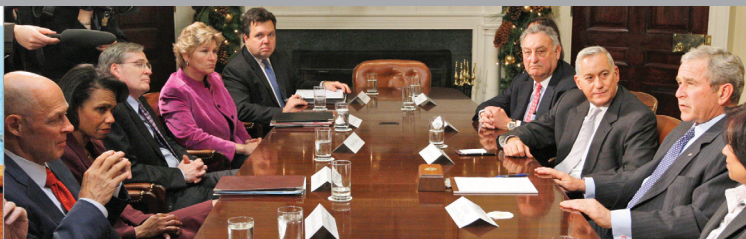




DOS PHOTO



©AP IMAGES



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

US • PALESTINIAN PARTNERSHIP



Promoting economic and educational opportunities for the Palestinian people

On December 3, 2007, President Bush, Secretary Rice and Administrator Fore announced a new public-private partnership focused on creating economic opportunity for the Palestinian people and helping to prepare Palestinian youth for the responsibilities of citizenship and good governance.

The U.S. private sector – both non-profits and the business community – is uniquely situated to contribute to these goals. By demonstrating to the Palestinian people that they are willing to work with responsible Palestinian leaders and institutions, the private sector will increase support for a Palestinian leadership committed to peace and willing to negotiate the political compromises required to reach this important goal.

The U.S.-Palestinian Partnership is a critical component in facilitating progress toward a two-state solution, wherein Israel and Palestine live side by side, in peace, security and prosperity.

PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Seeking to inspire, educate and train, the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership will focus its efforts on sustainable economic development, job creation and training, and youth education and leadership development.

To help prepare Palestinian youth for the responsibilities of citizenship and good governance, the Partnership is expanding Youth Development and Resource Centers in partnership with USAID and the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Youth and Sports. These centers provide training in IT skills, English language, athletics, and leadership and life skills to youth to prepare them for full and productive participation in Palestinian society. The hubs in Ramallah, Hebron and Nablus, together with a network of more than 60 affiliated youth centers which will also benefit from revised standards, network-wide professional development, and internet connectivity, will directly serve 7,500 youth.

As a means to developing quick impact projects that promote job creation, the Partnership is working on a number of efforts, including the creation of an Arabic-language call center and the establishment of a venture capital fund to attract foreign investment in the Palestinian ICT sector. The Partnership also supports the creation of several financial instruments such as the establishment of a political risk insurance product and of

an affordable mortgage mechanism that will help lower- and middle-income Palestinian households afford to buy homes. This aspect of the Partnership's efforts builds on the success of the Middle East Investment Initiative, a \$228 million loan guarantee program currently operating in the West Bank to improve the livelihoods of the Palestinian people.

In addition, the Partnership actively supports Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's efforts to attract international investment. The Partnership is co-hosting the Palestinian Business and Investment Forum in Washington, D.C. to deepen U.S.-Palestinian trade and economic relationships and highlight unique investment opportunities in the West Bank economy. The Forum builds on the success of the Palestine Investment Conference which the Palestinian Authority hosted in Bethlehem to showcase a successful business climate and discuss leading Palestinian ventures. Following the Forum, the Partnership is planning trips for U.S. business leaders interested in exploring investment opportunities in the West Bank; trips will be industry specific and will likely include sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, and ICT.

PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP

Chairman: Walter Isaacson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aspen Institute

Co-chairs: Ziad Asali, President of the American Task Force on Palestine; Jean Case, Chief Executive Officer of the Case Foundation; Lester Crown, Chairman of Henry Crown and Company; Sandy Weill, Chairman Emeritus of Citigroup

Partnership activities are managed by Toni Verstandig, Executive Director of the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership.

PARTNERSHIP CONTACT

For additional information, visit www.uspalestinianpartnership.org or contact Mickey Bergman, Program Director, U.S.-Palestinian Partnership, 703-944-3995, info@uspalestinianpartnership.org; or Andrea McDaniel, Director of the Office for Private Sector Outreach, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, 202-647-9163, McDanielAL@state.gov; or Ken Seifert, Desk Officer, USAID, 202-712-1862, kseifert@usaid.gov.