



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE REFUGEES

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
29 and 30 April 2008

Programme

Tuesday, 29 April
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
Conference Room II

OPENING SESSION

Statements by:

Ms. Angela Kane

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs
Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Paul Badji

Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights of the Palestinian People

Mr. Marcio N. Barbosa

Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO

H.E. Mr. Elias Sanbar

Permanent Observer of Palestine to UNESCO
Representative of Palestine

Recess

Statements by representatives of Governments,
intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system

1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Conference Room II

Film screening “La Terre parle Arabe”
by Maryse Gargour

3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Conference Room II

PLENARY I
**Palestine refugees – the longest running humanitarian problem
in today's world**

Origins of the Palestine refugee problem - 60 years of dispossession and
tragedy

The demographic distribution of Palestine refugees

Socio-economic problems facing Palestine refugee communities

Presentations by experts:

Mr. Michael Fischbach
Professor of History, Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, Virginia

Mr. Salman Abu-Sitta
Researcher and former PNC member
Safat, Kuwait

Ms. Susan Akram
Professor, Boston University School of Law
Boston

Mr. Daud Abdullah
Researcher, Palestine Return Centre
London

Mr. Souheil El-Natour
Head, Humanitarian Development Center for Palestinians
Beirut

Mr. Wajih Ahmad Atallah
Secretary, Union of Youth Activity Centers in the West Bank
and Gaza
Qalandia

Discussion

6.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
7th Floor, UNESCO Building

***Reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People***

Wednesday, 30 April
10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Conference Room II

PLENARY II
The United Nations and Palestine refugees

The rights of Palestine refugees in international law and the role of the United Nations as a guarantor of international legitimacy

The role of UNRWA in providing relief, social services and development assistance to Palestine refugees

The rights of the Palestinians displaced as a result of the June 1967 hostilities

Presentations by experts:

Mr. Mazen Masri

Lecturer and Ph.D. candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School,
York University
Toronto

Mr. Lex Takkenberg

General Counsel and Ethics Officer,
Department of Legal Affairs, UNRWA
Jerusalem

Mr. Rasmi Khader Almallah

Member of Jordanian Senate
Irbid

Ms. Sylviane de Wangen

Lawyer, French Platform of NGOs for Palestine
Paris

Mr. Usama Halabi

Lawyer and law researcher
Jerusalem

Discussion

3.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
Conference room II

PLENARY III
**International and regional efforts to promote a solution of the
Palestine refugee issue**

The settlement of the refugee problem — A prerequisite for a
comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East

Lessons from past efforts to achieve a solution

Civil society efforts to uphold the right of return

Presentations by experts:

Mr. Michael Chiller-Glaus
Editor, Neue Zürcher Zeitung
Zurich

Mr. Menachem Klein
Senior Lecturer of Political Science, Bar-Ilan University
Ramat-Gan, Israel

Mr. Géraud de la Pradelle
Professor of International Law
University of Paris X -Nanterre

Mr. Terry Rempel
Research fellow and Ph.D. candidate, Department of Politics,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Exeter
Devon, United Kingdom

Discussion

5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Conference Room II

CLOSING SESSION

Statements by:

H.E. Mr. Saviour Borg

Rapporteur of the Committee presenting the Final Document

H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations
Representative of Palestine

H.E. Mr. Paul Badji

Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights of the Palestinian People

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