LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	1
	0
Shared Calendar of Events	2
List of Recent Meetings	2
Aid Coordination Meetings	2
Documents & Reports	3
Newsletters	1
	0
Job Vacancies	1
	0
New Arrivals	1
	0

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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

- **Monday, 19 March 2018:** Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) in Brussels.
- **Tuesday, 20 March 2018:** Environment Sector Working Group Meeting at 10:00 at the EQA in Al-Bireh.

Aid Coordination Meetings

- **Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th April 2018**: Education Annual Sector Review at 9:15 at the MoEHE.

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

❖ **Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) Meeting in Brussels, 19 March 2018**

- Chair's Summary of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting held in Brussels on 20 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34166
- The Government of Palestine Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34156
- World Bank Economic Monitoring Report for the meeting of the Ad HoC Liaison Committee, 19 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34153
- Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) Report for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 20 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34160
- Office of the Quartet Report for the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34159

❖ **Education Sector Working Group Meeting, 21 February 2018**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34165

- MoEHE: EiE Operational Plan for Contingency Strategy, 21 February 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34182
- UNRWA updates on Education Program, 21 February 2018

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34183

- MoEHE: The First Education Law in Palestine, 21 February 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34184
- MoEHE: Update on Gaza Plans, 21 February 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34185
- MoEHE: Proposed Thematic Working Groups, 21 February 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34186

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ OCHA

- Gaza crossings' operations status – February 2018, 16 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34162
- Protection of Civilians, 27 February – 12 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34157

❖ UNFPA

- Gender-based violence in Gaza Strip, 20 March 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34170

World Bank

- World Bank final update on the stocktaking exercise that had assessed the (2014-2017) disbursement progress of funding pledges made at the Cairo Conference on Palestine – Reconstructing Gaza, 21 March 2018
  http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/rebuilding-gaza-donor-pledges
- Video on "Securing Energy for Development in Gaza", 15 March 2018

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2018/03/15/how-to-get-more-energy-in-gaza
(in English)
http://www.albankaldawli.org/ar/news/video/2018/03/15/how-to-get-more-energy-in-gaza
(in Arabic)

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

The Briefing to the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East – Report on UNSCR 2334, 26 March 2018

Mr. President,
Members of the Security Council,
On behalf of the Secretary-General, I devote my regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East today to presenting the fifth report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 that covers the period from 18 December last year to 25 March this year. I will focus on the developments on the ground in accordance with the provisions of the resolution, including on the regional and international efforts to advance the peace process.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34189

UN Report: The crisis in Gaza requires a changed political reality and renewed commitment by the parties to avoid a total systems collapse, 16 March 2018

Friday, 16 March 2018, Jerusalem – The absence of a political process aimed at ending the conflict on the basis of two-state solution continues to be the single largest impediment to Palestinian development, according to a new report by the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO). This prolonged period of conflict management, of transition without end, some 25 years after the beginning of the Oslo process, will not lead to a solution that meets the needs and aspirations of Palestinians and Israelis.
The report will be presented to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) at the bi-annual meeting in Brussels on March 20, 2018. The report notes that Gaza continues to present the greatest risk of escalation alongside an acute humanitarian crisis with the potential for a complete breakdown in service delivery.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34161

UNICEF

2017 Arab Idol Winner Yacoub Shaheen and UNICEF run for children at the Palestine Marathon, 23 March 2018

The singer and 13 children coming from marginalized communities across Palestine performed a new song before joining the race in support of children's rights.

BETHLEHEM, State of Palestine, 23 March 2018 – 2017 Arab Idol Winner Yacoub Shaheen and children and adolescents coming from across the State of Palestine joined forces today to give the sixth international Palestine Marathon a rousing send off.

The children, who had travelled from different communities of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, sang the new song 'Dreams alone are not enough' together with Shaheen on the stage of Manger Square in Bethlehem minutes before the Marathon started. Shaheen, who grew up in the city, came to show support to children's rights and promote healthy lifestyles.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34175

European Commission

EU marks the World Water Day with children in Gaza, 26 March 2018

The EU marked World Water Day this year in Gaza with over 500 Palestinian students. This activity comes only few days after the EU organized the Gaza water desalination plant pledging conference. During the conference, the EU and the international community pledged €456 million for the plant that will provide Gazans with safe and clean drinking water.

The EU in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education organized an open day at Al-Buraq School in Gaza to celebrate the day.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34188

Hope for Gaza: EU creates broad international coalition to provide drinking water to 2 million people in Gaza, 20 March 2018

Success of pledging conference marks the start of the biggest ever infrastructure project in the Gaza Strip

Today, the EU hosted a pledging conference on the Gaza Central Desalination Plant & Associated Works Project in Brussels. The conference, co-chaired by the EU and the Palestinian Authority, mobilised financial support of €456 million to this biggest ever infrastructure project in the Gaza strip, which will provide a minimum of 55 million m3 of safe and clean drinking water per year to the people in dire need.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34169

EU supports the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with €82 million, 15 March 2018

Today the European Union has made available €82 million for the 2018 operating budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

This funding will provide access to education for 500,000 children, primary health care for more than 3.5 million patients and assistance to over 250,000 vulnerable refugees.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34155

Office of the Quartet

Speech by Dr. John Clarke, Head of the Office of the Quartet at "Gaza Central Desalination Plant & Associated Works Pledging Conference", 20 March 2018

As previous speakers have already noted; the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate; with electricity restricted to 4-6 hours a day, and 90 percent of water available remaining un-potable.

The Gaza Desalination Programme represents an essential component in addressing this crisis and offers a solution for the necessary supply and transmission of potable water. It is also a means of addressing financial viability relevant to wastewater treatment through its Non-Revenue Water component.

While we are all familiar with the challenges of working in the water sector in the Gaza Strip, the past year has seen four particularly important developments which offer greater confidence in the water sector as a whole and in the Desalination Programme in particular.

The full speech is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34180

Speech by Dr. John Clarke, Head of Office of the Quartet at Ad Hoc Liaison Committee Plenary Meeting, 20 March 2018

Let me start by echoing the point raised by previous presenters, but which bears repeating – that Palestinians will only be able to achieve their full potential with the realisation of a final status agreement. In the absence of such an agreement, however, realising progress on the ground now will benefit Palestinians and can support, but never supplant a final status agreement. So while pushing as hard as we can for change on the ground, we must recognise the limits of this agenda.

The full speech is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34181

Italian Agency for Development – UNRWA

Italy Contributes EUR 2 Million to Support UNRWA Vocational Training, Job Creation and Graduate Training Programmes in the Gaza Strip and Gender Equity within UNRWA Schools in the West Bank, 22 March 2018

The Consul General of Italy to Jerusalem, Mr. Fabio Sokolowicz, and the Director of External Relations and Communications of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ms. Francoise Vanni, along with Ms. Cristina Natoli, Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Office in Jerusalem, signed on 20 March 2018 a general agreement for an Italian contribution in support of UNRWA Vocational Training, Job Creation and Graduate Training Programmes, as well as gender equity within UNRWA schools in the West Bank

in the total amount of EUR 2 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34174

PCBS

PCBS press release on the eve of the Forty Two annual commemoration of Land Day, 30 March 2018

Israeli occupation laid hand over more than 85% of the total area of historical land of Palestine, which totals about 27,000 km2. Arabs comprise 48% of the total population, but utilize only 15% of the land. The Palestinian people remember the confiscation of 21 thousand dunums of land in Al-Jalil, Al-Muthalath and Al-Naqab on 30 March 1976. On this day, the Israeli occupation expropriated the land and responded violently to the protestations, killing six young demonstrators.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34197 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34198 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2017), 29 March 2018

Increase in GDP at constant prices in Palestine during the 4th quarter 2017 compared to the parallel quarter (4th quarter 2016)

Preliminary estimates at constant prices showed an increase of 5.4% in GDP in Palestine during the 4th quarter 2017 compared to the 4th quarter 2016, (increase 8.4% in the West Bank and decrease 2.9% in Gaza Strip compared to the 4th quarter 2016).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34195 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34196 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Producer Price Index, February 2018, 28 March 2018

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 103.11 in February 2018, as it increased by 2.34% compared to January 2018.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 103.54 in February 2018, which indicates an increase by 2.63% compared to January 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34193 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34194 (in Arabic)

Results Announcement, Palestinian Balance of Payments – Fourth Quarter 2017 Deficit in Current Account is USD 303.6 Million, 27 March 2018

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) announced the preliminary results of the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP) for the fourth quarter of 2017 under the joint issuance cycle for the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP). It should be noted that the data excludes that part of Jerusalem governorate which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

The preliminary results of BoP for the fourth quarter of 2017 showed:

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34190 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34191 (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 February, 26 March 2018

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for residential buildings reached 105.72 with an increase of 0.14% in the West Bank* during February 2018 compared with January 2018 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34178 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34179 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of January 2018, 26 March 2018

Palestinian Exports decreased in January, 2018 by 13% compared to December, 2017. While it increased by 4.4% compared to January, 2017 and reached USD 82.9 million.

Exports to Israel decreased in January, 2018 by 10.4% compared to December, 2017 and represented 87.9% of total exports in January, 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34176 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34177 (in Arabic)

PCBS – PMD

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate (PMD) press release on the Occasion of World Meteorological Day (WMD), 23 March 2018

Every year on the 23rd March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), composed of 189 members, and the global meteorological community celebrate the World Meteorological Day. This year's theme is "Weather Ready, Climate Smart".

In Palestine, this day is celebrated by Meteorological specialists, mainly Palestinian Meteorological Directorate (PMD).

The PMD conducts optimal observations of climatic conditions in the direct or indirect service of different forms of life to contribute effectively to the development of the national economy. Palestine is an observer in the WMO and a member of the Arab Organization of Meteorology in the League of Arab States.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34171 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34172 (in Arabic)

PCBS – PWA

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) press release on the Occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2018

On the occasion of World Water Day, March 22, PCBS and PWA Issue a Press Release. The UN announced that the theme of World Water Day 2018, is "Nature for Water".

48% of Water Pumped from Underground Wells Goes to the Agricultural Sector

The percentage of cultivated land in Palestine is about 15.5% of the total area, of which about 84.5% are rain-fed and 15.5% are irrigated, which consumes about 47.5% of the water pumped from underground wells.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34167 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34168 (in Arabic)

OIC

Al-Othaimeen: OIC is Considering the Establishment of a Fund to Support Palestinian Refugees, 15 March 2018

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, stated that the OIC General Secretariat is currently considering with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) the establishment of an endowment fund to support Palestinian refugees. In his statement at the extraordinary ministerial conference in support of Palestine refugees held in Rome and sponsored by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Sweden, Al-Othaimeen said that a feasibility study was carried out in implementation of the resolution of OIC Member States' foreign ministers on the proposal to establish a permanent investment waqf fund to support Palestinian refugees, as a way to encourage Member States to make contributions to refugees at this critical stage.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34173

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin March 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34200

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 1 April 2018**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_139/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_139/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)

- **JICA: DJSC – MoLG Newsletter, March 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34192

- **EUPOL COPPS Newsletter, March 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34143

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, March 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34199

Job Vacancies

- **Representative Office of Ireland: Programme Officer**
  For more details, please see attachment

- **The Consulate General of Sweden in Jerusalem: Administrative Assistant/Cashier**
  For more details, please see attachment

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Manish Kumar** has joined USAID as Division Chief – Infrastructure – Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure (EGI). His contact details are as follows:
  Email: mkumar@usaid.gov , phone: 03-5114817