



**SPEECH
FOR THE UNDP/PAPP SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Speaking event:	Seminar on Peace Initiatives
Date and time:	Thursday, 11.12.2008; 09:30 – 15:0
Venue:	"Kimba Events", Platinum Building - 21 Ha'Arbaa Str., Tel Aviv
Participants/audience:	Chairman of ULAI, Adi Eldar Chairman of Int. Rels. Committee of ULAI, Eli Levy Deputy Director General of ULAI Avi Rabinovitch Director General of APLA, Isam Akel Representative of Tuscany region – Francesca Gilli , and Emilia Romagna region - Raffaele Spiga MAP Team leader Erik Boven
Length of speech:	10 minutes
Context of speech:	opening remarks
Draft prepared by:	Communications Unit
Draft cleared by:	Special Representative

**Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today on behalf of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People to share in your deliberations at this seminar on peace initiatives, reaffirm UNDP's continued support, and seize this opportunity to meet so many mayors under one roof.

The UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People is one of the leading development organizations in the occupied Palestinian territory

- Established in **1978** through a General Assembly Resolution
- **Mobilized approximately \$750 million in resources on behalf of the Palestinian people mainly from international donors such as Japan, the United States, Germany, the Islamic Development Bank, and the European Union, as well as millions from UNDP's central financial resources.**
- Currently has over **\$57 million** in ongoing projects active in every part of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a staff of approximately 300
- **Three decades of work are clearly visible** in the hundreds of classrooms, water supply networks and sewage collection systems, hospitals and primary health clinics, environmental protection, rehabilitation, community development, land reclamation as well as building the capacity of the Palestinian Authority.
- **Our central task as a development agency is not just to navigate the dreadful actualities of the present, but to assist in laying the foundations for a better future for generations to come.**



The over-arching goal of UNDP/PAPP is to work with the Palestinian people to fulfill their vision of a peaceful, sustainable, and equitable society, with a focus on two major thematic areas: **poverty reduction** and **democratic governance**

Poverty Reduction

- Human Development and achievement of the MDGs
- Improve essential infrastructure for economic and social development
- Enhance equitable economic development

Democratic Governance

- Enhance efficient and accountable institutions through inclusive participation and responsive governing institutions

This means the enlargement of people's capacities and opportunities to: -

- Develop their individual talents to the fullest level possible.
- Broaden their range of choices in life.
- Participate in the decisions that affect their lives.
- And thus achieve, both as individuals and a society, a quality of life that benefits the dignity of the human being.

UNDP Global

- UNDP is the UN's global network to help people meet their development needs and build a better life.
- We are **on the ground in 166 countries**, working as a trusted partner with Governments, civil society and the private sector to help them build their own solutions to global and national development challenges.
- Practice areas : **Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment and **HIV/AIDS****
- Over US\$5 billion of total income for 2007
- Over 7900 staff member
- Financial resources are voluntarily provided through the donor community

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

- (1) Eradicate poverty and hunger, (2) education, (3) gender equality, (4) reducing child mortality, (5) increasing maternal health, (6) tackling global diseases like HIV/AIDS and Malaria, (7) environmental sustainability, and (8) global partnerships.
- Israel's contribution through Goal number 8 by providing expertise and know how in matters related to Agricultural development



Good Governance

- Sustainable and equitable development can be achieved only within the framework of good governance
- **With decentralization and the strengthening of local governance, we bring the development agenda back to where it matters the most, to people at the grassroots level**
- **A strong local government system is crucial for the alleviation of poverty and the development of sustainable cities, both Palestinian and Israeli.**

The Municipal Alliance for Peace (MAP) MAP is the flagship for peace initiatives

- **Spearheaded by APLA and ULAI, and supported by VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities)**
- **A municipal movement that will bring Palestinian and Israeli municipalities and their citizens closer together.**
- **Joint on the ground initiatives in the field of youth and culture, economic development, municipal management, or even environment**
- **Plays a role in creating a broad-based, proactive movement at the municipal level that will ensure practical local actions and political lobby**

Thank you

- Union of local authorities in Israel – co chair of MAP executive board
- Association of Netherlands Municipalities – Chair of MAP executive board
- Association of Palestinian Local Authorities - co chair of MAP executive board
- Representatives of Municipalities