



Cologne Mayors' Conference “Euro - Middle East City-to-City-Cooperation” - Conclusions -

On the occasion of the “Cologne Mayors’ Conference Euro-Middle East City-to-City Cooperation”, held from 29th November to 1st December 2011, mayors and leading representatives of Palestinian, Israeli and European municipalities, municipal associations and networks, experts and governmental officials convened in order to discuss and explore the potential and perspectives of Israeli-Palestinian as well as Euro-Middle East city-to-city cooperation with the objective to improve the living conditions of citizens and facilitate mutual understanding, respect and peace in the Middle East.

The Cologne Mayors’ Conference “Euro – Middle East City-to-City-Cooperation” has been jointly organized by the City of Cologne, the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI), the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag) and the Municipal Alliance for Peace in the Middle East (MAP). The owners of the conference and follow-up initiatives are APLA and ULAI, the municipal associations in Palestine and Israel and also the stakeholders of MAP.

VNG International (Netherlands), the German and French sections of CEMR, Cités Unies France (CUF), and the Standing Committee for the Euro Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM) have been partners in preparing the conference.

The Cologne conference was divided into two parts:

- a) **Round table** between Israeli and Palestinian mayors which has been held from 29th to 30th November 2011. The round table developed and endorsed the “**Cologne Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperation Activities**” (see page 2-3 and appendices 1 and 2).
- b) **Forum “Euro – Middle East City-to-City-Cooperation”**, 30th November to 1st December 2011, to which European mayors and representatives of municipal associations, governments and donor organizations have also been invited (see page 4).

The mayors’ conference was preceded and accompanied by a **Youth Forum**, held from 26th November to 3rd December and organized by the City of Cologne, the Cologne Catholic University of Applied Sciences and the Peace Research Institute for the Middle East (PRIME). It brought together students from Bethlehem, Cologne and Tel Aviv-Yafo who developed ideas for the Middle East 2025.

The results of the round table and the youth forum (see appendix 3) served as inputs to the forum.

Cologne Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperation Activities

On the occasion of the “Euro-Middle East City-to-City Cooperation conference”, hosted by the City of Cologne and the German Association of Cities, a round table between mayors from Palestine and Israel was organized by the Municipal Alliance for Peace (MAP) on 29th and 30th November 2011.

The purpose of the Round Table was to enhance concrete cooperation between the two sides, to upscale MAP and broaden the scope of its activities. During the discussions, mayors and experts raised different ideas for cooperation which are needed for the benefit of people on both sides. The talks, moderated by Mr. Jeremy Smith, an international expert on local government and former Secretary General of the IULA and CEMR, were creative, intense, inspiring and finally- operative. The participants also reaffirmed the “*Wittenburg Joint Understanding*” of 2003 and the “*MAP Declaration*” of 2005 which set out the basic principles for cooperation activities (*see appendices 1 and 2*).

The dialogue covered a wide spectrum of subjects, from which the following concrete projects were agreed upon:

1. **Mayors’ network:**

It was decided to create a sustainable and long-term Israeli and Palestinian Mayors’ network which will meet on a regular basis to facilitate cooperation on a number of fields, and provide solutions for pressing, day-to-day issues dealt with on the municipal level on both sides. The network will comprise a steering committee of 12 mayors from each side and the general network will be open for unlimited membership of committed mayors.

2. **The steering committee** will meet on a quarterly basis and deal with the following specific issues:

2.1 **Promotion of local and international tourism:**

- Organizing a mayors’ workshop, to study successful models of Israeli-Palestinian and other cooperation in the field of tourism.
- To arrange a visit of international tour operators in Israel and in Palestine in order to meet with mayors and professionals on both sides and raise their awareness to the potential benefits of visiting sites on both sides. That is, giving a platform for the uniqueness of the region and its cultural heritage.
- Maintain and develop touristic sites in cities in both sides, based on mutually agreed-upon tourist packages.
- The establishment of a capacity-building center for tourism services.
- Measures to enhance internal tourism.

2.2 **Environment protection and awareness:**

- Public health and pesticides: Coordinating efforts and providing information to confront and control the spread of diseases, pests, etc.
- Organize campaigns and cooperation on environmental awareness amidst the public on both sides.

- The promotion of Haifa-Jenin-Gilboa cooperation model regarding the rehabilitation of the Kishon River and other rivers.
- Examining the promotion and introduction of a treatment plant in the Bethlehem governorate.

Note: There would be scope for the steering committee to take forward environmental and related public health issues that in their view should be promoted.

2.3 Exchanges of visits of both sides, with an emphasis on mayors, professional staff, private sector and community representatives and the enhancement of the ties between Israeli and Palestinian cities in general.

- Once every six months a joint Israeli-Palestinian mayors meeting will be convened in a rotating methodology in order to broaden the network on both sides.
- Organizing exchanges for Palestinian children's fun day in Israeli cities and as much as possible vice-versa.
- Offering summer camps for Israeli and Palestinian youth in Israeli cities (and vice-versa)
- Set up more triangles of cooperation between a Palestinian, Israeli and international cities as models for emulation, that are similar to the models of Cologne-Tel-Aviv-Bethlehem.

2.4 Informal Education for Peace and confidence-building:

- Setting up an informal program for peace education, confidence-building and leadership skills for Israeli and Palestinian youth.

2.5 Water:

- Introducing technological means for the preservation and purification of water resources.
- Mayors on both sides will lobby with the responsible authorities to improve the water quantity.

Other important issues were raised by the participants including gender equality, disasters and emergencies etc. It was agreed that the steering committee would look at ways of taking forward these issues as appropriate.

3. Role of MAP secretariat:

It was agreed that the MAP secretariat would facilitate the organization of the steering committee and mayors' network, in agreement with APLA and ULAI.

Cologne Memorandum on Euro-Middle East City-to-City Cooperation

On the basis of the round table conclusions European, Israeli and Palestinian mayors agreed to strengthen the Euro-Middle East City-to-City Cooperation. A number of bi- tri- and multilateral cooperation projects and ideas have been presented, discussed and developed further.

There was a broad consensus that

- the cooperation between European, Israeli and Palestinian municipalities shall be deepened and widened
- further sister city partnerships between European, Israeli and Palestinian municipalities shall be founded
- the cooperation between the existing European Euro-Middle East networks shall be enhanced
- a regular exchange between European municipalities actively involved or interested in Euro-Middle East city-to-city cooperation shall be established.

The conference was characterized by a high spirit of cooperation, openness and mutual respect. The conference underlined that municipalities have – despite of all political obstacles – their own sphere of competence and that they can build bridges of trust through concrete cooperation projects. The conference also underlined that more funding will be needed in order to exploit the full potential of city-to-city cooperation and that existing funding programs of national governments, the European Union and the United Nations shall give more attention to its unique role.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the Union of Municipalities of Turkey have kindly offered to hold the follow-up conference 2012 in Turkey.

Appendices:

1. Wittenburg Joint Understanding, January 2003
2. MAP Declaration, June 2005
3. Conclusions Youth Forum

ANNEX 1: Wittenburg Joint Understanding, January 2003

JOINT UNDERSTANDING OF IULA, FMCU, APLA AND ULAI

for the organisation of a joint international local governments conference

We, Mr. Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and Mr. Mohamed Boussraoui of the 'Fédération Mondiale des Cités Unies' (FMCU), met between the 24th and 26th of January 2003 in The Hague, The Netherlands, on invitation and facilitation of Mr. Wim Deetman, President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), Mayor of The Hague, to explore possible actions at the local level to contribute to just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and have agreed to the following Understanding, that has been endorsed by Ghassan Shakah, President of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), Mayor of Nablus, Adi Eldar, President of the Union of Local Authorities of Israel (ULAI), and Mr. Meir Nitzan, Chairman of the General Assembly of ULAI and Mayor of Rishon LeZion:

Considering the long history of dialogue between the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and the Union of Local Authorities of Israel (ULAI), particularly within the international arena under the umbrella of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and 'la Fédération Mondiale des Cités Unies' (FMCU),

Recalling the international agreement reached under the aegis of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), during the IULA World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, in March 1999, that calls on CEMR to take an active role to enhance peace and cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli people,

Following the outcome of joint working meetings between Senior representatives of APLA and ULAI together with IULA and FMCU, during the joint IULA/FMCU meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, in June 2002, that agreed that concrete action should be undertaken to organise an international local government conference to take place consecutively in Palestine and Israel,

In pursuit of the discussions that took place in Athens, Rome and the Hague, both sides reaffirm the Understanding reached in Rome, which is attached to this understanding,

In response to the increasingly louder calls of Palestinian and Israeli citizens for security, peace and prosperity, and the stagnation of the peace talks at national level,

Strongly condemning all acts of terror and violence that continue to be inflicted on the Palestinian and Israeli citizens,

Recognizing that it is the obligation and responsibility of the local authorities to proactively work towards ending the occupation by finding a just solution in which the Palestinian and Israeli citizens can live side by side in two states, Palestine

and Israel, in security, peace and prosperity; and that the only manner to achieve this, is through mutual dialogue and cooperation, whereby the Palestinian and Israeli local authorities are to work as partners in order to effectively address the problems that stand in the way of just and lasting peace;

We have reached a further understanding on the following main issues that need to be resolved in negotiations by the respective national governments, supported by the international community, in order to achieve just and lasting peace:

Violence and Terrorism

Both sides reject all acts of violence and terrorism and consider negotiations as the only way to achieve lasting and just peace. At the same time, it is the duty and obligation of both sides, with assistance of the international community, to end the circle of violence and control terrorism on both sides.

Jerusalem

Both sides recognise that Jerusalem should be one united city at municipal level, with free access to all holy places and as two (2) capitals for two (2) states.

Settlements

The basic principle should be “peace and construction”, whereas a solution for the settlements should follow the Understanding reached at Camp David and the Mitchell report

Water

Both sides agree that a common policy should be formulated on a just and equal distribution of water in quality and quantity. For this an international assistance is needed to ensure a sustainable, and just use of water resources.

Refugees

It is considered essential to have a good recognition and understanding of the refugee problem and that the issue of refugees is not only the responsibility for the Palestinian and Israeli authorities, but for the international community as a whole, and finding a just, equitable and agreed solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees, while respecting the integrity of both sides.

Transport, Environmental Issues

Moreover, the issues of transport and environment are considered important issues to be discussed in future negotiations.

Borders

Specifically, both sides should negotiate acceptable and safe borders and sovereignty for the two states.

Recognizing the above, we reaffirm our commitment to organize an international local government conference, under the umbrella of the IULA and FMCU, to promote peace and dialogue and seek international support for the construction of Palestinian local government capacities, as well as the local government capacity in Israel.

We consider this conference as an important step in promoting peace and dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli local authorities and their communities, and in establishing an international Municipal Cooperation Programme to support the Palestinian and Israeli local governments.

In this context, we consider the overall objectives of the conference as follows:

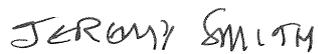
1. To build confidence, trust, dialogue and cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli local authorities and their communities to achieve the ambitions of their citizens to live side by side in peace, freedom, security and prosperity;
2. To identify common goals and a comprehensive vision on how local authorities and their associations can contribute effectively to achieving just and lasting peace for the region;
3. To initiate joint cooperation activities and direct relationships between local authorities in the region to advance the socio-economic development for the citizens of Palestinian and Israeli municipalities, and foster people-to-people activities to improve the atmosphere of understanding between Israeli and Palestinian citizens;
4. To jointly call for solutions (at the human level) to the problems that stand in the way for lasting peace and address the relevant political leadership accordingly;
5. To seek international support from local governments and donor agencies worldwide in achieving our joint objectives

Through the conference we would like to offer the opportunity to municipalities and their representative bodies worldwide to contribute in a constructive and coordinated manner to the above objectives.

We hope that the conference, to take place consecutively in Palestine and Israel, will result in an international agreement among all participating mayors on a joint action plan for a Municipal Cooperation Programme that will be able to effectively contribute to just and lasting peace in the region and that is complementary to the initiatives of ongoing civil society activities.

We express our sincere gratitude for the continued support of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and 'la Fédération Mondiale des Cités Unies' (FMCU) and their willingness to jointly organise the conference, with APLA and ULAI, and ask the new world organisation "United Cities and Local Government" to continue this responsibility. Moreover, we thank Mayor Deetman, President of the Netherlands Association of Municipalities (VNG), for hosting the gathering and VNG International for their willingness to act as secretariat for the international working group that will make the necessary preparations for the conference and an initial outline of the Municipal Cooperation Programme.

We call upon the international donor agencies, especially the European Union, to make available the necessary financial resources to allow us and our international partners to organise the conference in a professional manner.

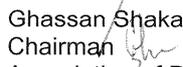


Jeremy Smith
Secretary General
International Union of
Local Authorities (IULA)

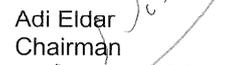
Mohamed Boussraoui
On behalf of the
Fédération Mondiale des
Cités Unies' (FMCU)



Wim Deetman
Chairman
Netherlands Association
of Municipalities (VNG)
and Mayor of The Hague



Ghassan Shakah
Chairman
Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities (APLA)
and Mayor of Nablus



Adi Eldar
Chairman
Union of Local Authorities
in Israel (ULAI)
and Mayor of Karmiel



Meir Nitzan
Chairman of the General
Assembly of ULAI and
Mayor of Rishon LeZion



From 1 to 3 June 2005, local authorities from around the world have gathered, in The Hague, The Netherlands for the Conference “Municipal Alliance for Peace in the Middle East”, organised by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), to explore possible joint actions to contribute to just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Following the deliberations of the conference, we have agreed to the following declaration, that is initiated by the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and the Union of Local Authorities of Israel (ULAI), and supported by the political leaders of the participating local authorities and their representative organisations:

Considering the long history of dialogue between the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and the Union of Local Authorities of Israel (ULAI), particularly within the international arena under the umbrella of the UCLG, (United Cities and Local Governments),

Following the outcome of joint working meetings between senior representatives of APLA and ULAI together with the world organisations that preceded the UCLG (i.e. IULA and FMCU), during the joint IULA/FMCU meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, in June 2002, that agreed to organise a joint international local government conference,

In pursuit of the subsequent discussions and understandings reached in Rome, Athens, Thessaloniki and The Hague,

Strongly condemning all acts of terror and violence that continue to be inflicted on the Palestinian and Israeli citizens,

We, as local political leaders and representative organisations of local authorities, feel obliged to act on the increasingly louder calls from Palestinian and Israeli citizens to proactively work towards ending the conflict on the basis of implementation of the international resolutions in which the Palestinian and Israeli citizens can live side by side in two independent states, Palestine and Israel, in security, peace and prosperity. The only manner to achieve this, is through mutual dialogue and cooperation, whereby the Palestinian and Israeli local authorities, supported by their international partners, are to work as partners in order to build trust and overcome problems on the ground.

We call upon the Palestinian and Israeli national leaderships to intensify their constructive dialogue and to effectively address the problems that stand in the way of just and lasting peace. Particularly in view of the renewed peace talks at national level, it is our duty to work with our citizens towards increased mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, as an essential basis for lasting peace in the region.

It is in this context, we have agreed to start on-the-ground cooperation through joint projects in Palestinian, Israeli and international partner municipalities, that are aimed at promoting lasting peace in the region. To support this trilateral cooperation, APLA, ULAI and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) will establish, in close cooperation with the European Network of Local Authorities for Peace in the Middle East, the Central Union of Local Authorities in Greece, the Union of Cyprus Municipalities, and other relevant partners, the 'Municipal Alliance for Peace', or MAP. United Cities and Local Government, as the world organisation of local governments in the world, regards MAP as an important initiative to achieve its ambitions in the field of city diplomacy, and fully support the alliance. The Municipal Alliance for Peace aims to mobilise support from municipalities around the world, as well as support from the international donor community for these initiatives and provide hands-on support to the municipal trilateral cooperation. For the establishment of MAP, a cooperation outline, along with a local action plan has been agreed upon during the conference. To be able to realize the ambitions of MAP and ensure implementation of its local action plan, we support the establishment of a joint international secretariat of MAP in the region.

We call upon local governments worldwide and the international community to support this initiative and join the Municipal Alliance for Peace, to allow us to achieve our ambitions to increase mutual understanding, cooperation and improve the daily life of citizens in Israeli and Palestinian municipalities.

Mobility

Introduction and background:

Mobility is a basic human birth right. It is the ability of every human being to move and travel from one point to another physically, mentally and spiritually in his/her own community or else where without any restrictions. It is the ability to access resources and opportunities according to the needs and potential of the individual or community. Mobility is indispensable need for individuals, groups and communities to be able to grow and maintain their identities.

Through out our discussion we stressed many kinds of mobility: mental, virtual, psychological, social, physical (geographical), religious, educational, ideological, political and economical to name only a few. The dichotomy of **mobility** is **immobility** -lack or restricted mobility. Immobility can be seen in limitation of physical movement, social and economic, marriages, psychological, religions, education and jobs. Each individual or community has certain but different priority or need when it comes to mobility. This mainly depends on their living situations, potentials and aspirations. This is clearly seen among the three national groups: Palestinian, Israeli and German. But, all nationalities have the same needs of mobility, but at different levels of priority.

There are many advantages of mobility like: learning opportunities, openness and tolerance, prosperities, freedom and democracy, participation, equal opportunities, sharing, peace and harmony, security and understanding. At the same time there are many disadvantages for the immobility like, animosity, prejudices, fears, stereotypes, suspicions, exclusion and limitation on all potentials and possibilities. Immobility could be resulted from discriminatory laws and regulations, religious or political ideologies, psychological or sociological and cultural limitations, nationalities and economic factors.

Nowadays, we found social media-internet, face books- plays a significant role in circumventing all types of immobility. It bypasses all restrictions and limitations. Through out our discussion all groups agreed that **mental mobility** is the limestone for all kinds of mobility. But, the groups disagreed on the priority of each mobility needed to each nationality, because the three nationalities are at different levels and stages of their national building, economic development and cultural structures but in general all of them need certain kind of mobility.

The priorities regarding mobility according to nationalities:

For the three nationalities mental mobility is the basic for all other kinds of mobility. Once you had it in your mind it opens opportunities to the other kinds of mobility. We found out that we have different priorities.

For the Palestinian group, the need for physical movement is the first priority for them. It is considered an obstacle in achieving other mobility. Palestinians are restricted in their movement because of checkpoints, wall, security restrictions and by permits only. This limits their accessibility to their schools, hospitals and working places. It cuts off their family and social relations, limits their abilities to build their political entity and at the same time destroy their economic development. It forbids them from reaching

their religious places in East Jerusalem and practices their religious rituals. It stresses and frustrated them and affects their psychology and they loose control of time. In brief immobility strips them for their dignity, freedom, identity and makes them completely dependent.

For the German group education is their immediate priority of mobility. They think that their education should not be limited to the formal side but it should include the informal side. Education influences all forms of mobility like the springboard. It is an interaction process. Through education you will be able to form social/cultural and technological skills and competences.

One specific aspects of the education mobility is to create the equal possibility for all young people to travel around doing exchange programs and engaging in education trips etc. Now, this is not possible for everyone. It is only available for people from upper classes who are able to do it but people from lower classes just stay in their own quarters, because of financial reasons and missing these rich knowledge opportunities and possibilities.

The Israelis group decided to choose also the education as their priority of mobility. The reason for their decisions is that they believe having mobility in education affects all other aspects of mobility. In Israel, we want education to become on the main agenda of public discussion. Then, it would be easier and necessary to express your opinion and to act, influence and create a better society. Education mobility to us should open the free choices for every person to choose his/her profession and future career. Another aspect is the right of each person to have quality public service education and higher education regardless of his/her age, background, gender etc. Education mobility affects society's classes and jobs priorities in Israel.

After achieving mobility in education and movement one can continue work on making mobility between cultures and to come closer to each other and be more informed of one another. It gives you mobility in social classes and the ability to move and get ahead at your social status based on better salary, recognition etc.

Though, virtual mobility helps enriching other motilities by globalizing culture, knowledge and communication etc.

Actions that can be done to improve the level of mobility according to nationalities

I- Israel: Debate on public Education

1. Revise the distribution of the budget and allocate more money for education. For example: Increase teachers' salaries, enrichment of the school resources and financial and support to those in needs.
2. Create scholarships and benefits in order to attract people with high caliber to the filed of education.
3. Open a program in which educators and students will get together more often to discuss the situation of public education, aiming to write together a new curriculum based on values of dialogue, democracy and respect for one another.

II- Palestine: Free from Occupation

1. To dismantle all movement barriers like check-points, movement permits and destroys parts of wall - especially the one that was built on the occupied Palestinian land in 1967.

2. To apply the same laws of movement to all regardless of their religions and nationality.
3. To cancel all laws and regulations that limit the unity of the Palestinian families, connections and reunion.
4. Abandon the laws that if you don't reside in Jerusalem you will lose your Jerusalemite I. D card.

III- German: Education for under privileged

1. Forming exchange programs for everybody with financial support.
2. To sensitize social workers to inform young people of the possibilities to travel around doing educational and language trips and be part of an exchange program etc.

Vision 2025

In Palestine the most disturbing immobility in movement resulted from occupation and in order for every other aspect of mobility to change, this has to change at first.

In Germany the differences between people with migration background, people with deprived background and the people without education should have the same possibilities to use education. There should be no longer a big distance.

In Israel education should become a main topic in public discussions. Education should help improve the knowledge of tolerance regarding minority groups.

After the Palestinian and the Israelis have met together with Germans here in Koln in 2011, we found out that they suffer from the politics and governmental decisions, occupation and ideology. We as youth of both sides wish that in 2025 the ideology of having respectful life and tolerant relationship using dialog among each other to solve our problems will be the one that the politicians and the governments should adopt.

We, youth from the Middle East wish to travel and co-operate like Europe without any security restrictions.

Job Opportunities and Labour market

Our vision

- A stable political, social, and economic system where people will not be drifted toward the margins of the society and adopt extreme hostility.
- Equal opportunities for all the people regardless of their diverse backgrounds.
- A Balanced and sustainable social system, whereby the vast majority of the society should have decent jobs that will create a sense of solidarity and belongings to their society.

Youth Jobs

There is a large group of students that belong to the middle class in the three countries, which cannot be supported by their families and also don't get any support from the state. In addition, professional training for university degree is demanded but not paid.

Therefore many young people, while pursuing their degree, need to work in addition to their studies in odd jobs such as waiters and gardeners.

It is difficult to combine working and studying, to find a job just for one or two days in the week, and to get decent wage.

In Palestine some students are obliged to withdraw from their studies for a period of time in order to sustain themselves. Hence, they cannot finish their studies on time, and in some cases they suspend their studies.

The scope of this phenomenon is different in the abovementioned countries, but it is the same problem.

Our Vision: To provide stable student jobs which are related to the studies of the students and can be paid from the beginning of their first year, or reduced from the cost of the study.

New Graduates and the Labour Market

Clearly, there is a significant imbalance between labour market needs, and the supply of academic graduates.

Consequences of this problem:

Many people don't find a Job in their field of graduation.

Unlike Germany, Palestine and Israel don't have a developed vocational education. They are hardly professional internships. Many mechanic, electricians and blue collar workers, acquire their skills in provisional ways without professional guidance and without a certificate.

Our Vision: Establishing a steering committee, which coordinate, according to the professional and academic needs of the society, the availability of academic and vocational jobs.

Example: A good system of dual studies exists in Germany, enabling a combination of academic and vocational studies. The government, universities and professional schools, have to team up their efforts in order to adopt this method.

Political Obstacles

Political issues impair job opportunities in the three countries in different degrees and ways.

For example, in Palestine a person can't get a job if he/she belongs to a specific political movement that opposes the authorities.

In Israel, Arab citizens or those who did not serve in the army will probably not be able to enter many jobs. In Germany, such political obstacles hardly exist.

Our Vision: the political system has to be separated from the job market and has to accept diversity.

Social Aspects

Job opportunities are affected by many social dynamics and aspects such as gender issues (very different in the Germany and Israel/Palestine), cultural factors, religion characteristics (more in Israel and Palestine, less in Germany), disability, age, demography (Germany: many old people, Israel and Palestine: many young people), immigration and ethnicity.

Our vision

The enlargement of job opportunity should address these issues very carefully. For example, in Palestine/Israel: to enhance job opportunities for women and to bring the o for the modern lifestyle for everybody without breaking the culture.

In Germany: To offer chances for entering the modern job market for everybody.

Exploitive employment

Many companies use exploitive employment by working with subcontractors that do not give the workers a decent payment, no social rights no benefits and no job security.

Our Vision: Stop this kind of employment. It creates instability.

We need to move to employment with a social foundation.

We need to find mechanism of putting pressure, or encouraging benefits for companies to change these kinds of employment, and to move towards a more fair and decent employment using such means as: employment with transparent contracts; Unions and collective bargaining; secured social rights and health benefits, as well as state intervention against the sub-contractors companies.

We need regulations and laws in order to enforce these actions.

Vision for a New Horizon

Tourism.

We should establish an academy of tourism in order to enlarge the professional ability of those who are in this business.

We should create new jobs in fields such as weather tourism (using the advantage of a warm winter), religious tourism (pilgrimage, Bible routes, "Abraham path") etc.

We should improve the signs and the information to tourists. (Names in English etc.)

Building Infrastructures.

In order to increase the job market we should facilitate the building many national and bi-national projects such as Harbour in Palestine, light train, underground transportation, Airport in Palestine, water dieselization, new cities, etc.

All these infrastructure projects will create new job opportunities in many fields like transportation, education, communication, health etc.

This vision will increase the security and confidence of the people. A secured and confident population is less vulnerable, more tolerant towards the other.

Civil Society and Participation

INTRODUCTION

If we can say one idea that will reflect the discussions of our German-Israeli-Palestinian talks the last days it is the wish for change.

Change the way of thinking and living and create a new Israeli-Palestinian reality which exceeds all the expectations.

We live under different situations, but we are concerned by the same issues: decreasing living conditions, financial insecurity, social and political injustice. We all feel that the governments have to listen to the growing civil movements.

These civil movements in our different societies show that there must be a fundamental change of priorities: f. e. many countries spend too much money on military purposes instead on means for a civil society.

UPRISING SOCIETIES

Palestinians in the territories' lands suffer from different things: water shortage due to the Israeli control, check points, surprise check points that cause immobility in many ways. The army's severe restrictions on Palestinian movement in the west bank gravely affect the ability to obtain proper medical treatment. Students suffer under the cost of living and they protest against growing university-fees. Students also suffer under the internal division between Fatah and Hamas.

In Israel we see a problem of living conditions with high rents due to the growing population, lack of apartments, which cause uncontrolled situation by the government. Basic food product are expensive, prices are not supervised like in the past. Health care is another crisis - doctors are on strike.

Reaching the German situation, there is a protest against financial insecurity and for financial transparency. Another aspect is the discrimination against immigrant people. The loss of trust in the system and the situation of unemployment lead some young people to extremism.

STEPS FOR A CHANGE

To come to the Israeli point of view, many protests were done in order to come at the end to a solution that is needed for the time being. A protest was held by many Israeli and Jerusalemates citizen. It was called THE TENT PROTEST. Change comes first inside us, then we change the way we are thinking about ourselves and the others, and finally we have to change politics like the expenses in the state's budget.

In Germany there are many protests going on concerning the international finance system: The occupy movement started tents in Frankfurt and other countries. There were also solidarity demonstrations for the workless Spanish youth and for the migrants.

Palestinians also followed the face book and internet in order to tell people that we have a real problem and Palestinians want everyone to know it. For example, a council of students formed a group at university and via facebook they talked about health hygiene, diseases, general topics and supporting the others.

CONCLUSION

We see that young people are worried by similar problems all over the world. The new communication media like facebook, twitter and blogs give us the chance to get united under the same umbrella of issues that connect our social life and it helps us to protest and to speak with the same voice, even if there are borders which separate us and do not allow us to come together at the same place.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION

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To come to the Israeli point of view, many protests were done in order to come at the end to a solution that is needed for the time being. A protest was held by many Israeli and Jerusalemates citizen it was called THE TENT PROTEST.

In Germany there are many protests going on concerning the international finance system: The occupy movement started tents in Frankfurt and other countries.

Palestinians also followed the face book and internet in order to tell people that we have a real problem and Palestinians want everyone to know it and that they are working to get this purpose.

We see that young people are worried by the same issues and problems all over the world. The new communication media like facebook, twitter and blogs give us the chance to get united under the same umbrella of issues that connect our social life and it helps us to protest and to speak with the same voice.

In our exchange meeting we felt the necessity that there must be a possibility to meet as normal Palestinian and Israeli pupils, students and citizen f.e. in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ramallah and Bethlehem. To meet in a neutral place like Germany now is a good first step, but the Israeli and Palestinian government have to support the next step of meetings and exchange inside the country. We ask you the Mayors to support local young leaders from your cities to meet regularly in cross boarder encounters.

The civil protest concerning issues of the daily life brings us together and maybe we learn from each other how to use the peaceful power of being citizen. It might be the first step of a longer journey in which we know that we have to tackle the more difficult political questions which separate us.

We have reached a point to start a general revolution via facebook. There were many protests in different parts of Israel, Palestine and Germany, too. Many people woke up and wanted a change; so they followed various ways like facebook, demonstrations, flashmobs, tents or silent and passive protest to clear up their demands.

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