



## U.S.-PALESTINIAN PARTNERSHIP

### *Promoting economic and educational opportunities for the Palestinian people*

On December 3, 2007, President Bush, Secretary Rice and USAID Administrator Fore announced a new public-private partnership focused on creating economic opportunity for the Palestinian people and helping to prepare Palestinian youth for the responsibilities of citizenship and good governance.

The U.S. private sector – both non-profits and the business community – is uniquely situated to contribute to these goals. By demonstrating to the Palestinian people that they are willing to work with responsible Palestinian leaders and institutions, the private sector will increase support for a Palestinian leadership committed to peace and willing to negotiate the political compromises required to reach this important goal.

This effort is a critical component in facilitating progress toward a two-state solution, wherein Israel and Palestine live side by side, in peace, security and prosperity.

This partnership builds on the work of the Middle East Investment Initiative (MEII). A public-private partnership between the Aspen Institute, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Palestinian Investment Fund, MEII is a \$228 million loan guarantee program currently operating in the West Bank to improve the livelihoods of the Palestinian people.

#### **PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Seeking to inspire, educate and train, the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership will focus its efforts on:

- Sustainable economic development;
- Job creation and training; and
- Youth education and leadership development.

One aspect of this effort is the expansion of three Professional Development and Resource Centers (PDRCs) in Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron. These centers will be affiliated with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Youth and Sport and will be

served by a Youth Network that connects them to each other and that can be accessed by appropriate community and youth centers and schools throughout the West Bank.

These efforts will complement and support the overall effort of the Quartet's Special Representative, Tony Blair. The initiative will also be guided by the reform agenda of Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and will work closely with his ministers and government in its implementation.

#### **PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP**

##### **Chairman:**

Walter Isaacson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aspen Institute

##### **Co-chairs:**

Ziad Asali, President of the American Task Force on Palestine  
 Jean Case, Chief Executive Officer of the Case Foundation  
 Lester Crown, Chairman of Henry Crown and Company  
 Sandy Weill, Chairman Emeritus of Citigroup

Partnership activities will be directed by Toni Verstandig, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Middle East Strategy Group.

#### **PARTNERSHIP CONTACT**

For additional information, please contact Mickey Bergman, Program Director, U.S.-Palestinian Partnership, Aspen Institute, (703) 944-3995, [mickeybergman@gmail.com](mailto:mickeybergman@gmail.com), or Andrea McDaniel, Director of the Office for Private Sector Outreach, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, 202-647-9163, [McDanielAL@state.gov](mailto:McDanielAL@state.gov).