



**SPEECH**  
**For UNDP/PAPP Special Representative**  
**Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen**

<b>Speaking event:</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony – Job Fair</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	Tuesday, 24.06.2008; 10:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Palestinian Red Crescent Society / Ramallah
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Ministry of labour, Ministry of Economy and Trade Palestinian Federation of Industries Palestine Investment Fund PADECO ILO Sponsors / partners / exhibitors
<b>Length of speech:</b>	5 minutes
<b>Context of speech:</b>	opening remarks
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and thank you for joining us in launching the first National Palestinian Job Fair in the occupied Palestinian territory.

It is a privilege to be a speaker here today. This fair is particularly relevant to PAPP as it exposes job seekers to careers in different sectors. We believe that this fair will definitely have far-reaching, positive effects on the advancement of Palestinian human resources and economic development in the occupied Palestinian territory.



In our focus on the Millennium Development Goals, we are always talking to one another about progress made with regard to water supply, and hunger or about global environmental protection. All too quickly, we can lose sight of the fact that there are other key topics, even if they do not seem to play a prominent role in the eight MDGs, as in this case, jobs. The employment situation is only discussed indirectly. The first MDG calls for the proportion of people living on less than 1 dollar a day to be halved. Yet we should ask ourselves:

- How are we going to achieve this goal, if not by means of more productive employment and the income that thus results?
- How do we want to achieve a more just globalization, if not by ensuring that more people have access to decent work?

Although employment is one of the main issues in the oPt, the figures relating to the employment situation are dramatic:

- The average unemployment rate in the oPt reached **23.2%**, (32.9% in the Gaza Strip and 18.6% in the West Bank, respectively) in 2007. In many places, people cannot actually "**afford**" to be unemployed. They try, often by means of unproductive work and often under inhuman conditions, to earn the bare minimum that is needed to feed their families.

It is not enough to rely on economic growth, which should in itself lead to a better working environment. Developments must also be steered towards interventions in **social policy**, otherwise people will remain in the poverty trap. **Sensible employment oriented strategies** are needed in order to create more and better jobs for the long term.



You may not realize that today can be a positive turning point in the path of life of many Palestinian job seekers. We are demanding more from our employees; including resourcefulness, innovation, and self-direction, while expecting them to be able to react positively to almost continuous change. This job fair is one component of our ongoing efforts to ensure that the Palestinian workforce develops to be one of the best in the region.

We are proud to be part of this National job fair 2008, which is the largest career fair in the oPt and we expect it to develop to be an annual event meeting Palestinian employment needs.

All development and progress builds on **hope, vision, and pursuit of goals**. This Job Fair is no exception. It gives companies the opportunity to compete for the best and brightest human talent who will be the building blocks for future growth.

With more than 30 exhibitors from different sectors, offering a myriad of career options, the job fair is the platform for companies and working professionals to create awareness of their respective industries and professions.

More than 20 sessions will be conducted over the two-day period for those interested in gathering in depth information on careers, prospects and acquiring soft skills from professionals.

**This job fair is a place of opportunities.**

In conclusion, I want to thank the Ministries of labour, economy and trade, and PFI for hosting this fair with a pursuit to equip our youth with quality instruments to prepare them for



the future. Without the cooperation of our valued partners, sponsors, and exhibitors, it would not have materialized.

**You are the main players in this event.**

Thank you for having chosen to come and spend the time at the fair.

Enjoy visiting the booths.