



## PRESS RELEASE

### UNDP/PAPP Unveils its Seventh Annual Art Auction with the Theme “Paint for the MDG’s”

**Jerusalem, November 27, 2008** — *Colours of Hope*, is UNDP/PAPP’s seventh annual art auction, reflecting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It featured a collection that covers a diverse group of young male and female artists from across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who participated in a 4-day workshop, in cooperation with Al Mahatta Gallery to produce the paintings on display. The art auction was held on Thursday, November 27, 2008, at 7pm at the Ambassador Hotel; Jerusalem. The night also exhibited the works of Palestinian renowned artists Sulaiman Mansour and Taleb Dweik.

The MDGs are at the heart of UNDP’s work, and this auction was an opportunity to unite art in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the oPt. The paintings were the voices of Palestinian artists, joining reality and fiction, to raise awareness about the MDGs, the challenges faced, and the sense of responsibility towards better life and further development.

“I am particularly pleased that, this evening, it is through art that we are reflecting one of the greatest challenges of our time, one that affects us all and indeed, is owned by us all, namely, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,” said Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, UNDP Special Representative. “The artists remind us that these goals are true and essential for humanity and the global wellbeing of all people.”

For 30 years, UNDP/PAPP has been a leading partner in the development of the Palestinian people. A central pillar of this partnership has been UNDP’s support to the Palestinian people’s vibrant culture. From support to ensembles to artists through auctions and workshops, and the over US\$25 million toward the restoration and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage, UNDP/PAPP has consistently shown its commitment to Palestinian culture. This stems from UNDP/PAPP’s strong belief in the intrinsic relationship between culture and human development.

Since this annual event was initiated in 2002, over one hundred and eighty works of Palestinian art have been sold with the total proceeds of approximately US\$116,000 going directly to the artists themselves.

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*UNDP is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.*