian Patriarchate as part of the Emergency Response Programme to Bethlehem Governorate

Jerusalem, July 25th, 2002—The Italian Government will witness the signing ceremony between the Armenian Patriarchate and the United Nations Development Programme/ Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) in Jerusalem, on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The signing ceremony will take place at 10:30 in the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem and will be attended by His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Mr. Ibrahim Mattar, Italian Cooperation and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Special Representative of UNDP/PAPP.

“We value this partnership between the UNDP/PAPP, Italian Government, the Governorate of Bethlehem, and the Palestinian civil society” said Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of the UNDP/PAPP. “After the immense destruction that took place in the occupied Palestinian territory, this grant reflects the Italian Government’s deep commitment to assisting the Palestinian people, especially in these difficult times.”



The ceremony marks the signing of an agreement which is part of a US\$5 million emergency contribution by the Italian Government in support of the Bethlehem residents in light of the crisis. The Italian Grant will support rehabilitation works in the Armenian Quarter of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem. This activity will also provide immediate and short term employment to the residence of the district.

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