LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	1
Shared Calendar of Events	2
List of Recent Meetings	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	1
New Arrivals	1

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
Tel: 02- 297-6330/1/2/4

Fax: 02-297-6335

Email: secretariat@lacs.ps

Website: www.ldf.ps

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

- **Wednesday, 22 February 2017**: Education Sector Working Group meeting at 12:30 at the main meeting hall of the MoEHE

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Environment Sector Working Group Meeting, 16 December 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30146
  - Environment Sector Working Group Cross-Sectoral Environmental Strategy 2017-2022 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30261
  - State of Palestine NDC, 16 December 2016 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30262

- **Municipal Development and Local Governance Meeting, 14 December 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30260

Documents & Reports

Prime Minister's Office

- PA National Policy Agenda 2017 – 2022, 22 February 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30271 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30272 (in Arabic)

PCP

- Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy, February 2017
  http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2017/pcp%20gender%20strategy%20en.pdf?vs=3832 (in English)
  http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2017/pcp%20gender%20str ategy_ar.pdf?vs=4341 (in Arabic)

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 7 – 20 February 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30277
  - Gaza Crossings' Operations Status – January 2017, 15 February 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30265
  - The Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin, January 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30275

- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 19 –23 February 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30291

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov's Remarks at Launch of the Palestine National Policy Agenda 2017 – 2022, 22 February 2017

They say that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step. Palestine took its first steps to independence and statehood a very long time ago and you have traveled many, many miles on the journey to achieve your legitimate national aspirations of statehood.

It's been a road that has been very thorny and difficult, a road marred by occupation, by crisis, by conflict. Sometimes we in the international community have helped you, but sometimes maybe not.

The full remarks are available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30284

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 16 February 2017

On the night of 8 February, ISIS and its affiliates in the Sinai launched a series of rockets towards the Israeli coastal resort of Eilat. Thankfully, no one was killed or injured in the attack. I unequivocally condemn this act as well as those who inspired, implemented and celebrated it.

I recall this incident because it is a chilling reminder of the need for states to work together and stand firm against terror.

The Middle East continues to be plagued by extremism, bloodshed and displacement that feeds intolerance, violence, and religious radicalism far beyond the region.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30264

UNRWA

Japan Contributes US$ 28.4 Million to UNRWA in Support of Palestine Refugees, 24 February 2017

The Government of Japan has contributed US$ 28.4 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's core programmes, emergency response efforts and priority projects.

Of the total contribution, US$ 17.7 million will go towards the Agency's core programmes and services, encompassing education for half a million Palestine refugee children and youth, health care for more than 3.5 million patients, and social services for nearly 300,000 vulnerable refugees.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30285

UNRWA official statement by Christopher Gunness, UNRWA Spokesperson, on Gaza Neutrality Issue, 24 February 2017

Allegations have been circulating in conventional and social media networks about an UNRWA staff member being elected to political office in Gaza.

As soon as the allegations came to UNRWA's attention, the Agency undertook a preliminary investigation, including discussing the allegations with the staff member. Based on the due diligence carried out by the Agency to date, UNRWA has neither uncovered nor received evidence to contradict the staff member's denial that he was elected to political office.

Sohail Al-Hindi has rejected the news about his name appearing amongst the winning list of the Hamas political bureau in Gaza, saying: "I have no relation whatsoever with the issue".

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30276

OCHA – UNRWA

UN officials visit Palestinian community under transfer threat – call on Israel to respect international law, 22 February 2017

Today, the Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory, Robert Piper, and Director of UNRWA Operations in the West Bank, Scott Anderson, visited the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al Ahmar in Area C, in the immediate outskirts of East Jerusalem.

"Khan al Ahmar is one of the most vulnerable communities in the West Bank, struggling to maintain a minimum standard of living in the face of intense pressure from the Israeli authorities to move to a planned relocation site," said Mr. Piper. "This is unacceptable and it must stop."

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30274

UNESCO

TVET and Pre-School Education identified as high priority areas at the Education Sector Working Group, 22 February 2017

Ramallah – On 22 February 2017 the first Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) of the year took place at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE). The ESWG is a national platform

on education, chaired by the MoEHE, and co-chaired by Finland, with UNESCO as the technical advisor. The Working Group brings together the main international and national education stakeholders in Palestine to discuss developments and challenges in the education sector in Palestine. It is also the first ESWG with Finland as the co-chair, a position which was previously filled by Belgium and handed over during the last ESWG as part of the bi-annual rotation among the Joint Financing Partners (JFP's).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30280 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30281 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Civil Police (PCP), UN Women and EUPOL COPPS

Palestinian police launch its gender strategy, 23 February 2017

Ramallah, 23 February 2017 – Major General Hazem Atallah, Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police, launched today the Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy. The 5-year strategy – first of its kind in the Arab States and in the Palestinian security sector – is a culmination of the past years' efforts of the Palestinian police to promote gender equality in the police and in its services to the society. Developed with the participation of the PCP related departments and national stakeholders, under the supervision of the project's steering committee, and in coordination with UN Women – under the UNDP/UN Women Sawasya Programme, and with technical support from EUPOL COPPS, the comprehensive and innovative action framework proposes a clear and budgeted work plan to tackle recruitment and retention policies, design of facilities, training, and enhanced cooperation to promote more women in the police career.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30282 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30283 (in Arabic)

World Bank

Municipalities in Jordan and Turkey look to Palestinian example of waste disposal, 22 February 2017

It is 9:30 pm on Tuesday 25 October, 2016. A bus stops in front of a hotel in Jerusalem. Mayors from the Jordanian municipalities of Mafraq, Sarhan, Hosha, and Rabiet Al-Kura step off it, along with 17 of their peers. They are under some pressure because, at the end of their two-day visit, they have to leave by 8pm, when the bridge at the Jordanian-Israel border closes. Most of them are coming to Palestine for the first time, and are to be joined by four Turkish officials who share the same interests and concerns.

Since the Syrian crisis began almost six years ago, these 25 Jordanian and Turkish mayors have faced a similar challenge: how to manage the impact of Syrian refugees on their municipalities? In host municipalities, population increase has had a huge impact on infrastructure and the delivery of public services.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/02/22/municipalities-in-jordan-and-turkey-look-to-palestinian-example-of-waste-disposal (in English)

http://www.albankaldawli.org/ar/news/feature/2017/02/22/municipalities-in-jordan-and-turkey-look-to-palestinian-example-of-waste-disposal (in Arabic)

EU

EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah visit Palestinian community in Area C facing threat of demolition, 28 February 2017

The EU Heads of Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited Khan al Ahmar, adjacent to East Jerusalem, composed of five Bedouin communities. The EU Heads of Missions met with community leaders and humanitarian organisations that deliver aid to the community.

Two weeks ago, Israeli officials served almost all structures in one of the communities in Khan al Ahmar (Abu al Helu) with military "stop work" orders. This underscores the threat of demolition and displacement of the community. Abu al Helu is home to 140 Palestinian refugees who have been living in the community since the 1950s.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30290

EU local statement on Israeli demolitions of Palestinian structures in Area C, 22 February 2017

The European Union Representative and the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah deplore the continuing demolitions of Palestinian structures in Area C in 2017 and the stop work orders, increasing the threat of demolition, on Palestinian structures in Khan al-Ahmar, location of a school which serves five local communities, issued by Israel in the occupied West Bank on 19 February.

So far in 2017, 218 Palestinians have been displaced due to demolitions, confiscations and evictions of 135 structures in Area C only.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30270

The EU and Swiss Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentences issued in Gaza, 21 February 2017

The European Union Representative, the EU Heads of Mission and the Head of Mission of Switzerland in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the seven death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip on 19th February.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU and Switzerland consider that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the protection of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30269

European Parliament

Recognize Palestine to preserve the two-state solution, says European Parliament Delegation, 23 February 2017

The viability of the two-state solution is at a critical juncture and the EU and its Member States must recognize Palestine as a state to protect and preserve it.

"The EU and the European Parliament are strongly in favour of a two-state solution as the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East. There cannot be a two-state solution without two states. The EU and its Member States must recognize Palestine as a state. We as the European Parliament have done our part," Neoklis Sylikiotis, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Palestine, urged at the end of a fact-finding mission of the Delegation to Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30279

European Parliament Delegation denied access to Gaza in its tenth year of blockade, 22 February 2017

22-2-2017: the Israeli authorities have once again refused access to Gaza to the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Palestine. The explanation given by the Israeli authorities is that entry is permitted only for professionals performing a humanitarian role or diplomats accredited to Israel or the Palestinian Authority.

The official Delegation started its work on the ground on Monday and was set to visit Gaza today to assess the destruction caused in the 2014 conflict and the reconstruction efforts, as well as a number of important projects funded by the European Union.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30273

Delegation for relations with Palestine, 20 - 24 February 2017

16-02-2017: a cross-party delegation of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine will be in Palestine from 20 to 24 February 2016. The Delegation will be based in Jerusalem and will meet with President Abbas and other high-level Palestinian Authority officials as well as civil society, students and peace activists in a visit marking the 50 years of occupation.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30263

Consulate General of Italy

Launching of the First Joint Business Forum Italy-Palestine, 19-21 February 2017

The first Italian-Palestinian Joint Business Forum (JBF) was launched in Ramallah on February 19th 2017, signed by Marco Gay, President of Young Entrepreneurs of Confindustria and Samir Zraiq, President of the Palestinian Federation of Business Associations. The Palestinian Minister of National Economy, H.E. Abeer Odeh, the Consul General of Italy Fabio Sokolowicz and the President of Bank of Palestine Hashim Shawa (co-chairman of the Forum together with Marco Gay) attended the ceremony.

The JBF aims at creating a business forum that encourages the increase of trade and investment flows between Italy and Palestine, promoting business missions as well as joint ventures and exchange of information on business opportunities.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30266

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) & Ministry of Health (MoH)

Preliminary Results of Palestinian Health Accounts in Palestine for 2015, 16 February 2017

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in partnership with the Ministry of Health, presents the annual Palestinian Health Accounts report for 2015.

The preliminary results showed an increase in the total current expenditure on health to attain USD 1,321.3 millions in 2015 compared to USD 1,234.2 in 2014.

The percentage of total health expenditure to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices for Palestine increased from 10.7% in 2015 to 9.8% in 2014.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30256 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30257 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index – January 2017, 28 February 2017

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 99.05 in January 2017, as it decreased by 3.95% compared to December 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 98.38 in January 2017, which indicates a decrease by 4.66% compared to December 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30288 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30289 (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 January 2017, 26 February 2017

Increase in the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings reached 103.29 with an increase of 0.27% in the West Bank* during January 2017 compared with December 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30286 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30287 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of December 2016, 21 February 2017

Exports decreased in December, 2016 by 6% compared to November, 2016. While it increased by 9% compared to December, 2015 and reached around USD 85 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in December, 2016 by 1% compared to November, 2016 and represented 89% of total exports in December, 2016

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30267 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30268 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on the Results of the Labour Force Survey in Palestine 2016, 16 February 2017

The labour force participation rate of individuals aged 15 years and above was 45.8%

The number of individuals participating in the labour force in Palestine was 1,341,000 in 2016; 844,600 in the West Bank and 496,400 in Gaza Strip.

The labour force participation rate in the West Bank was 45.6% and 46.1% in Gaza Strip, the gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine still very big where it reached 71.6% for males compared with 19.3% for females.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30258 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30259 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 1 March 2017**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_126/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_126/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, February 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30278

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Petr Starý** has joined the Representative Office of Czech Republic as Head. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: petr_stary@mzv.cz ,phone: 02-2965595

- **Ms. Sheri Ritsema-Anderson** has joined OCHA as Deputy Head of Office. Her contact details are as follows: Email: ritsema@un.org ,phone: 02-5829962

- **Ms. Minhee Noh** has joined OCHA as Humanitarian Coordination Officer. Her contact details are as follows: Email: Noh@un.org , phone: 02-5829962

- **Mr. Yasuto Takeuchi** has joined JICA as Project Formulation Advisor. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Takeuchi.Yasuto@jica.go.jp ,phone: 03-6958291

- **Mr. Tomas Precht** has joined EUREP as Political Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: tomas.precht@eeas.europa.eu ;phone: 02-5415888

- **Mr. Peter Mossop** has joined EUREP as Political Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: peter.mossop@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415888

- **Ms. Mona Ishaq** has joined EUREP as Programme Manager – Governance and Democracy. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: mona.ishaq@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415829

- **Mr. Patrick Jacobs** has joined the Representative Office of South Africa as Counsellor: Political. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: jacobsp@dirco.gov.za ,phone: 02-2987355

- **Mr. Victor Mokgatle** has joined Representative Office of South Africa as Counsellor: Political. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: mokgatlev@dirco.gov.za ,phone: 02-2987355

- **Ms. Sara Badiei** has joined the World Bank as Energy Specialist. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: sbadiei@worldbank.org ,phone: 02-2366557

- **Mr. Grégoire Bonhomme** has joined the Consulate General of France as Humanitarian, Social & Development Cooperation. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: gregoire.bonhomme@diplomatie.gouv.fr ,phone: 02-5914007

- **Mr. Eberhard Frey** has joined GIZ as Head of Programme – Water and Solid Waste Management Programme. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: eberhard.frey@giz.de ,phone: 02-2408871

- **Mr. Kristof Krahl** has joined GIZ as Head of Programme – Sport for Development Programme. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: kristof.krahl@giz.de ,phone: 02-2417088

- **Ms. Maria Ardaji** has joined the Consulate General of Sweden as Program Manager – Civil Society and Gender. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: maria.ardaji@gov.se ,phone: 02-6465879

- **Mr. Pierre Paya** has joined AFD as Project Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: payap@afd.fr ,phone: 02-5400423

- **Ms. Sarah Pilgrim** has joined AFD as Project Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: pilgrims@afd.fr ,phone: 02-5400423