



ESCWA Participates in UNRWA's Hosts, Donors Meeting

UN Under-Secretary-General and ESCWA Executive Secretary Badr Aldafa delivered a statement on behalf of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at UNRWA's Hosts and Donors Meeting held on 18 November, 2009 on the shores of the Dead Sea, Jordan.

Ban said in his statement that this meeting comes near the end of what has been another painful year for Palestinian refugees and, indeed, all the peoples of the region. The tragic conflict in Gaza and southern Israel has left an extremely grave situation, which remains unresolved, he added.

"More than ever, for both peoples, for the region and for the international community as a whole, we need to see two states living side by side in peace and security," Ban said, adding that this is what both peoples need and what the region and the international community need.

The Secretary-General noted that on 8 December UNRWA will mark the 60th Anniversary of its establishment by the UN General Assembly. "At the commemorative event held at the UN Headquarters in September, I was impressed by the political support expressed for the

Agency and its vital services. I hope this support will be translated into greater financial assistance," he said.

Finally, the Secretary-General thanked Commissioner-General Karen Koning Abuzayd for her nine years of service to UNRWA, and 19 more with UNHCR. "Under her leadership, UNRWA has undertaken ambitious internal reforms that have strengthened accountability, efficiency and the empowerment of staff and management," he concluded.

The meeting gathered representatives from govern-

ments, donors, UN agencies, international NGOs and the business sector.


The theme of this year's meeting was "Partnerships," as UNRWA recognizes the importance of building multi-stakeholder partnerships as an essential asset to ensure human security and sustainable development. UNRWA Therefore aims to expand existing partnerships and build new ones in its areas of work. ■

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ESCWA Participates in UNRWA's Hosts, Donors Meeting
- ESCWA Hosts Forum on Domestic Violence

ESCWA Hosts Forum on Domestic Violence

ESCWA hosted a two-day Forum on the causes of domestic violence and its solutions that was organized by the Union of Arab Women under the theme "Safe Society, Stable Family" between 18 and 19 November 2009.

Participants in the forum reviewed studies on the various aspects of domestic violence in Arab countries, including violence based on gender and personal issues. A comparison of domestic violence situations in countries of the Arab world was made and a series of solutions were presented, including the role of social service in confronting violence. 



ESCWA Hosts Forum on Domestic Violence (Cont.)



Participants issued a series of recommendations in which they called on Arab governments to work on developing mechanisms to safeguard women from violence, set up offices and hotlines for complaints, in addition to rehabilitation programs for battered women and those who deal with them, such as lawyers, judges, the police and imams of mosques.

Participants stressed the need to find shelters for battered women and their children in line with international standards, taking into account the psy-

chological, security and health aspects; develop mechanisms to protect the elderly, children and people with special needs and establish centers for social welfare.

Among those recommendations were also calls to reform rehabilitation centers for women in line with human rights standards, impose strict penalties for perpetrators of crimes of domestic violence and give priority to issues of this type of violence, in addition to legislating laws for the protection against domestic violence.

Participants stressed the need to educate young couples on the importance of nurturing family relationships that are based on affection, appreciation and respect, change the negative and stereotypical image of women in the media and prevent the exploitation of, and trafficking in, women.

The meeting honored a number of activists in the fields of social affairs and women issues, including ESCWA Executive Secretary Badr Aldafa and Chief of ESCWA's Centre for Women Afaf Omer. ■



Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org