



# Draft Annotated Agenda

## Brussels Stakeholder Meeting

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19 and 20 March 2012

The outline and annotations presented below are provisional and subject to change as preparations for the conference continue. The final version will be communicated closer to the dates of the conference.

**Venue:**

Egmont Palace  
Place du Petit Sablon 8  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium



This conference will take a forward-looking perspective. It will highlight the need to respond to the concerns of youth and stress the urgency of creating opportunities for the younger generation of Palestine refugees. The fundamental fact remains, however, that a just and agreed solution must be found to the refugee question. This solution must be the result of negotiations between the parties in line with relevant UN resolutions, with the support of the international community, and in consultation with refugees themselves.



## Provisional Programme Outline

### Day One – 19 March 2012

- 13:00** Registration and welcome coffee
- 14:00** Introduction by **Palestine Refugee Youth**
- 14:15** **Welcome (Europe Room)**  
**Message from the United Nations Secretary-General**  
Delivered by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, **Mr. Robert Serry**
- Mr. Filippo Grandi**, Commissioner-General  
UNRWA
- Mr. Didier Reynders**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Kingdom of Belgium
- 14:30** **Keynote speeches (Europe Room)**  
**Baroness Catherine Ashton**, High Representative of the European Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
**Dr. Riyad Al-Malki (on behalf of President Mahmoud Abbas)**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Palestinian Authority  
**Dr. Nabil El Araby**, Secretary General  
League of Arab States  
**Mr. Nasser Judeh**, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Chair of the UNRWA Advisory Commission)
- Followed by VIP press point (Photo-Op)**
- 16:00** Coffee break
- 16:30** Introduction to Opening Session
- 16:45** **Opening Session (Europe Room)**  
**Discussion: “Challenges and potential of the current generation of Palestine refugees”**
- 18:30** Reception (Mirror Room – ends 20:30)  
Performance of a group (*maqamat*) of Palestinians from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Jerusalem (from 19:00)



## Day Two – 20 March 2012

- 08:30** Registration and welcome coffee
- 09:00** **Opening panel: “Youth Answers Back”**  
Introduction by **Mr. Ronan Farrow**, Special Adviser to the United States Secretary of State on Global Youth Issues
- 10:00** Coffee break
- 10:30** **Panel discussions**  
**Panel I: Youth Participation: Engaging Palestine Refugee Youth in Social and Civic Development**  
(Europe Room)  
**Panel II: Economic Empowerment of Youth: Creating and Building Resources for the Economic Inclusion of Young Palestinians**  
(Arenberg Room)
- 12:00** Lunch (Mirror Room)  
**Lunchtime Presentation by Emilio Butragueño**,  
Director of Institutional Relations of Real Madrid
- 13:30** **Panel discussions**  
**Panel III: Education: Building Capability of Palestine Refugees**  
(Arenberg Room)  
**Panel IV: Palestine Refugee Youth: Out of the Margins and Into the Mainstream**  
(Europe Room)
- 15:00** Coffee break
- 15:45** **Closing Session (Europe Room)**  
**Mr. Martin Schulz**, President  
European Parliament  
**Dr. Salam Fayyad**, Prime Minister  
Palestinian Authority  
  
Closing remarks by **Palestine Refugee Youth**
- 17:30** **Chair’s Summary and Conclusions (Europe Room)**  
**By the UNRWA Commissioner-General** (ends 17:45)



## Annotations

Day One, Monday, 19 March 2012

13:00	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
14:00	<b>Introduction by Palestine Refugee Youth</b>
14:15	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Message from the United Nations Secretary-General</b> Delivered by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, <b>Mr. Robert Serry</b> <b>Mr. Filippo Grandi</b> , Commissioner-General UNRWA <b>Mr. Didier Reynders</b> , Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kingdom of Belgium
14:30	<b>Keynote Addresses</b> <b>Baroness Catherine Ashton</b> , High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy European Union <b>Dr. Riyad Al-Malki (on behalf of President Mahmoud Abbas)</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs, Palestinian Authority <b>Dr. Nabil El Araby</b> , Secretary-General League of Arab States <b>Mr. Nasser Judeh</b> , Minister of Foreign Affairs Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Chair of the UNRWA Advisory Commission)  <b>Followed by VIP press point (Photo-Op)</b>
16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:30	<b>Introduction to Opening Session</b>



## Opening Session

### **Discussion (16:45 – 18:30) – “Challenges and potential of the current generation of Palestine refugees”**

Where have the recent transformations in the Arab world left the current generation of Palestine refugee youth? There have been profound changes across the Middle East bringing sweeping but fitful reforms; but how has this affected the Palestinians and Palestine refugee youth? After 63 years of dispossession, statelessness and exile how should the international community, which was so quick to respond to demonstrations across the Arab world, address the calls among Palestine refugees not only for their political rights but also for social inclusion and economic prosperity? With disenchanted Palestinian youth across the Middle East crying out for a better future, how should the UN’s Palestine refugee agency, UNRWA and its main stakeholders respond?

In the occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli occupation, including the blockade of Gaza, is a major obstacle to youth empowerment. The restrictions prevent Palestinians from accessing much of their land and from exploiting most of their natural resources; they isolate the Palestinians from global markets, and fragment their territory into small, badly connected, “cantons”. There are no meaningful levels of exports from Gaza and youth unemployment remains among the highest in the world. As recently highlighted by international economic organizations, including the World Bank, UNCTAD and the IMF, these restrictions are the main impediment to any prospects of a sustainable Palestinian economy. According to a recent report, the total costs imposed by the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian economy is about USD 6.897 billion in 2010; 84.9% of the total estimated Palestinian GDP.

This interactive armchair discussion, moderated by a high profile broadcaster, highlights the views of leading thinkers and policy makers, who assess the current situation for Palestine refugees and advance ideas on how the international community should respond in a context of continuous change in the region. Thanks to a real time “youth blogger”, it will feature the views from the Palestinian street whose questions will be put to our panelists, along with questions and reaction from an invited audience.



16:45

**Armchair Discussion**

**Ms. Lana Abu Hijleh**, Country-Director  
Co-operative Housing Foundation (CHF) International  
**Mr. Alan Duncan**, Minister of State for International Development  
United Kingdom  
**Ms. Nisreen Barakat**, Minister of Social Development  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Mr. Filippo Grandi**, Commissioner-General  
UNRWA

Moderator: **Ms. Sherine Tadros (AJE)**  
Correspondent, Al Jazeera English

18:30

**Reception (ends 20:30)**

Performance of a group (*maqamat*) of Palestinians from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Jerusalem (from 19:00)



## Day Two, Tuesday, 20 March 2012

08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
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### Opening Panel (09:00 – 10:00) – “Youth Answer Back”

The first day of the conference is designed as a platform for the supporters of the Palestinian refugee youth to give their views. This panel is the forum for the Palestinian refugee youth to answer back. The panel will challenge the views of the “outsiders”, pose questions and raise issues that will recur in all panels throughout the day. This panel will redress the balance of perceptions in favour of what really matters to Palestinian refugee youth, living under occupation and blockade or in scattered camps across the region. It will be insightful to learn first-hand what the expectations of the Palestinian youth are, how they see themselves today and how they feel everybody’s contributions towards better tomorrow should be organized. The panel will bring to the fore the vast potential, energy and creativity among Palestinian refugee youth, which is so often overlooked in a largely stereotypical and one-dimensional refugee discourse.

09:00	<b>Opening Panel</b>  <b>Introduction of the panel by Mr. Ronan Farrow (Special Adviser to the United States Secretary of State on Global Youth Issues)</b>  Moderated exchange with 5 Palestine refugee youth representatives from UNRWA’s areas of operation  Moderator: <b>Ms. Sherine Tadros</b> Correspondent, Al Jazeera English
10:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>

### Panel Discussions (10:30 – 12:00)

#### Panel I: Youth Participation: Engaging Palestine Refugee Youth in Social and Civic Development

The Middle East is being swept by dramatic social and political events which continue to unfold in all their complexity. The concerns, aspirations and frustrations of the younger generation constitute a part of the myriad forces at work. How can we ensure that the voice of the refugee youth constituency is genuinely heard? How can we support youth to positively contribute in an





increasingly challenging environment? What must we do to reinforce the considerable assets refugee youth possess? And how best can we help channel the potency of refugee youth to ensure that it can contribute to the building of a strong, stable and prosperous society? Panel I will seek answers to these and other related questions for the guidance of UNRWA, its host countries and the donor community.

10:30

### Panel I

**Mr. Mustafa Barghouti**, General Secretary  
Palestine National Initiative  
**Ms. Nisreen Haj Ahmad**, Researcher and Co-Founder  
Middle East Community Organizing Initiative  
**Mr. Mohammed Al Mbaid**, Country Director  
International Youth Foundation  
**Mr. Saad Al-Harithy**, Adviser to HRH Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Crown  
Prince and Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Mr. Salvatore Lombardo**, Director of UNRWA Affairs – Lebanon  
UNRWA  
*Youth Panelist to be nominated*

Moderator: **Rami Khouri**  
Director of the IFI for Public Policy & International Affairs, American University  
of Beirut

### Panel II: Economic Empowerment of Youth: Creating and Building Resources for the Economic Inclusion of Young Palestinians

The Middle East and in particular the countries with large Palestine refugee populations used to be zones where governmental and quasi-governmental organizations would absorb a large part of the work force and the remainder would aspire to revered professions requiring university level education. This has also applied to the aspiration of most Palestine refugees. However, the era of big government in the Middle East has been in decline for a while and private sector supported by structural reforms within host governments is moving to the fore. This transformation of the economy brings with it a transformation of the labour market which is particularly in need of specialized technicians. The economic landscape is likely to continue changing for some time to come and Palestine refugee youth and their partners must anticipate the coming transformations and trends. What does the regional economy of the future demand of the Palestine refugee youth? How can Palestine refugee youth influence and shape this future? What are the challenges for human development and how can they be tackled?



10:30

**Panel II**

**Ms. Nada Al-Nashif**, Regional Director  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
**Mr. Ronan Farrow**, Special Adviser to the United States  
Secretary of State on Global Youth Issues  
**Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed**, Secretary General  
Royal Charity Organisation of the Kingdom of Bahrain  
**Mr. Hashim Shawa**, General-Director  
Bank of Palestine  
**Dr. Salem Ajluni**, Consultant on Socio-Economic Affairs  
UNRWA  
*Youth Panelist to be nominated*

Moderator: **Ms. Sherine Tadros**  
Correspondent, Al Jazeera English

12:00

**Lunch**

**Lunchtime Presentation (12:00 – 13:30)**

12:00

“Solidarity, Education and Sports”

Special Guest: **Emilio Butragueño**,  
Director of Institutional Relations of Real Madrid

**Panel Discussions (13:30 – 15:00)**

**Panel III: Education: Building Capability of Palestine Refugees**

Education plays a key role in transforming individuals, societies and at global level. Transformation can have both positive and negative impact – it can help secure livelihoods for some, but at the expense of others; it can affirm identities but can also marginalize and hinder



the development of human capabilities and potential; it can be a source of economic growth and development, at the loss of equity; it can open the door to participation in a globalised world, but at the expense of community and identity. In the Palestinian context the role of education in transitioning children and youth to adulthood is particularly challenging. The discussion will draw on the wide and varied experience of the panelists to consider the wider role of education and the implications for Palestine refugees.

13:30

**Panel III**

**Dr. Lamis Al-Alami**, Minister of Education  
Palestinian Authority

**Dr. Yusuf Sayed**, Reader in International Education  
University of Sussex

**Prof. Elaine Unterhalter**, Professor of Education and International  
Development

Institute of Education, University of London

**Dr. Tafeeda Jarbawi**, Director-General  
Welfare Association

**Ms. Ikhlass Al-Sheikhly**, Head of Grants Unit  
OFID

**Dr. Caroline Pontefract**, Director of Education  
UNRWA

*Youth Panelist to be nominated*

Moderator: **Rami Khouri**

Director of the IFI for Public Policy & International Affairs, American University  
of Beirut

**Panel IV: Palestine Refugee Youth: Out of the Margins and Into the Mainstream**

Palestinian refugee youth are vulnerable to marginalization by dint of their status as refugees – and by dint of their being young - but more immediately by risk factors associated with social, economic, legal, and physical barriers that can impede their robust participation in a healthy future for the region. This panel will examine some of the complex causes of marginalization and look at ways dynamic young people have established and maintained themselves and others in the mainstream.



13:30

**Panel IV**

**Ms. Rola Badran**, Director  
Palestinian Human Rights Organization  
**Mr. Mouin Rabani**, Senior Fellow  
Institute for Palestine Studies  
**Ms. Fida Abu Turki**, Fellow  
Ashoka – Innovators for the Public  
**Ms. Martha Myers**, Director of Relief and Social Services  
UNRWA  
*Youth Panelist to be nominated*

Moderator: **Ms. Sherine Tadros**  
Correspondent, Al Jazeera English

15:00

**Coffee break**

15:45

**Closing Session**

**Mr. Martin Schulz**, President  
European Parliament  
**Dr. Salam Fayyad**, Prime Minister  
Palestinian Authority

These statements will be followed by a moderated discussion among the high-level speakers, which will draw on deliberations of the day and input from youth.

Moderator: **Mr. Rami Khouri**  
Director of the IFI for Public Policy & International Affairs, AUB

17:00

**Closing remarks by Palestine Refugee Youth**

17:10

**Chair's Summary and Conclusions**  
**Mr. Filippo Grandi**, Commissioner-General  
UNRWA