



PRESS RELEASE

In Preparation for the MAS Economic Conference 2016

MAS Holds a Consultative Meeting with the Private Sector Coordination Council

Ramallah, Palestine, 4 July 2016: The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) convened a consultative meeting at its premises in Ramallah last week with representatives of nine member institutions of the Private Sector Coordination Council (PSCC) to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership and cooperation which are being built for the success of the planned MAS Economic Conference 2016. The conference, under the theme "Towards a New Vision for the Advancement of the Palestinian Economy", is to be held later in the summer of this year under the auspices of H.E. Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah.

Mr. Raja Khalidi, MAS Research Coordinator, expressed appreciation for the interest in the MAS initiative on the part of the representative institutions of the Palestinian private sector. Mr. Khalidi noted that the preparatory process so far has revealed growing interest by and engagement of Palestinian ministers, government officials, and other high-level stakeholders and experts on the Palestinian economy.

Khalidi briefed the participants on the conclusions of the four preparatory symposia held in April and May and the methodology used in preparing the working papers that diagnosed pressing economic and social problems in Palestine and ways to address them in both the short and medium term.

Khalidi added that MAS continues its research on these issues while strengthening coordination with partners in the public, private, and civil



sectors, in order to reach the widest possible consensus on policies, procedures, and mechanisms to be adopted to mitigate challenges. He also emphasized the necessity of a national economic stance to strengthen the capabilities of the Palestinian economy and its sectors so that they may be able to face internal and external challenges and to empower the Palestinian society under occupation.

The participants praised MAS efforts to activate a national economic dialogue that is based on a scientific approach and cumulative consultative steps, which aim to involve all parties and therefore set out implementable recommendations and proposals to be adopted during the forthcoming conference.

The PSCC representatives agreed on the necessity to intensify the consultation process and expand it to include other elements of civil society. They stressed the importance of joint post-conference action as well as follow-up with all partners including public, private, and executive bodies in order to ensure the implementation of the recommendations and interventions to be elaborated at the conference.

The participants also stressed the urgent need for a national action program which contributes to the salvation of the Palestinian economy and its productive and industrial sectors, something that is necessary in order to strengthen Palestinian community steadfastness in the absence of any political solution in the near future.

Concluding the meeting, Mr. Khalidi pointed out that the 2016 economic conference could be a landmark in the path of national economic dialogue in terms of engaging all partners, stakeholders, and experts as well as highlighting the most urgent economic and social problems discussed during the preparatory process. He stressed, “By the objective diagnosis of the economic scene in Palestine and by the careful identification of solutions, policies, interventions and mechanisms necessary to meet the challenges, in preparing the documents



and recommendations to be considered by the conference, the Institute will maintain close consultations with various partners and representatives of the public, private and civil sectors".

For more details:

Please contact Ellam Tam The Communications & Public Relations Company. Ramallah. Tel: 02-2429105/7