



# LPDC NEWSLETTER

LEBANESE PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

## Lebanese Palestinian Relations: Achievements, Vision and Future

### MESSAGE of the PRESIDENT

*“Based on a realistic, comprehensive and rational approach to Lebanese-Palestinian relations, the “2010-2012 Vision” seeks to overcome the challenges ahead by enhancing coordination and interaction between the various partners and stakeholders”*

*Me. Maya Majzoub*

### LPDC Members

Judge Pierre Francis (Justice)  
Col. Souheil Khourieh (Defense)  
Dr Iman Khaz'al (Labor)  
Rabih Narech (Foreign Affairs)  
First Lieutenant Shaukat Jomaa (Interior)  
Hassan Hteit (Health)  
Shadi Hanna (General Security)  
Mohamed El Meouch (Energy & Water)

### Partners



For further information please contact:  
LPDC office/Grand Serail  
Riad Solh/Downtown Beirut, Lebanon  
Phone: +961 1 983074/5  
FAX: +961 1 980705  
info@lpdc.gov.lb

[www.lpdc.gov.lb](http://www.lpdc.gov.lb)



Salvatore Lombardo (UNRWA Director), H.E. Abdullah Abdullah (Palestine Ambassador), PCM Saad Hariri, Michael Williams (UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon) and Me Maya Majzoub (LPDC president)

### LPDC “Vision and Future” conference at the Grand Serail under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri

June 29, 2010 - The President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri sponsored LPDC launching conference “Lebanese-Palestinian relations: Achievements, Vision and Future”, at the Grand Serail “. Attending were former Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, Ministers Mohammed Khalifeh, Jean Ogassapian, Tarek Mitri and Akram Shouhaye and a crowd of MPs, diplomats and NGOs representatives.

The conference aimed at presenting the LPDC mission and action, following the appointment of Me Maya Majzoub to head the committee and resume setting the appropriate institutional and legislative framework regulating the Lebanese Palestinian relations. The event highlighted the importance of the partnerships between the State of Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority and the international community, represented by donors and UN agencies.

Speeches were delivered by the President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri, the President of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) Me Maya Majzoub, Palestinian Ambassador to Lebanon H.E Abdullah Abdullah, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon Salvatore Lombardo, and the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams.



# ACTIVITIES

## Inside this issue

CONFERENCE: "Achievements, vision and future"	1
WORKSHOP: "Right of Work for Palestinians"	2
UNRWA-ADCOM conference/ Cairo	2
SUPERVISORY commission conference/ Cairo	
PROJECTS: .NBC recovery and reconstruction: .MDGF: "conflict Prevention and Peace Building Programme"	3
MEETINGS: NBC security and armed forces, ministerial committees, donors, partners	4
LPDC profile	4

## "The Palestinian Refugee Right to Work: Law v/s Reality" workshop



*Right to work workshop*

August 5, 2010. Beirut/ Grand Serail- The LPDC workshop aimed at clarifying basic concepts and assessing the proposed law amendments: the workshop was attended by representatives of the ministries of Justice and labor, National Fund for Social Security, Embassy of Palestine, ILO, UN

agencies and the Palestinian Workers General Union, as well as lawyers, researchers and activists.

### First session:

**"Lebanese Reality":** Ambiguous definition of the "Palestinian

Refugee"; number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon; Sectorial distribution, actual workers and potential entrants in the labor market; Work Permit; Social Security provisions; UNRWA role.

### Second session:

**"Lebanese Law":** The compelling reasons for the legislative amendment; draft proposals comparative table (Common points/differences); legal concepts and misconceptions.



## Inter-ministerial Committee meetings

The LPDC holds monthly meetings with representatives of member ministries to coordinate activities related to the GoL policies towards Palestinians refugees. Three meetings were held since April 2010.



## EU-Lebanon Subcommittee of Human Rights, Governance and Democracy 3rd Meeting

May 3, 2010-Ministry of Foreign affairs: LPDC presented a brief on the latest development regarding PR rights and steps taken by the Lebanese Government to improve their living conditions. This subcommittee is part of the EU-LEB Action Plan within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy.

## SETTING UP AN INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO REGULATE LEBANESE PALESTINIAN RELATIONS



## IMPROVING PALESTINIANS REFUGEES LIVING CONDITIONS



## UNRWA-ADCOM meeting

June 21-22, Cairo—During the "Advisory Commission of UNRWA" meeting in Cairo, gathering donor and host countries, LPDC reaffirmed the Lebanese government's full support to UNRWA in all areas, calling on donors to honor their commitment and help the UNRWA in overcoming its budgetary deficit and extending the scope of its development services

## SUPERVISORY Commission meeting

July 23-24, Cairo— LPDC took part to the 84<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Palestinian Refugees Supervisory Commissions in the various hosting countries at the Arab League General Secretariat to assess the situation in light of the last developments and highlight the challenges ahead.



## NAHR EL BARED RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION



The reconstruction of Nahr al-Bared is a national commitment topping the LPDC agenda in terms of:

- Cooperation with UNRWA to provide resources and funding to resume reconstruction, relief and recovery programs.
- Full coordination with the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (RRC) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with respect to all administrative and technical issues relating to reconstruction.

### Technical meeting

**LPDC-UNRWA NBC :** During this meeting issues related to Nahr el Bared Relief, recovery , shortage of funds, access and governance were discussed to coordinate efforts.

- Creation of a sub-committee composed of the LPDC’s members, representatives of the security forces, in order to coordinate and discuss security issues, in addition to solving everyday problems, particularly in relation to entry permits to the camp.

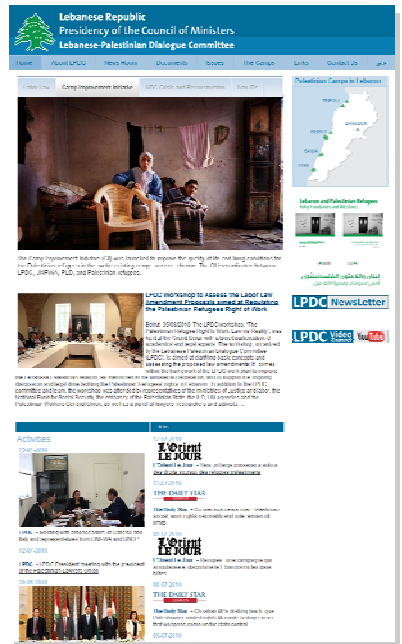
### Access and security Meetings:

- LPDC/ NGOs working in NBC discussed access to the Camp and means to facilitate mobility.
- LPDC/embassies/ UNDP met to discuss access to NBC and recovery projects.
- Security arrangements applied in Nahr el Bared were discussed in several meetings with the inter-ministerial committee and Government officials to explore ways of easing access to NBC.

### RRC-UNRWA NBC Governance Meeting :

LPDC participated in the meeting aimed at discussing post reconstruction institutional responsibilities and governance issues.

[www.lpdc.gov.lb](http://www.lpdc.gov.lb)



In order to highlight the LPDC actions, publications and projects an ongoing “web restructuring” seeks to improve interactivity with web surfers and users and integrate the relevant data, research and links. The webpage is a valuable communication tool that LPDC will rely on to support the “2010 –2012 Vision” .



## C.I.I.

- Under the auspices of the Lebanese Government, the UNRWA launched the Camp “Improvement initiative” (CII) in 2006 to improve the quality of life and living conditions for the Palestinian refugees in the twelve Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon. LPDC supported the initiative seeking to increase the capacity of Palestinian civil society organisations, increase livelihood opportunities, improve the health and education needs provided by UNRWA and empower UNRWA in the provision of services.
- UNRWA holds monthly meetings with NGOs that are involved in health and education activities in Palestinian Refugee camps at its Beirut Office. LPDC representative regularly participates to these meetings .

## MDGF: UNESCO/LPDC “Building Communication and Dialogue Skills”



May 2010 - Within the framework of the UN joint programme on Peace-building and Conflict Prevention in North Lebanon. UNESCO and LPDC are training and empowering Lebanese and Palestinian young individuals in school-based initiatives in twinned Public Lebanese and UNRWA schools.

UNESCO and LPDC examined the progress of phase two of the “Building Communication and Dialogue Skills” project.

- During First phase of the project, UNESCO and LPDC worked with local NGOs for training Lebanese and Palestinian youth on
  - a) dialogue skills and conflict prevention
  - b) social animation with children

c) specific activities (art/drawing/ choir/cartoon).  
Phase 1 functioned throughout 2009 on a nationwide basis, training more than 115 young people and reaching more than 1300 children across Lebanon.

- Second phase of the project aims to establish 3 Dialogue clubs through the twinning of 3 Public Lebanese schools with 3 UNRWA schools in North Lebanon. In preparing the ground for the project, a core group of young people, local teachers and supervisors along with school directors will be trained in the establishment, management, support and development of school-based clubs and their activities for the creation of inter and intra-community dialogue.



# Participation

## Joint Efforts

Period: 28/3/2010 - 22/4/2010  
(Chronologically):

- Amb. Abdallah Abdallah (Palestine)
- Amb. Michelle Sisson (USA)
- Salvatore Lombardo (UNRWA)
- Ulla backland (NRC)
- Palestinian NGOs
- Amb. Audlize Neurheim (Norway)
- Marwan Abdulal (PLO) - head of the delegation
- Ali Barake, Edward Kattoura, Mohammad Khalil, Mohammad Yassine (PLO)
- Ray Torres, Joumana Nasser (UNICEF)
- International NGOs
- Amb. Frances Guy , Jeremy Shivers, Peter Wilkinson (UK)
- Michael Williams (UNSCOL)
- Sari Hanafi and Tara Mahfouz – Almasira
- Amb. Denis Pietton, (France)
- Amb. Martial Pagé (Canada), Daniel Joli, Rana Maalouf
- Hannes Siebert, Antoine Lahham, Dalal Mouawad (UN)
- Raafat Mourra, Hamas
- Azzam Al Ahmad (PLO)
- Amb. Daniel Tanas (Romania)
- Amb. Patrick Laurent (EU) - Head of delegation
- Rami Khoury (IFI)
- Lebanese NGOs
- Georges Comminos (ICRC) - MENA head of operations
- Martha Ruedas (UNDP Resident Representative), Amb. Martial Pagé (Canada), Amb. Gabriele Checchia (Italy), Salvatore Lombardo (UNRWA)
- Palestinian lawyers union
- CEP delegation
- Nadim Houry (HRW)

## Issam Fares Institute : “Attitudes toward policies granting Palestinian Refugees Civil Rights in Lebanon”

LPDC is part of the committee which was formed to provide guidance to the research team. A study is being conducted to examine attitudes of Lebanese citizens on potential policy changes granting the civil rights of Palestinians in Lebanon. The study will serve as a policy advocacy tool for concerned individuals and NGOs.



## “The Rights of Palestinian Children and Refugees Children in Lebanon”

*Children Refugees Committee at the Higher Council for Childhood of the Ministry of Social Affairs.*



LPDC is a member of the Children Refugees Committee at the Higher Council for Childhood of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This Committee includes representatives of international NGOs and organizations (Save the Children, UNICEF, UNHCR) and local associations (Lebanese and Palestinians). LPDC is advocating for a dedicated focus on Palestinian refugee children.

LPDC participated in the planning and implementation of the Higher Council for Childhood workshop entitled: “the rights of Palestinian children and Refugees children in Lebanon” which took place on March 16 and 17, 2010 at Holiday In Hotel, Dunes, Verdun, under the patronage and the participation of the Minister of social affairs, Salim El Sayegh. It was funded by UNHCR and the Norwegian People’s Aid. The workshop aimed at raising awareness on the policy implications of Lebanon’s adherence to international standards relating to children rights.

### LPDC: WHO ARE WE?

- A governmental tool based on Cabinet resolutions 45/2005 (formation) and 89/2005 (appointment).
- Based in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and working under the supervision of the President of the Council of Ministers.
- Including representatives of the ministries involved in the Palestinians refugees issues.
- Operating with a solid and broad partnership network.
- A technical body using experts and an assisting team.
- A consultancy and executive body to implement the State’s policy in terms of Lebanese Palestinian relations.

