



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

<b>Speaking event:</b>	<b>Signing Ceremony – Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	Saturday, 04.10.2008; 11:30 – 14:30 (Ramallah time)
<b>Venue:</b>	President's Office, Ramallah
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Riad Al Malki Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Representative of the People's Republic of China in the oPt, H.E. Yang Weiguo
<b>Length of speech:</b>	2 minutes
<b>Context of speech:</b>	Opening remarks
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit
<b>Draft cleared by:</b>	Special Representative of the Administrator

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is my great pleasure to join this signing ceremony and laying the corner stone of the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs new office building. I would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, as well as my colleagues at UNDP, for their hard work in making this significant event a reality.

Global economic integration and international cooperation constitute core pillars supporting economic growth and political stability in the oPt. Internal security and consolidating peace efforts also rely heavily on successful international relations. Clearly, the development of the oPt will not occur in isolation, especially during this rapidly changing era of globalization, either in politics, economics, peace building, trade or investment. Therefore, UNDP/PAPP – alongside partners represented here

today - stresses the considerable responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in all development efforts.

With this new facility, we are taking an important step towards ensuring that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can reach its full potential. Internally, it will offer an appropriate environment to provide services beneficial to foreign delegates and guests as well as bring together the expertise of different national players to facilitate the formulation of coherent policies. Externally, it will make space available for the staff of the MFA to implement the Palestinian Authorities' international diplomacy and foreign policy.

The building will accommodate approximately 400 Officials for daily office functions, meetings, and conference facilities, waiting areas for diplomats and other visitors, and will obviate the cost to the Palestinian Authority arising from office rental, as is the case now.

In closing, we see this project as another example of the continued cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and UNDP. With this grant, we are also marking UNDP/PAPP's first partnership with the People's Republic of China in the occupied Palestinian territory. We wish to extend a note of gratitude for their financial and technical contribution – and trust in UNDP. This project represents a building block of support and solidarity of the People's Republic of China towards the Palestinian People.

I now look forward to being one of the first visitors to the newly functioning Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thank you.