Palestine and Sweden Sign a Joint Cooperation Program on Environmental Protection

Jerusalem-Ramallah, Following continuous efforts and mutual consultations over the past two years, the State of Palestine and the Kingdom of Sweden recently signed a joint agreement through which a comprehensive environmental protection program in Palestine will be supported by Sweden. The program agreements were signed by her Excellency Eng. Adalah Atteereh, the chairman of the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) in Palestine, and Ms. Jessica Olausson, the Consul General of Sweden in East Jerusalem.

The program which is supported by the Swedish government through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), is part of Sida's support to the environmental sector in Palestine through both governmental and non-governmental channels. Sweden is a key supporter to environmental issues in Palestine and environment constitutes one of three pillars forming the Swedish strategy for developmental cooperation with Palestine (2015-2019).

The aim of the program is to empower EQA's strategic action plan through supporting various components of its activities including; environmental legislations, climate change, hazardous waste management, environmental inspection and monitoring, conservation of natural resources, environmental information and media, and international environmental agreements. It is composed of about twenty outcomes that are designed to assist in achieving four main objectives; Improved environmental governance, Improved capacity to manage environmental pollution, Improved capacity for natural resource protection, and Improved public awareness and flow of information.

EQA will implement the joint program with the cooperation and support of various partner institutions involved in environmental protection. A project agreement under this cooperation program was also signed with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency which include in its work plan activities related to classification and tracking systems for hazardous materials and wastes, cross-border movement of hazardous wastes, climate change mitigation measurement, reporting, and verification systems, and dissemination of environmental information.

The program period is expected to extend about 36 months ending in December 2021 with a total budget of about three million USD. The direct implementation of the program will be carried out by EQA through the general directorate of Projects and International Relations.

Environment Quality Authority and Italian Ministry of Environment Signed Project titled " the revision and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Palestine and related Action Plan and Preparing the sixth national report on biological diversity"

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Environment Quality Authority of Palestine and the Italian Ministry for Environment on February 23rd , 2016 in Bethlehem, the two parties endorsed the final document on the Technical assistance for the revision and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Palestine and related Action Plan and Preparing the sixth national report on biological diversity.

The main objective of the proposed project is to respond to the overall goals of both the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). State of Palestine is Party in those conventions since 2015, 2016 respectively. The project implementation period will be 24 months.