



**SPEECH  
FOR UNDP/PAPP  
Given by Mr. Shinji Hirose**

<b>Speaking event:</b>	Aman Conference – International Day for Anti Corruption
<b>Date and time:</b>	Tuesday, 16.12.2008; 09:30 – 15:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Civil Society organizations, Judicial Authority
<b>Length of speech:</b>	5 minutes
<b>Context of speech:</b>	opening remarks
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit
<b>Draft cleared by:</b>	<b>Team Leader – Social and Productive Capital</b>

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon

It is indeed a pleasure for me to give these opening remarks on behalf of UNDP's Special Representative in this important conference to exchange views on a problem all countries share – the problem of corruption.

UNDP/PAPP's priorities reflect a specific commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This presents an agenda for poverty reduction, democratic governance and human rights. We believe that democratic governance is a central plank in achieving the MDG's, and corruption poses a major governance and development challenge. The negative impact can be seen in virtually any sector being a main barrier to poverty reduction, a factor that erodes social cohesion and discourages the proper functioning of formal institutional structures.

It is clear that corruption is not confined to developing countries and is certainly not an exclusive public sector phenomenon. Corruption is a problem in both sectors of human and economic endeavors. The impact of corruption on the private sector needs also to be considered as it impedes economic growth, distorts competition, and represents serious legal and reputational risks. With this realization, there is need for Government, the private sector and civil society to join hands to fight this scourge.

The UN Convention Against Corruption introduces a comprehensive set of standards, measures and rules that all states and their constituent parts should apply to strengthen legal and regulatory systems to fight corruption, promote transparency and accountability.

The Convention cannot however be carried by the UN single-handedly nor should it, since responsibility for its implementation lies on the State and its people at large.



Adherence to the UN Convention is relevant in the context of the implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, which is a strong platform for the Palestinians highlighting the PA's determination to putting anti-corruption and transparency at the heart of the national agenda.

The public announcements of revenues and expenses published periodically, detailed reports about the Palestinian treasury, transparency of managing funds and donor coordination databases, are all indispensable steps taken by the PA towards genuine democracy, civic participation and fostering citizens' confidence and trust in public and private institutions.

UNDP/PAPP views the mobilization of the Palestinian civil society as a key element to encourage and support government action, and to bring together other elements of society into dialogue. The issues of integrity and accountability are two of the cornerstones of good governance. The Palestinian civil society has been working towards these goals and promoting the adoption of corresponding procedures within government since the establishment of the PA. With the support of UNDP/PAPP, AMAN has been working extensively in the pursuit of these goals since its establishment in 2002. As a coalition, they have been successful in tapping into the efforts and expertise of civil society throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

The current project UNDP/PAPP is implementing with AMAN aims at promoting compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption by mobilizing stakeholders through collective action to

- support directed research to address gaps, draft legislation to fight corruption
- institutionalize monitoring mechanisms through public control institutions and systems;
- raise public awareness of their role; and
- advocate for effective implementation and enforcement of anti-corruption measures

We believe that it is paramount that the Palestinian people take responsibility for developing the mechanisms and attitudes needed to curb corruption successfully. Your individual and collective efforts to resist and combat corruption in the oPt are probably one of the greatest contributions in creating a safe and secure future for generations to come.

UNDP /PAPP is proud to be your partner in this process

I am also pleased to note that many sectors and key institutions in the fight against corruption are represented here today. Sharing of information, ideas, resources, and expertise is invaluable in the fight against corruption.

On behalf of UNDP/PAPP, allow me to extend my sincere thanks to AMAN for organizing this conference, the distinguished guests, and all officials who are present with us today.

I wish you success in your conference  
Thank you