Press Release, 25 February 2016

"Italian Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority sign MOU"

On Tuesday 23 February 2016 the Italian Minister of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Mr Gian Luca Galletti, and his Palestinian counterpart, the Chairman of the Environment Quality Authority, Ms. Adalah Atteireh, signed in Bethlehem a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development.

This is the first time an environmental agreement is signed between Italy and Palestine. The agreement calls for partnerships, exchange of missions and information as well as technical assistance. The areas of cooperation will be the collection and disposal of waste, the emergency response to environmental disasters, governance in environment-related fields and activities for awareness and education in the field of sustainable development. The Agreement paves the way for joint programs in environmental management. A technical mission to Palestine for the implementation of concrete initiatives will follow shortly.

A Steering Committee will be in charge of following up on the realization of the agreement and will promote partnerships between scientific and academic institutions as well as among civil society organizations.

"*The signing of this Agreement is a demonstration of Italy's long-standing commitment to strengthening Palestinian institutions*", said during the ceremony Mr. Galletti , who was accompanied by the Consul General of Italy Mr. Davide La Cecilia. "*This is part of a wide-range of activities carried out thanks to the fruitful collaboration between the two governments. Today we added to it an environmental dimension that is highly relevant for the Palestinian people*", the Minister noted.