



UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

*Assistance to the Palestinians — challenges and opportunities
in the new reality of a State under occupation*

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON EXPERTS



Reham Al Wehaidy: Ms. Reham Al Wehaidy is the owner and chairperson of Al Athar Global Consulting, Inc. Ms. Al Wehaidy is an experienced monitoring and evaluation expert and pharmacist, with more than 14 years of experience in executive management consulting for associations and businesses, trade competitiveness, private sector development, grants management and regulated industries programmes. Among other activities Ms. Al Wehaidy recently was the Evaluation Operations Manager and Social Recovery Team Leader of the external performance evaluation of the USD 100 million Palestinian Community Assistance Programme (PCAP) funded by USAID. She also was the Evaluation Manager of UNRWA's 2011 Summer Games. Prior to this, Ms. Al Wehaidy has been integral in shaping the success of Development Alternatives (DAI) in Palestine through providing invaluable leadership and management to various programs and initiatives delivered by DAI in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ms. Al Wehaidy is a certified Association Management Executive from the International School of Association Management (ISAM), California 2003, and holds an undergraduate degree in pharmacy.



Carlos Conde: Mr. Carlos Conde is the head of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2007. In this capacity, he has promoted policy dialogue on governance reform between the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and OECD countries and supported the work of the networks of practitioners of the Initiative. During this period the Initiative has introduced the process of OECD peer reviewing in the MENA region, promoted country governance programmes (e.g. with the governments of Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority), and supported the work of MENA countries in introducing the principles and policies of Open Government. Before joining the OECD, Mr. Conde was associate professor of political science and public policy at the University of Granada in Spain. In this position, Mr. Conde led several projects of academic co-operation, research and network building between Arab and European universities. Mr. Conde had visiting positions at the University of Harvard and Al Akhawayn University of Morocco, where he lectured between 2001 and 2003. Mr. Conde holds a PhD in Political Science and Public Administration from the Complutense University of Madrid.



Mahmoud A.T. Elkhafif: Mr. Mahmoud A.T. Elkhafif is the Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Assistance to the Palestinian People and a Senior Economic Affairs Officer within UNCTAD's Division on Globalization and Development Strategies. His work focuses on the Palestinian economy and the economies of Arab countries, economic development and economic modelling and forecasting. Since 2002, he has been one of the main contributors to UNCTAD's work on Assistance to the Palestinian people in the areas of economic research, policy advice and technical cooperation. Before joining the UN, he was a Senior Country Economist with the African Development Bank, and held positions with the Federal Government of Canada, Central Bank of Kuwait, Government of Ontario and the Institute of National Planning in Egypt. He also taught Economics at Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto, Canada. Dr. Elkhafif has published and edited books on the Egyptian economy and on the economic and trade policies in Arab countries. He also published several papers in refereed journals and chapters in edited books. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from York University, Toronto, Canada; M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from Guelph University, Canada; M.A. in Economic from McMaster University, Canada; and B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from Cairo University, Egypt.



John Gatt-Rutter: Mr. Gatt-Rutter was appointed EU Representative in Jerusalem on 21 December 2011 where he held the position of Deputy Representative since 1 May 2011. Prior to this appointment Mr. Gatt-Rutter was Permanent Chair of the Mashraq/Maghreb Working Party in Brussels following his appointment by High Representative Catherine Ashton. Before that he was a member of Javier Solana's Middle East Task Force in the Policy Unit where he was responsible for the Middle East Peace Process and relations with the Palestinians. John Gatt-Rutter has considerable experience in the Middle East having served previously in Cairo and travelled extensively in the region. He has spoken on the Middle East at various international events including in Brussels, Washington D.C., Geneva, Paris, Athens, Jerusalem and Ramallah.



Nabil Kassis: Minister of Finance of the State of Palestine, Mr. Kassis is an academic and politician from Ramallah. Former President of the Birzeit University, Mr. Kassis served in 2003 as Planning Minister of the Palestinian Authority after previously serving as Tourism Minister in 2002 and State Minister in 1998. As a proponent of transparency and reform, Mr. Kassis was appointed member of the Special Committee for the Investigation of the Auditor's Report in 1997. He was a member of the Palestinian Madrid Peace Conference delegation in 1991 and the Deputy Head of the Negotiation Delegation at the Washington talks from 1992 to 1993. He later became the Director General of the Technical and Advisory Committee to the Palestinian Negotiation Team. He was as well a member of the Palestinian delegation on final status negotiations in 1999. Trained theoretical nuclear physicist, Mr. Kassis taught physics in Germany, Italy, France, England, Lebanon, and Jordan before joining the Birzeit University in 1980.



Amal Khreishe: Ms. Amal Khreishe is the Director General of the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), one of the most influential and biggest grassroots women organizations in Palestine, which aims at building a democratic Palestinian society based on gender equality, social justice, and respect for human rights. Ms. Khreishe has been a part of PWWSD since 1982. In 1992, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC), a coalition of women's committees and institutions that advocates for equal rights of Palestinian women. Ms. Khreishe is a former member of the International Women Commission for a Just and Sustainable Peace.



Mohammad A. Mustafa: Mr. Mohammad A. Mustafa is the Chairman and CEO of the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF), a state-owned, independent investment fund recognized both domestically and internationally. Mr. Mustafa has been leading PIF since 2006. Previous to his move to Palestine, Mr. Mustafa worked for 15 year at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. During his tenure there, he helped client governments in the Middle East, Africa and Asia create new sources of economic growth, and emerged as an internationally recognized expert in the areas of public policy, public-private partnerships (PPPs), corporate finance, and infrastructure development. Additionally, Mr. Mustafa worked as a Senior Adviser to the Public Investment Fund in Saudi Arabia, Economic Reform Adviser to the Government of Kuwait, the founding CEO of Palestine Telecommunication Company (now the largest company in Palestine), and Visiting Professor at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mustafa graduated with Doctorate and Master's degrees from The George Washington University and a B.Sc. degree from the University of Baghdad.



Ramesh Rajasingham: Mr. Rajasingham has served with the UN in the field of humanitarian affairs for over 20 years in crisis countries such as Afghanistan and Bosnia Herzegovina, as well as at Headquarters, and has been involved in policy development on issues ranging from early warning and contingency planning to durable solutions for internally displaced persons. Prior to taking up his post as Head of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Mr. Rajasingham was the Chief of OCHA's Humanitarian Coordination Support Section as well as the Displacement and Protection Support Section in Geneva. In this context, he was the focal point for OCHA on the implementation of the Humanitarian Reform programme launched in 2005 to improve the coverage of humanitarian response gaps in emergencies. Prior to this, he headed OCHA's largest field operation – in Sudan, where he was also responsible for OCHA's coordination operations and negotiating humanitarian access in Darfur, as well as the transition situation in southern Sudan. Mr. Rajasingham a development economist by training also worked with UNICEF for several years.



James W. Rawley: Mr. James W. Rawley is the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and also serves as United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Mr. Rawley has over 30 years of humanitarian and development experience with the UN, as well as a crisis prevention perspective acquired in a number of complex situations, including in Yemen and Myanmar. He previously served as the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt; Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in Geneva; UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen; Senior UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Myanmar; and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Honduras and Nicaragua. Mr. Rawley was educated in New York at Columbia University and at the State University of New York in Buffalo.



Charles Silva: Mr. Silva currently serves as Country Director for Action Against Hunger in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and elected Chairperson of the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA), a coordination forum of over 90 international non-governmental and non-profit organizations operating in the OPT. He has more than 15 years of experience in programme development, strategic planning, resource mobilization, grants management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. He worked in international organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as in the private sector, and was posted in Afghanistan, the OPT, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Mr. Silva's primary focus is the design and implementation of programmes that address issues of social and physical rehabilitation in the

following areas: water, sanitation and hygiene; food security and livelihoods; protection; governance; nutrition; health care; education, human rights and conflict as well as disaster risk reduction. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva) as well as a Ph.D. in political history from the University of Stockholm.



Robert Turner: Mr. Robert Turner is the Director of UNRWA Operations in the Gaza Strip. He has over 20 years of experience in humanitarian and disaster response operations, including programme management in conflict and immediate post-conflict environments. While serving with the International Rescue Committee in Burundi, Kosovo and Macedonia, he designed and managed multi-sectoral programmes in shelter, water and sanitation, community development, health and camp management. Mr. Turner also has significant experience with the United Nations, specifically the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and has been involved in planning and coordination of large-scale humanitarian and recovery operations, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and Rwanda, as well as in short-term missions in several other countries, including the tsunami response in Aceh. In Sudan, Mr. Turner was responsible for planning and coordinating operations related to the return and reintegration of some four million internally displaced persons. During his career with the UN, Mr. Turner also helped to establish the Joint Operation and Tasking Center to coordinate the use of military assets in response to the earthquake in Haiti. In the past, Mr. Turner undertook evaluations and research studies for the UN and the Australian Government; managed Cahaba Disaster Recovery operations; developed and implemented a training course for the International Federation of the Red Cross, and trained hundreds of international military officers in civil-military coordination.



Sergio Yahni: Mr. Sergio Yahni has worked with the Alternative Information Center (AIC) since 1992, filling a variety of roles related to popular mobilization; research, publication and dissemination of analyses and information about the developments within the Israeli and Palestinian societies, as well as advocacy with local and international institutions for the promotion of a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis. As a journalist, Mr. Yahni has worked with TV stations and published in newspapers and magazines about social issues and questions related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He has produced several films, discussing issues of popular resistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; focusing on the struggle against home evictions of Bedouin families in southern Israel and describing the struggle of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem. Mr. Yahni currently acts as AIC Media Director and is producing a documentary about the Palestinian popular struggle in the city of Hebron.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON DISCUSSANTS



Maria Grazia Enardu: Ms. Maria Grazia Enardu holds a degree in Political Sciences from the University of Florence and was a junior associate Member at the St. Antony's College, Oxford University (1975-76), a researcher at the Faculty of Political Sciences (Florence) and eventually a lecturer in History of International Relations. Since 1994, she has been working on Eastern Europe and the Middle East and since 2007 on the history of modern Israel. She also teaches courses on Arab nationalism and the Jewish Diaspora at the Università dell'Età Libera (Florence). Ms. Enardu is a member of the Machiavelli Center and of the Italian association of studies on the Middle East (Sesamo). She has lectured a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies at the Summer School on Eastern Europe (Florence) and the School of Doctoral Studies (Florence) as well as a Master's degree in Mediterranean Studies (Florence). She was an acting coordinator of several Tempus projects in Russia and the Balkan region (1994-2003). She regularly contributes to *Affarinternazionali*, *Italianieuropei*, and *Inpiù.net*.



Chantal Meloni: Ms. Chantal Meloni is an Italian criminal lawyer and academic at the University of Milan where she teaches International Criminal Law. She holds a PhD in comparative criminal law from the University of Pavia (Italy). In 2006 and 2007, she worked at the International Criminal Court (The Hague) as Legal Assistant to the judges of the Pre-Trial Chamber. She was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship for a research project on "*The protection of the right to life in asymmetrical conflicts*" at the Humboldt University of Berlin (2010). In the context of such project, she was in the Gaza Strip in 2010, with the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR). Her research interests focus on International Criminal Law, especially on accountability mechanisms, individual responsibility for international crimes, and on the protection of victims of international crimes. She is the author of the volume "*Command Responsibility in International Criminal Law*" (T.M.C. Asser, 2010) and of several scientific articles published in international journals and collective volumes. She is also the co-editor of the book "*Is There a Court for Gaza? A Test Bench for International Justice*" (T.M.C. Asser/Springer, 2012), which documents the follow up to the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict (the Goldstone Report). Ms. Meloni is also involved with the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.



Mr. Natalino Ronzitti: Mr. Natalino Ronzitti is a Professor of International Law at the Libera Università degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli in Rome. He is the Chair of International Law at "LUISS" (Rome) and an advisory expert for the Italian Institute for International Affairs (IAI). He has been a visiting Fellow and Scholar in Residence at numerous foreign universities, including in the United Kingdom and the United States. He was "Professeur invité" at the University of Paris II, and has often been a guest professor at the University of Alessandria in Egypt. He has participated in conferences at numerous foreign universities and institutes, and given a course in International Law in The Hague. He has been an advisor to the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Defence, and a legal advisor to the Italian Mission at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He is an Associate member of the "Institut de droit international".
