LAC

SECRETARIAT

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LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

Shared Calendar of Events

Please click on link to see a full calendar of aid coordination meetings:

http://www.ldf.ps/EventCalendarEndUser.aspx

List of Recent Meetings

- **Tuesday, 19 April 2016:** Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting in Brussels.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 11 May 2016:** Water Sector Working Group meeting at 9:00 at PWA in Ramallah.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 April 2016**
  - Chair's Summary of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27531
  - Government of Palestine's Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting,19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27508
  - IMF West Bank and Gaza Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27502
  - Office of the Quartet (OQ) Report for the Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27512
  - Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Report for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27513
  - Executive Summary – Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Report for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27519

- World Bank Economic Monitoring Report for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 19 April 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27526

❖ **Minutes – Fiscal Sector Working Group Meeting, 30 March 2016**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27551

- IMF – Main Findings of Report to the AHLC, 30 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27552

- MoFP – Fiscal Operation & Forcast, 30 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27553

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - OCHA Flash Update – Ban on the import of cement into Gaza for the private sector results in scarcity and price increases, 28 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27554
  - Protection of Civilians, 19 – 25 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27555
  - Protection of Civilians, 12 – 18 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27537

- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 10 – 14 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27528

- **UNICEF**
  - Humanitarian Situation Report, 19 April 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27530

Press Releases and Formal Statement

UN

UN Secretary – General's remarks to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 18 April 2016

In just a few days, the Jewish people will celebrate one of Judaism's most important holidays — Passover. I extend my best wishes to my Jewish friends and colleagues for a happy and peaceful holiday.

Allow me to begin with my visit to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia three weeks ago with the President of the World Bank, Dr. Jim Yong Kim.

Our trip sought to highlight the need to increase development assistance through innovative financing mechanisms for countries like Lebanon and Jordan that are disproportionately impacted by the conflict in Syria.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27529

UN Report Warns Current Negative Trends on the Ground are Imperiling the Viability of a Two-State Solution, 14 April 2016

Thursday 14 April, Jerusalem – The viability of a two-state solution is in danger due to the negative trends on the ground, including recent violence, ongoing settlement activity, demolitions, incitement, and the absence of Palestinian unity, according to the latest report issued by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO). The report will be presented to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) at the bi-annual meeting in Brussels on April 19, 2016.

The report notes that since the last meeting of the AHLC in New York on September 30, 2015, the international community, led by the Middle East Quartet, has continued its efforts to establish an environment conducive to a return to meaningful negotiations to end the occupation and resolve the conflict.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27518

World Bank

Palestinian Authority Incurs US$285 Million in Annual Fiscal Losses, 18 April 2016

Jerusalem April 18, 2015 – A new World Bank report estimates that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is losing US$285 million in revenues annually under the current economic arrangements with the Government of Israel. The report states that these revenues can significantly ease the Authority's fiscal stress.

"If revenue losses are mitigated, this can reduce the 2016 fiscal deficit to below US$1 billion, and narrow the expected financing gap by more than 50 percent" said Steen Lau Jorgensen, World Bank Country Director for West Bank and Gaza.

The revenue sharing arrangements, outlined by the Paris Protocol, through which the Government of Israel collects VAT, import taxes and other revenues on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, and shares them on a monthly basis, have not been systematically implemented.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27527

UNRWA

The Real Madrid Foundation Travels to the occupied Palestinian territory to Strengthen Its Social Sports Schools in the Area Together with UNRWA, 22 April 2016

The Real Madrid Foundation and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continue with their project, 'Social Sports Schools in the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza and West Bank)'.

Under this project, which both organizations have developed together since 2011, the Real Madrid Foundation renews its commitment to the Palestine refugee children attending UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27538

UNRWA Commissioner-General Concludes Visit to Switzerland, 15 April 20416

Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, has completed a two day visit to Switzerland during which he held talks with senior officials of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and briefed the External Affairs Committee of the Upper House of the Swiss Parliament on the work of UNRWA in an increasingly volatile Middle East.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27522

UNESCO

The message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, 21 April 2016

Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Your Right!

Access to Information is a fundamental freedom and part of the basic human right to freedom of expression. Receiving and imparting information, both offline and online, is a cornerstone of democracy, good governance, and rule of law.

Last year, the world agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to guide all efforts over the new fifteen years, to end poverty, to protect the planet, and to ensure prosperity and lasting peace for all. The new Sustainable Development Goals include a target on public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms -- two interrelated objectives that are key accelerators of progress across all of the new agenda.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27536

EU

The European Union, Austria, Ireland and Portugal provide over €12 million to support families living in poverty in the West Bank and Gaza, 15 April 2016

The European Union is making its first contribution in 2016 to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) quarterly payment of social allowances. Around 119,000 poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza will receive financial payments through the PA's cash transfer programme. This contribution, amounts to around €12.2 million and is funded by the European Union (€10 million) and the Governments of Austria (€1.5 million), Ireland (€0.7 million) and Portugal (€0.025 million).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27523

Local EU statement on construction work on the separation barrier at Cremisan, 15 April 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah are deeply concerned at the relaunch of works for the construction of the separation barrier in the Cremisan valley. Once built, the barrier will severely restrict access of almost 60 Palestinian families to their agricultural land and profoundly affect their livelihoods.

EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, such as building the separation barrier beyond the 1967 line, demolitions and confiscation - including of EU funded projects - evictions, forced transfers including of Bedouins, illegal outposts, settler violence and restrictions of movement and access, as most recently stated in the Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 January 2016.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27520

UK

UK celebrates Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday in Ramallah, 15 April 2016

British Consul-General in Jerusalem, Dr Alastair McPhail, welcomed Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah for a celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday in Ramallah yesterday.

At a reception to mark the occasion, Dr McPhail reiterated the UK's commitment to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and to supporting vulnerable Palestinians affected by the occupation.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27524 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27525 (in Arabic)

Consulate General of France

Statement by Mr. François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations – Security Council, 18 April 2016

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and for his commitment. The Oslo Accords, signed in 1994, at a time of great hope, made the establishment of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel the key to the resolution of that historic conflict. Nevertheless, let us be frank. More than 20 years after those agreements, the creation of a Palestinian State has never been as remote. The daily progression of Israeli settlement activity, which parcels up Palestinian territory so as to reduce it to a small portion, calls into question the viability of a future State.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27535

The statement by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development condemning recent settlement activity in the West Bank, 15 April 2016

France condemns the Israeli authorities' decision to approve expansion plans for various settlements in the West bank.

Coming in addition to other construction and land appropriation announcements made since the beginning of 2016 to the benefit of Israeli settlements, this decision sends another negative signal. All this fuels tension and directly threatens the Two-state solution on the ground. Israeli authorities must support this solution not only in words but in deeds.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27521

PCBS

PCBS press release on the occasion of May 1st – International Workers Day, 28 April 2016

Ms. Ola Awad, President of PCBS, presents the current status of Palestinian labour force during 2015.

Participation of men in the labour force is about four times higher than the participation of women. The participation rate in the labour force of persons aged 15 years and above in Palestine was 46% distributed as 72% for males and 19% for females. On the level of the West Bank, the participation rate was 46%; 73% for males compared to 19% for females. Regarding Gaza Strip, about 45% of persons participated in the labour force; 70% for males and 20% for females.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27548 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27549 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Producer Price Index during March, 27 April 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 98.34 in March 2016, as it decreased by 0.92% compared to February 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 98.21 in March 2016, which indicates a decrease by 1.00% compared to February 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27546 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27547 (in Arabic)

Construction Cost Index (CCI), Road Cost Index (RCI), Water Networks Cost Index (WNCI) and Sewage Networks Cost Index (SNCI) in the West Bank during March, 26 April 2016.

Increase in the Construction Cost Index for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 100.88 with an increase of 1.66% in the West Bank* during March compared with February 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27544 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27545 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of February, 25 April 2016

Exports increased in February, 2016 by 10.8% compared to January, 2016. It also increased by 1.5% compared to February, 2015 and reached USD 69.0 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in February, 2016 by 11.6% compared to January, 2016 and represented 88.6% of total exports in February, 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27541 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27542 (in Arabic)

Press Release on Hotel Activities Survey in the West Bank during 2015, 24 April 2016

During 2015, 484,394 guests stayed in hotels in the West Bank: 30% were from European Union countries and 11% were Palestinian, 9% were from the United States and Canada.

The number of hotel guests was 21% lower than in the previous year.

During 2015 the number of guest nights in the West Bank hotels reached 1,420,264, of which 34% were from European Union countries, 12% were Palestinians, and 10% were from the United States and Canada.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27539 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27540 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Wholesale Price Index, during the First Quarter of 2016, 20 April 2016

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 123.84 in the First quarter 2016, which indicates a decrease by 0.91% compared with the Fourth quarter 2015.

WPI for local products (2007=100) reached 124.97 in the First quarter 2016, which indicates a sharp decrease by 1.44% compared with the Fourth quarter 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27532 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27533 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of a Project for Improving the Lavatory Facilities in 3 Schools in Hebron, funded by Japan, 28 April 2016

Today, April 28, 2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Halhul city in Hebron Governorate to celebrate the completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant of US $101,751 extended to PHG (Palestinian Hydrology Group) was utilized for the construction of the lavatory facilities at two schools, Al Huda Girls' School in Yatta and Al Sakhra Mixed School in Halhul, in addition to the construction of a 100 cubic meter cistern in Al-Ameer Qais Girls' School in Tarqumiya.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27556 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27557 (in Arabic)

Job Vacancies

- **Representative Office of Switzerland in Ramallah is recruiting a Personal Assistant to the Head of Mission and to the Deputy Head of Mission.**
  For further details, please see attachment.

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, April 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27534

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, April 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27550