

**Speech by UNDP/PAPP Deputy Special Representative
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**Opening of a national workshop on enhancing the effectiveness of the
financial disclosure system in the State of Palestine**

11 May 2015 – Ramallah

Sabah El Kheir

Prime Minister,
Commissioner,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be here this morning at the opening of this important national workshop, which UNDP is proud to support together with our colleagues from UNODC.

His Excellency the Prime Minister's presence here today is a testament to the importance of the subject matter under discussion. I thank him very much for his words.

And it is certainly not for the first time that I have the pleasure of speaking alongside His Excellency the PACC Commissioner, whose fierce leadership of the Palestinian Anticorruption Commission has done so much towards tackling corruption in the State of Palestine.

Over the years, we at UNDP have worked to build strong partnerships in areas related to anti-corruption, accountability and respect for the rule of law in the State of Palestine.

Through our new Joint Programme with UN Women, we are committed to deepening these efforts, and we stand firmly behind PACC's

leadership to implement the forthcoming National Strategy on Anticorruption (2015-2017).

I am proud to call the PACC one of UNDP's closest and most dear partners. This is because, like the PACC, UNDP sees corruption for what it is: a dangerous impediment to development – and a problem with serious consequences for Palestinian government and Palestinian society.

All over the world, we see that corruption; weak institutions and weak governance are bottlenecks to achieving development progress across the board. Conversely, therefore, we believe that strengthening capacities to tackle corruption head-on is essential to advancing sustainable development.

In the Palestinian context, this means pursuing all avenues to stamp out a phenomenon that has a direct bearing on the achievement of freedom for the Palestinian people.

With all the challenges of the on going Israeli occupation, the Palestinian people deserve a leadership and a government in which they can trust. They deserve a public sector where all those charged to serve the people do so with integrity.

Preventive measures such as an institutionalised system of financial disclosure are all part of ensuring this. In the coming two days, the experts gathered here will be exploring different models for such a system in the Palestinian context. I am not an expert in this area, so I am content to hand the floor to them.

I truly commend the Prime Minister, the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, and all relevant ministries and institutions for their serious efforts and concrete actions to strengthen transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

I wish you all the very best. I am extremely proud that UNDP is able to support these efforts. Thank you.