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SECOND CONFERENCE OF GERMAN-PALESTINIAN  
MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

German-Palestinian municipal partnerships are a key focus of the programme 'Partnerships with Municipalities in the MENA Region', which is run by the Service Agency Communities in One World. The Service Agency is the point of contact for German municipalities when approaching potential partner municipalities and further developing existing municipal partnerships. For some time now, this has enabled us to observe how German-Palestinian partnerships have continuously been consolidating their work, and how German municipalities are displaying a growing interest in cooperating with Palestinian municipalities as partners.

The Service Agency has a proven track record of successfully supporting bilateral partnerships between German and Palestinian municipalities.<sup>1</sup> So far the Service Agency has actively supported the municipal partnerships of Cologne-Bethlehem (the oldest partnership, which has now existed for 20 years, i.e. since 1996), Bergisch Gladbach-Beit Jala (since 2011), Jena-Beit Jala (since 2011), Xanten-Beit Sahour (since 2011) and Bad Oldesloe-Jifna (since 2015), as well as the project-based partnerships of Hebron-Mannheim (since 2013) and Nablus-Nuremberg (since 2015).

Often the partnerships are built on many years of work to establish and develop relationships. The necessary communication, mobilisation of funds and provision of platforms for communication and networking are investments that demand sustainable and long-term engagement. On behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Service Agency supports municipalities in their partnership work in numerous different ways: advice and information sharing for development-related municipal engagement; organisation and funding of network meetings (as documented in the present proceedings); support of working meetings (including an expert delegation programme to promote professional exchange within

partnership projects); funding of training on country-specific issues and intercultural sensitisation (e.g. concerning the Palestinian territories).



Martina Sabra

Another of the Service Agency's instruments that is particularly suited to larger projects is the 'Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (Nakopa)' programme line. In 2015 the cooperation between Mannheim and Hebron was supported through this programme, which facilitated joint investment in sanitation infrastructure.

The Conference of German-Palestinian Partnerships staged in cooperation with the City of Jena from 10 to 13 November 2015 was already the second of its kind.<sup>2</sup> These proceedings now summarise the key outcomes of the three-day meeting on various levels. The meeting revolved around the success stories achieved to date, as well as the challenges and prospects for the work of the German-Palestinian partnerships now and in the future. These were discussed intensively during presentations, panel debates and working groups on the topics of sanitation, solid waste management and tourism development. As well as representatives of the established partnerships, the meeting in Jena was also attended by invited representatives of the City of Bonn

1 [www.service-eine-welt.de/nahost\\_partnerschaften/nahost\\_partnerschaften-start.html](http://www.service-eine-welt.de/nahost_partnerschaften/nahost_partnerschaften-start.html).

2 This conference picked up where the municipal partnership meetings held in Ramallah and Bethlehem in November 2014 left off. See: [www.service-eine-welt.de/nahost\\_partnerschaften/nahost\\_partnerschaften-kommunales-treffen-in-palaestina2014.html](http://www.service-eine-welt.de/nahost_partnerschaften/nahost_partnerschaften-kommunales-treffen-in-palaestina2014.html).

and the Palestinian municipalities of Ramallah, Al Doha, Al Khader, Al Ubediyah, Battir, and Beitunia. Martina Sabra and Ulrich Nitschke guided the participants through the agenda.

Over the next few years the Service Agency aims to use its programmes to develop and strengthen German-Palestinian municipal relations. The third conference of partnerships will be held in Palestine in late 2016.

## 2. WELCOME ADDRESSES

Day 1: Tuesday, 10 November 2015

### Welcome address by Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Mayor of Jena

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a moving moment for me to welcome you to our city here in the town hall and open this conference. A warm welcome to you all.



Dr. Albrecht Schröter

Why is this moment so moving for me? I grew up in a Christian, pro-Jewish home. We talked a great deal about Israel, and I was excited about the fact that they were able to establish a new state. In 1993 I went to the Holy Land for the first time as a pastor, visiting Jerusalem and Bethlehem among other places. There I discovered that people were emigrating from Palestine. I got to know the municipality of Beit Jala and was there several times. In 2008, for instance, when we organised a demonstration in Bethlehem to 'bring down the wall'. We knelt down and prayed for peace there. In those years I learned to live and think as people in Palestine do. When I came back to Germany and reported on my experiences, I was asked to get trilateral relations of the ground, in order to bring Palestinian and Israeli people together in dialogue. I accepted the job and travelled from Hebron to Nablus, visited Ramallah

and met with many mayors. The idea we had was to build three-way links. Now I know that right now, this is virtually impossible. Because no one knows how things will develop from here.

I learned from Martin Buber 'that the happiness of one people is dependent on the happiness of the other'. Palestine cannot thrive unless Israel thrives too, and Israel cannot thrive unless Palestine thrives as well. Yet I see a huge difference in the balance of power. This is not a relationship between equals. One side holds sway, while the other is oppressed. Today, I am on the side of those who need support; those who need us to establish and maintain links and partnerships. That's why I wanted to invite you to Jena today. Let us take this discussion further. I'm delighted that you've all come here today, and I'd like to thank you for doing so. I hope that we will make progress and produce results.

Showing solidarity means listening and being there for each other. I no longer wish to remain silent. I do not believe that we in Germany should keep quiet because of a misplaced understanding of history. I would like to prompt debate on German foreign policy toward Palestine and Israel. That is my goal. I am not entitled to judge who is right or wrong. But I believe the fact that Germany has incurred dreadful guilt through the Holocaust must not lead us to shy away from injustice, and say and do nothing. I am happy about the fact that our country has worked through this terrible history, learned lessons from it, and concluded that it must devote its energies to human rights and democracy. This is the outcome of the historic appraisal of the Holocaust in Germany.

We are here today to demonstrate that many people are on the side of people from Palestine, without being against Israel; being against Israel is



not what this is about. What we are doing here is working for the future of Israel and Palestine, for a peaceful future and for harmonious coexistence. We would like to see the structures of municipalities improve for people. I believe we can learn a great deal from each other. I do not think that Germany knows better; in my opinion, there are many things that we can and should learn from you in Palestine. Such as the wonderful gift of hospitality, or the sensitive way of responding to things. Conversely, some of the ideas that we have developed here in Germany might be of interest in Palestine. We'll be collecting the results here.

But we have already achieved the greatest gain of all: the fact that we are sitting here together, that partnerships exist and that we have an opportunity to develop and expand these links. And if and when the occupation finally comes to an end, then the day will have come when we are able to sit at the same table as Israeli municipalities and develop trilateral links. Over the last two years, however, I have learnt and understood that we must take small, realistic steps. We are your partners, and we are delighted about that fact. I am pleased that we are here in Jena, where guests are expressly welcome. We are responsive to the partnerships that we are involved in, and we even have a small, additional investment budget for partner municipalities. Open your eyes and discover Jena – the City of Light. I'm looking forward to the conference and the time will be spending together. I hope you will feel comfortable and make yourselves at home. So allow me to say salam alaykom, and a very warm welcome!

### Welcome address by Dr. Jens Kreuter, Managing Director, Engagement Global

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm delighted to welcome you here today. Mayor Albrecht Schröter and I have one thing in common: We are both Protestant theologians. I grew up in West Germany, though, and my biography led me to become a conscientious objector, so that instead of performing military service I did civilian service. In those days I was adventurous, and wanted to go abroad and perform peace work. By chance I then ended up spending 18 months in Israel in the reconciliation project Nes Ammim. Travelling to the region was possible at that time because there were no walls. It was moving to walk from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, and it tears my heart out when I visit the region today and see that this is no longer possible. Many Germans have also experienced the constraints imposed by a wall, and can relate to this painful situation.



Dr. Jens Kreuter

I'd like to thank you all for coming – especially those of you who've come from Palestine. This is a great gift for us. It is an opportunity for municipal partnerships to tell each other their stories and learn from each other. One prospect I find particularly exciting is reaching people through partnerships who previously knew little about them; when young people set off in an adventurous spirit, as I did, and then learn from what they experience. This is a huge opportunity and we intend to support it. Partnerships are a good way to bring different people together, and enable them to learn from each other and make friends. The activities of the last few years demonstrate that this can succeed, and that there is now a vibrant network of partnerships. Their level of engagement is impressive; many projects

are under way. We would like to support your willingness to cooperate, and cordially invite you to accept the support and other inputs offered by the Service Agency. If you would like to do something or if you have an idea, then our aim would be to support you with that. We look forward to discussing your plans. Once again, a warm welcome. I wish us a successful conference, and I look forward to talking to you. Thank you very much.

### **Welcome address by Musa Hadid, President of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)**

Ladies and gentlemen,



Musa Hadid

First of all we'd like to express our thanks to all participants, mayors, the Service Agency and representatives of the German municipalities. Thank you very much to the Ambassador of Palestine, Dr. Khoulood Daibes, who was always there in person and encouraged us to strengthen relations between German and Palestinian municipalities. I'd also like to say a special thank you to Ulrich Nitschke, who we spent a lot of time with. He helped establish the existing partnerships. He believes in them, and has a clear vision. It is important that we are able to be together with our friends, so that we can press ahead with real change. What we are experiencing here today is part of that change. We would also like to learn from Germany's experiences. The country has been through a great deal, and there were many challenges in the course of the world wars, the wall and finally reunification. And now we are facing a wall.

We have an opportunity before us. When we leave this meeting we need to have reflected on the relationships between municipalities and come up

with a clear vision. We are calling for an increase in the number of relationships between German and Palestinian municipalities, because this forms the basis for international understanding. Through these relationships we will achieve something that we are all struggling to achieve, namely our rights.

We cannot speak of Palestine without talking about the reality of self-government. The municipalities in Palestine are over 100 years old, regardless of which systems of rule they existed under. These municipalities have played an important role for the population. That's why it is important for us to resist, stand firm and deliver services. These municipalities face numerous challenges. The greatest one of all, which we cannot ignore, is the occupation. We cannot deliver services due to the many obstacles created by the occupation. The problem already begins with the division of the territories. We can only govern a small proportion of the territories ourselves. This situation involves problems that we are barely able to manage. Infrastructure is also destroyed on a regular basis. Climate change is also affecting Palestine, and the municipalities are not prepared for dealing with its impacts.

Right now, the situation in Palestine is very difficult. For decades we have been extending the hand of peace in the hope of gaining our independence, but in actual fact we are still where we were at the beginning. We have not made progress, and it seems there is little interest in justice for Palestine. This is a sad loss for us, as young people's hopes for a future, for peace and for dignity – the hopes of an entire generation – are being lost. We have no alternative but to raise our voice. We are still occupied – in the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention.

## 3. INTRODUCTION

**Day 2: Wednesday, 11 November 2015**

**On the second day of the conference the participants reviewed what had happened so far and brought each other up to date on the current status quo. Good practice examples were presented, and participants discussed what they could take from the lessons learned so far in order to draw up roadmaps for the future.**

### **Introduction by Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Mayor of Jena**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having tuned into the issues yesterday evening, today we want to begin in earnest. Helmut Schmidt passed away yesterday, and this morning there was a programme about him on the radio. They interviewed a man who said he had been carrying wooden beams one day when he bumped into Helmut Schmidt, who said to him: 'Everyone has his cross to bear'. It was only later that it dawned on him what Helmut Schmidt had meant. That's also the spirit in which we are here today.

I'd like to begin by sharing a few ideas with you. First of all I'd like to tell you about what I would like to achieve. There are already a number of partnerships, and others were launched in 2013. I think this diversity, which also reflects the diversity of the municipalities, is very important. If we were now to pool and put together the various lessons we have learned so far, this would produce an interesting mosaic. So let's draw back the curtain and take a look at what has happened so far, and see what good practice examples we can find. That is the purpose of this meeting.

Secondly, I'd like to see the number of Palestinian-German partnerships continue to increase. We have seven partnerships, and we could have even more. My dream would be for all the German municipalities with an Israeli partnership to also

enter into a partnership with a Palestinian municipality. This is about sharing, this is where people meet – and do so in front of the wall and not behind it.



Welcome address at the town hall

Thirdly, I'd like to see the German municipalities network more closely with each other. Perhaps this conference will enable us to establish a network with which we can operate quickly and effectively. Because this is not only about sharing lessons learned and good practices. It is also about rapid interventions. When we received the news in August that the wall in the Cremisan Valley was to be extended, I wrote letters to, among others, the German Federal Chancellor, Mr Netanyahu and the President of the European Parliament. Others did likewise, and a network can help us to intervene more quickly in the political sphere.

No matter how open we remain to Israel, I believe it is time to raise our voices concerning Germany's foreign policy in the Middle East. It is unacceptable that we deliver weapons to Israel worth over EUR 2 billion. Although this is not prohibited, the German government should attach conditions to the sale in order to help ensure that the construction of the wall is brought to an end, the settlement policy is revised and a two-state solution is brought about. Things must change.

We must encourage each other in this political field, even though it may be difficult; human rights are at stake, and these are indivisible. Germany has learnt something from the Holocaust. We have learnt that we can never again oppress weaker people and never again trample on human rights. We have also learnt that we can work for democracy, and that people can live in ways that enable them to claim their human rights and lead their lives on that basis. We will not forget what happened in the past. But this is the conclusion in Germany that is also useful to the Palestinian people. Unless there is justice, there will be no peace. Germany has the capability and the influence to help bring about a just peace. I believe that municipalities can and must make an important contribution to this. We'll be talking about concrete good practice examples, sharing lessons learned, but we'll be doing so with a clear vision and a clear objective: to support peace in the Middle East.

## Introduction by Nicola Khamis, Mayor of Beit Jala

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be able to speak to you here today. Jena is a very beautiful, hospitable city, and our links go back many years, as is the case with Bergisch Gladbach, with which we also maintain a close friendship



Nicola Khamis

In the course of the unjust treatment and oppression perpetrated by the occupying troops, we have lost many people in Palestine. Ultimately, however, domination achieved by violence is a defeat. The occupying troops have power and weapons, but we have the right to an independent state. Palestine is weeping for its youth. Since 1967 we have suffered arbitrary aggression by the occupying army. Israel claims that by building the wall it wishes to create safety and security. Yet this wall cannot protect anyone. Instead, it creates hatred. It is a unilateral decision taken to separate two neighbouring peoples from each other. We would like to put an end to the occupation, and by doing so put an end to the oppression and violation of human rights. This situation is unacceptable. It needs to be stated publicly that we need an independent state.

Although the situation is difficult for us we love life, and we respect our neighbours and the accords. We have recognised the borders, even though the Oslo Accords recognise our rights only to a limited extent. Today is the eleventh anniversary of the death of Yasser Arafat. He struggled on behalf of the Palestinian people, initiated the Palestinian revolution, was hemmed in for years and worked for peace. He introduced the two-state

solution, yet to this day we still do not have a state of our own. We still want peace. Yasser Arafat also wanted to develop the partnerships with Germany, and our current president has continued along this same path. Our meeting is an important indicator that the German government has understood what is happening in Palestine: the fact that Israel is not interested in peace, and by the same token has no intention of ending the occupation – despite the various resolutions and agreements. We wish to end the occupation so that we can build our own institutions.

Ladies and gentlemen, Beit Jala is linked with Jena and Bergisch Gladbach through a strong and long-standing partnership that has become institutionalised. The mayors of these two municipalities have already visited us in Beit Jala several times, taken part in protests and said prayers close to the wall. They have supported us in our town's daily struggle, and have also got involved in the arts and music. These strategic partnerships encourage us. You deserve our close friendship. I'd like to thank everyone who has worked hard to get this conference off the ground. I wish us a successful conference, and hope that many more partnerships will be formed. I would be honoured to host the next conference. Long live our partnership!

## 4. WELCOME ADDRESSES

### Dr. Khouloud Daibes, Ambassador of Palestine to the Federal Republic of Germany

Ladies and gentlemen,



Dr. Khouloud Daibes

I'm delighted to speak to you here today. The fact that so many mayors and high-ranking municipal representatives are present in itself demonstrates the importance of this partnership conference. The month of November is packed with events for us. Today is the anniversary of the death of our President, Yasser Arafat. On 15 November we will be celebrating the 1988 Declaration of Independence, and we are still waiting for independence and freedom. On 29 November we'll be celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This meeting is also a special act of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

First of all a big thank you to everyone who worked to make this possible. My special thanks to Dr. Schröter, for the many good initiatives he has launched, and most recently his words on the Cremisan Valley. You take the words right out of our mouths. I can assure you, your city is renowned as a multicultural and open city – like a beam of 'light'. I'd also like to thank all the other municipal representatives here present. During the coming week a partnership agreement between Bad Oldesloe and Jifna will be signed. In Cologne a fundraising campaign for the Church of the Nativity is being launched. Existing partnerships are very active, and more

are being established. I'm delighted on both counts. Thank you very much to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), represented by Ms Scharf, for its long-standing engagement.

At the moment there are urgent issues on the international agenda. A political solution to the Palestinian issue has yet to be found, however. This is important, though, because it affects the entire region. Many of those seeking refuge here in Germany are also from Palestine. I speak to a number of them personally, and I find their stories very touching. They constantly remind us of the urgent need to find a political solution. I'd therefore like to emphasise how important these conferences are for sharing lessons learned and maintaining links in municipal networks.

Palestine and Germany have good, long-standing diplomatic relations. Germany is an important player for Palestine, and an active partner in various projects. I'm delighted by Dr. Kreuter's offer to support creative ideas. I'd therefore like to invite you to take up this offer. Cooperating at the municipal level provides an important platform that will help enable Palestinian-German partnership to succeed. This is a good point in time to hold this second conference. Sharing good practices involves pooling potential and capacities. Jena is an excellent example that clearly demonstrates how the strengths and capabilities of both sides can lead to an innovative and solid partnership. The actions and momentum this generates will contribute to the economic development of the Palestinian municipalities. At this point I'd also like to pick up on the idea of the Minister for Local Government, Dr. Hussein al-Araj, which he calls 'cluster drilling'; what he means by this is the countrywide networking of European and Palestinian municipalities.

I also think it's important to draw attention to the political context that determines our everyday lives. I'd therefore like to emphasise the deterioration in the situation, and the increasing tension and hopelessness among young people

in Palestine. We have all followed the political developments, and we still have a lot of work to do. Since early October there has been sustained escalation, which has cost many people their lives. We have also witnessed the developments in the Cremisan Valley, the misery in Gaza in the aftermath of three wars in six years, and continued settlement etc. Nonetheless we should find a quiet space and hold productive discussions in order to somewhat improve the living conditions and quality of life in the municipalities in what is a difficult situation. This will mean a great deal of work, creativity and above all courage to change. I'd like to thank you for your work, and sincerely wish you a highly successful and enjoyable meeting with plenty of interesting discussions and ideas for future work.

**Stefanie Scharf, Deputy Head, Middle East Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), I'd also like to welcome you and thank you for the kind invitation. And I'd like to express my huge appreciation and thanks to our guests from Palestine for having decided to come to Germany despite the difficult situation you face in your home country.

As you know, 2015 was an absolutely crucial year for global development. Recently the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York. For the first time, this Agenda provides a global plan of action with Sustainable Development Goals that applies universally to all countries. It also includes a specific goal for cooperating with and supporting cities and communities, which I think is highly positive. National implementation of the 2030 Agenda will entail joint efforts in all policy fields, both at the federal level and at the level of the Länder and the municipalities. Globally, this will require cooperation between as many societal players as possible. In other words, this contract for the global future concerns us all. The challenges that the global community needs to tackle are often concentrated in municipalities, which are directly affected and need to respond directly. For example, the issue of migration currently represents an important topic

for municipalities as well as a huge challenge – but also a great opportunity! This situation can only be managed successfully by effectively linking the different levels. I am convinced that in this context the municipalities often lead by good example, and are ahead of international agreements. One example that occurs to me is fair trade, which is being implemented more vigorously at the local level than at the federal level. This contributes directly to global development. This is why we intend to support municipal partnerships. They can benefit from mutual knowledge transfer and good practice examples, initiate learning processes on both sides and develop innovative projects. People who have to perform the same tasks – albeit under different circumstances – share their experiences.



Stefanie Scharf

Through direct contact with citizens, municipalities also have a very important role to play in education for development. Municipal partnerships provide them with an opportunity to also establish long-term relationships built on trust between citizens in the respective partner municipalities. Through these activities we raise citizens' awareness of global issues and mobilise them for global engagement. This cooperation can also form a joint framework for the engagement of municipalities and civil society. For BMZ, civil society engagement is an important pillar of joint development policy – and in many cases this engagement also takes place at the local level, in municipalities. In Germany, some 500 municipalities are currently actively involved in development work. There is considerable potential for additional engagement here. We would like to motivate more municipalities to get involved, and increase our support for those that are already engaged. A conference like this one today is of course one of the best examples of what this

engagement might look like, and is designed to encourage many other municipalities in Germany.

To support municipal engagement, in 2013 the BMZ created a dedicated budget item. We plan to increase the allocation significantly for 2016. This also reflects our appreciation of your engagement. I hope that this increase in funding will encourage you to continue. I'm delighted to say that the 'Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (NAKOPA)' programme will shortly begin funding a project in Palestine. This water project will be implemented as part of the municipal partnership between Mannheim and Hebron. This is one more good way of enabling partnerships to implement concrete activities.

Allow me to say a few more general words on Palestinian-German development cooperation. The strategic goal of our cooperation is to maintain frameworks conducive to peaceful and inclusive development, and thus guarantee an enabling framework for a two-state solution. The key aim of Palestinian-German cooperation is to help establish a future state in Palestine. To achieve this goal we will seek to meet three needs.

1. We intend to strengthen social cohesion. We wish to help prevent any further exacerbation of regional and social disparities, and territorial disintegration. For us this means maintaining our operations, including those in Gaza, Area C<sup>3</sup> of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and further developing our engagement. For example, we would like to take more trainees from Gaza to the West Bank and Germany, for instance to receive vocational training in the tourism sector or food processing. We have already taken participants from Gaza to the West Bank for this purpose. That was not easy, but it was worth the effort to support cohesion between the various parts of the Palestinian territories.
2. We intend to improve opportunities for political and social participation for the entire population. One example I'd like to mention is a project we are currently supporting to develop the capacities of municipal councillors and politically active women.
3. We intend to help protect and improve livelihoods. An example I'd like to mention is our major invest-

ment in the education sector. We are investing in the construction of schools, and are working closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Education. For all these goals that I've just mentioned, cooperation with the Palestinian municipalities is absolutely essential and is the centrepiece of our work. For instance, the project executing agencies for our large-scale infrastructure projects in the water sector are usually the water utilities at the municipal level. We are supporting the Palestinian Municipal Development Lending Fund (MDLF) in close cooperation with the responsible ministry, and contributing toward reforms at the municipal level. The quality of the relationships between the central government and the municipal level is a key factor in this. We are supporting the Palestinian municipalities in performing their role appropriately. We support innovative approaches, such as strengthening the participation of youth at the local level through the project 'Youth Creates Change'. The idea behind this is that increasing citizen participation will create a major opportunity for local policymaking. In this case it is also our impression that this would be an interesting approach for German municipalities, and that the knowledge gained in this project could be fed back into activities to implement participation here in Germany.

On behalf of the BMZ, thank you for the many different ways in which you are getting involved. I wish you a productive conference, and can only support what Dr. Schröter said. I too would be delighted if we could persuade yet more German municipalities to get involved in partnerships with Palestinian municipalities, so that we could widen our present circle and have yet more representatives here at the next conference. Thank you very much.

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3 In Area C (approximately 60% of the West Bank), Israel is responsible for all civilian matters related to land such as land allocation, planning and construction, infrastructure and water, as well as internal security.





In September 2015, Beit Jala Square was inaugurated in Bergisch Gladbach. The ambassador attended, and the town presented a street sign as a memento of the moment.

## 5. DETERMINING THE STATUS QUO – THE MAYORS’ FORUM



The mayors' forum

With Ulrich Nitschke acting as moderator, the following municipal representatives met on the panel: Vera Baboun (Mayoress of Bethlehem), Professor Daoud Zatari (Mayor of Hebron), H.E. Sameeh Tubaila (Mayor of Nablus), Hani Abdal-masih Al Hayek (Mayor of Beit Sahour), Musa Hadid (APLA) and Dr. Albrecht Schröter (Mayor of Jena), Dr. Peter Kurz (Mayor of Mannheim), Andreas Wolter (Deputy Mayor of Cologne), Lutz Urbach (Mayor of Bergisch Gladbach) and Dr. Peter Pluschke (Deputy Mayor of Nuremberg).

**Ulrich Nitschke** (moderator): Welcome to our panel. First of all I'd like to ask the Mayor of Bethlehem, Vera Baboun, a few questions. What is Bethlehem learning from the municipal partnership under the conditions of the occupation? What are the prospects and what are you learning from each other?

**Vera Baboun:** First of all, thank you very much for the invitation and for organising the conference. Cooperation and partnership can only make sense once the occupation no longer exists. Our partnership with Cologne is not confined to partnership between the local governments;

it also includes the municipalities as a whole, which is to say the private sector and the public. But I would like to draw your attention to the following points. The municipal partnerships are geared to development programmes. On the other hand, the occupying power is at the same time working to prevent us from implementing what we want to implement. For example, we have been planning for a year to lay water pipes, but the water storage tanks are located in Area A, so we are unable to implement the project. What does this tell us about the efficiency and the impact of this project? Consequently, we first of all need to end the occupation so that we can establish local government structures and work efficiently. I would therefore like to propose that partnerships become more political in nature. This should not be confined to bilateral relations only; it should also include municipal networks. German municipalities should be able to exchange ideas and lessons learned on how they can support the Palestinian municipalities overall. We will then be able to deliver results for everyone, also in relation to specific issues, because we all have similar problems. I hope that we will develop a clear strategy and make progress. Thank you very much.



Vera Baboun speaking on the panel

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much Vera Baboun. My next question is for Andreas Wolter, Deputy Mayor of the City of Cologne, which has a long-standing partnership with Bethlehem. This morning, Dr. Albrecht Schröter proposed establishing a network of German municipalities in order not only to consolidate the existing partnerships, but also to increase their effectiveness by enabling rapid responses to political situations. In your opinion, what would a network like that need to do?

**Andreas Wolter:** We believe it is important when talking about networks to focus on what municipalities are able to do. This should not lead us to fall into the trap of thinking that we as municipalities could produce a better foreign policy. We do not make foreign policy. We implement foreign policy at the municipal level. The European twinning movement is one of the largest peace movements we ever had, and includes the entire Mediterranean region. A key aspect of the partnerships we are talking about here is the acute problems faced in Palestine, which include not only the conflict with Israel but also the situation in the entire region. Strengthening the municipalities is thus an important point where we can make our contribution, because municipalities are the foundation for a strong state. Cologne also has good relations with Tel Aviv. Here we are making efforts to promote trilateral links. We are also talking about what goes on behind the wall. Tel Aviv is a very liberal city, it has to be said. But we do think it's very important to be sensitive here, in order to protect our friends from Palestine.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much Andreas Wolter. Let us now turn to the partnership established more recently between Hebron and

Mannheim. Mr. Mayor, Professor Zatar, what is Hebron learning from Mannheim? What prospects does this partnership offer citizens from Hebron when they maintain links with Mannheim?

**Professor Daoud Zatar:** Thank you very much to everyone involved in making this conference happen. And I'd also like to thank the Service Agency and the BMZ for supporting the project in the water sector. I hope that this support will also be extended to other sectors. We are still a very young partnership, but we already have a special relationship with the City of Mannheim. Currently there are a total of seven Palestinian-German partnerships. When we hear that there are something like 100 partnerships with Israeli municipalities, we'd like to network more closely with the German side and develop relations with Palestine. These relationships should exist not only between the local governments. They should also include the population at large. Yet this can only succeed if the occupation is ended; because along with settlement and the annexation of land, this is determining our daily reality, and Israel is not interested in a two state-solution. Thank you very much..



Prof. Dr. Daoud Zatar

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much Professor Zatar. Dr. Peter Kurz, Mayor of the City of Mannheim, this young partnership has got one of the first concrete water projects off the ground. You are now meeting with other expectations as well. How will you respond, and how do you see the future prospects for the partnership?

**Dr. Peter Kurz:** The question of what the right strategy would be is one that I'd like to propose as a topic of discussion. So far our friends have told us of their wish to develop the partnerships, while at the same time bringing about an end to the

occupation. Another clearly formulated aim was that partnerships should be political in nature. At this point, conflicting goals arise regarding how we might go about approaching other municipalities for partnerships. I think that a partnership automatically becomes political, and can produce insights as concrete lessons are learned. The fact that we are unable to talk about a wind turbine because obtaining approval and implementing such a plan are unrealistic, makes it immediately clear that we are not involved in a normal kind of partnership. At the same time, I believe the German public are unaware of these real restrictions. If a partnership is to be based on a clear position from the outset, then any further municipalities would have a very high hurdle to negotiate. Conversely, though, we can also say that our historic responsibility also includes a responsibility for the region as a whole. This is a basis on which doors are opened for relationships with Palestinian municipalities. Concrete experiences will then automatically politicise the process, and place the occupation on the agenda. Beginning with a focus on concrete work might take away any concern about having to adopt a political position right away. This might then lead us gradually to another dimension with political objectives.



Dr. Peter Kurz

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much, Dr. Peter Kurz, for that clear and strategic approach. Your reply related to the proposals that we have heard so far. The partnership established most recently – between Nablus and Nuremberg – has existed for about four weeks. Dr. Peter Pluschke, why did Nuremberg enter into this partnership? What do you hope to achieve by it with regard to specific projects, and the political situation that Dr. Kurz referred to?

**Dr. Peter Pluschke:** Actually the partnership isn't all that new. We began cooperating ten years ago. Yet the fact that concrete steps take so long is a reflection of the fact that it is not easy to talk about a partnership of this kind in Nuremberg. During the post-war years, our path toward reconciliation involved exchange with Jewish citizens. This resulted in a partnership with the Israeli city of Hadera. This background is important when we talk to Nablus today, and we do try to prompt dialogue in both directions. In Nuremberg we have been able to share ideas and speak freely with our counterparts from Nablus and the leaders of the German-Jewish community. One of the aims we are pursuing by cooperating with Nablus is to create awareness of the situation in Palestine within our own civil society. In actual fact few people know just how dramatically difficult the situation there is. The partnership can make an important contribution here, also with regard to the principle of the universality of human rights, to which we are committed.



Dr. Peter Pluschke

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much. What does Nablus hope to gain from cooperating with Nuremberg?

**H.E. Sameeh Tubaila:** I would also like to begin by saying thank you to everyone concerned. These meetings are very important, because this is a space where we can learn from and talk to each other. Although we are under occupation, we do possess a lot of experience that differs from that of other countries and municipalities. We insist on leading peaceful and safe lives. For me it is an honour to come from Nablus, where Muslims, Christians and Jews live together peacefully, more than you can imagine. We do not have a problem of religion; we have a problem of territory. And after many years of negotiation, we still have not reached peace to this day. Will our grandchildren achieve and experience peace? How long is this situation supposed to continue? When will others finally recognise that we are people too? We insist on our liberty and our dignity. We have signed a partnership agreement with Nuremberg, and I'd like to thank Nuremberg for the lorries, and hope that our cooperation is constructive. We are offering everything we have, including our love. Anyone who doesn't love cannot give; this is the basis for all life.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much. Let us now turn to Beit Sahour. What is Beit Sahour expecting, both in terms of strategic approaches, and with regard to a German or European network?

**Hani Abdalmasih Al Hayek:** Thank you very much from me too. These relationships touch us. We began links with Xanten more than seven years ago, when Christian Strunk was mayor. It took me a long time to persuade him to accept the partnership, because he had many doubts. When we were together in Beit Sahour one day, in the middle of the town we came across an Israeli military camp, where they demanded his passport and asked questions. It was pure chance. He saw that our children had to pass these guns every day on their way to the playground. Since that day he has changed his attitude. Today he is one of our strongest supporters. Although his municipality is small it has got involved, organised school exchange visits and provided support. We've also been able to build civil society links; although official institutions formed the bridges, the most important thing is

the relationships with the people themselves. So we should establish a strong European network with Palestinian municipalities so that we can build our own state. For us, this means a future, a homeland and life – for our children too.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much, also for your important remarks on citizen-to-citizen partnerships. That's also the approach pursued by Bergisch Gladbach and Beit Jala. Lutz Urbach, speaking as mayor, what do you gain from the partnership and how do you integrate your partnership into civil society?

**Lutz Urbach:** After Cologne we were the second municipality to enter into a partnership with a Palestinian municipality. When we embarked on the process, it already had a political dimension. The reason for this was that we have an Israeli-German history that must also be reflected in our actions. This makes it a difficult proposition indeed, and initially this leads to understandable concerns and reticence. But in our experience, which also includes experience with other partner municipalities, the process usually takes care of itself. We also have 'chaperoned trips', which involve the same people visiting each other repeatedly. However, I am not in favour of this. At our town festival last year, however, we also organised a wheelchair basketball game in which a Palestinian-Israeli youth team played against a German youth team, for instance. In this setting young people are able to see each other in quite a different light, as if they had never met before. As far as I'm concerned, sports and culture provide excellent bridges for communication and understanding – especially where young people are concerned.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Musa Hadid, what can be achieved strategically from the perspective of the APLA? How can these cooperation arrangements be developed and expanded?

**Musa Hadid:** Municipalities play an important role in state-building, so we wish to prepare and support them accordingly. At the moment, though, we are cut off from global development, and this situation is a difficult one for us. We would like the German municipalities to share high-quality relationships with us that include concrete projects which enable our municipalities to make progress, e.g. by sharing good practices for local government and service delivery structures. We also want to

give something, and can do so, for instance in the cultural sphere, or in terms of qualities like our steadfastness. We want to build relationships that are built on conviction rather than on shamefacedness and imbalance, relationships that benefit both sides and that also include civil society. We want relationships that are sustainable, dependable and remain stable beyond the period of office of elected governments. We'd like to see clear signs of solidarity, including intervention for instance, because we remain under occupation. Trilateral relationships are difficult for us, because we would need to be able to sit at the same table on an equal footing with our counterparts. But as long as Israel is occupying us, this will not be possible. People should be able to see with their own eyes what is happening in Palestine. That's why we'd like to invite all the representatives here present to join a study trip to Palestine.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** Thank you very much. I'd like to return to the issue of our strategic approach. How can we scale up partnerships, and how can we reconcile this with municipal development cooperation?

**Dr. Albrecht Schröter:** I support the idea of official study trips. This can create more multipliers, giving people an opportunity to form their own opinion. And there is already a concrete plan to take more people to Palestine as tourists. So far, most tourist groups have spent the night only in Jerusalem, which has led to neglect of the hotel industry in Palestine. We might for instance approach adult learning centres, travel agencies or churches and organise trips to Palestine systematically. I'm also concerned about the fact that Christians are leaving Palestine, because they are also catalysts for peace. Many Christians in Europe are unaware of the fact that this old tradition is being lost there. So a further aim should be to address the situation from a Christian perspective too.



Ulrich Nitschke moderating the forum

### Comments made during the plenary discussion:

**Suleiman Abu Dayyeh** (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Palestine): I'd like to appeal to the German municipalities and mayors to be more courageous in standing up for humanistic principles and advocating what they believe in unreservedly. I have the feeling that many Germans are a little reticent to argue their causes. Not that they should forget the past. On the contrary, based on their awareness of the past day they should bravely face up to the present. One good way of doing this would be Palestinian tourism. This would provide an opportunity for people to get to know each other, and would help boost the economy and youth employment. You can also invite people from Palestine to your municipalities, so that they can report on the reality on the ground in Palestine, e.g. in schools, universities or adult education centres. You would then confront the German public with the reality on the ground. The fate of Palestine has long been forgotten, and it is time to do something and show solidarity.

**Frieder Wolf** (City of Cologne): First of all I'd like to say that I very much appreciate the growth in partnerships. For a long time we were the only municipality with a Palestinian partnership. I found it important to tell people that such arrangements work, and to alleviate their fears, which of course are not unwarranted. In this context, the question also arises of who we are showing solidarity with. We would for example also like to show solidarity with our twin city of Tel Aviv, though not with the settlers or religious fundamentalists. Nor do we wish to show solidarity with all groups in Palestine. But we do have a common denominator:

recognition by each side of the other state based on the Oslo principles. We were always twinned with Tel Aviv, and we would like to facilitate communication and cooperation. But we see our relationship in the first instance as a bilateral one. If trilateral relations were to emerge, then we would be pleased, because ultimately things only work when everyone is on board. Finally, there are three points that I believe are important: First of all, people need to remain strong and put up with resistance. Secondly, civil society has an important role to play. And thirdly, actually implementing projects is also important.



Frieder Wolf

## 6. PRESENTATION OF THE WORK OF THE GERMAN-PALESTINIAN PARTNERSHIPS

**Input by Mathias Gritzka, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**



Mathias Gritzka

Mathias Gritzka presented several activities of the GIZ-supported Local Governance and Reform Programme 2015-2018 in Palestine. The overarching aim of the programme is to support municipalities so that they can establish offerings to meet citizens' needs.

- 1. Social accountability:** Here we aim to make social accountability an integral part of local governance, using indicators and local governance guidelines. In this context we are also supporting the Youth Creates Change programme, in which we involve young journalists, and have developed policy papers in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government. Together with our partners we would also like to initiate participatory processes so that the population can be involved in planning processes and in realising their aspirations.
- 2. One-stop shops:** These 'shops', which have so far been opened in nine municipalities, are citizens' offices that enable local people to apply on a one-stop basis for services that meet their needs.
- 3. Geographical information systems (GIS):** These are designed to provide relevant stakeholders in

the field of local development with access to information, e.g. regarding land use. This strengthens integrated planning approaches.

#### **4. City-to-City and Regional Exchange Network:**

In the City-to-City programme we have initiated links and provided advice on cooperation projects between municipalities, also involving international cooperation. Through the Regional Exchange Network the Ministry of Local Government has shared information and exchanged ideas with its South African equivalent on relevant issues such as strategic planning.

- 5. Technical hubs:** These are networks for exchange at the intermunicipal level. They enable local authority staff to share information and exchange ideas in their respective areas of specialisation. The structures will be handed over to the APLA following the consolidation phase.

#### **Input by Musa Hadid, President of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)**

When we talk about municipalities we also need to talk about municipal associations. The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) was founded in 1997, and was one of the first to become active in the MENA region. The APLA is supposed to represent its member municipalities, which joined voluntarily, vis-à-vis the central government, and facilitate coordination between these levels. It is also supposed to provide municipalities with opportunities for capacity building and for sharing information and ideas on laws and regulations. Recently the APLA has barely been active at all.

The mayors have now agreed to reactivate it, and have taken first steps such as formulating the APLA's tasks at the various levels: at the local level, at the level of central government and at the level of cooperation between municipalities and international partners. We also wish to establish relations with other associations, and 10 days



ago agreed to cooperate with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities. They will be supporting us in re-establishing the APLA. We intend first of all to develop our internal structures, and are currently drawing up a strategy and a roadmap for the APLA. We can then think about how we might also work together with other associations.

One topic we feel very strongly about is capacity development. We have barely any information on events in other municipalities worldwide, yet we also want to deliver good services. So far we have only been able to realise this on a low level due to the outdated Palestinian laws, and services have been confined to the sectors of solid waste management and sanitation. In Germany, capacities in many sectors are spread across the local and regional levels, including in the health and education sectors. Through the APLA we are now beginning to explore what role municipalities can play for instance in economic development. Sharing experiences in this field and cooperating with the private sector might also be a good match for the activities of the municipal partnerships, and open up new horizons.

And we have already drawn up proposals for the role and mandate of the municipal councils, which we will be submitting to the Ministry and the central government. Ultimately, things can only work properly when the various levels work together closely. However, since we have lacked the foundation provided by the legislature since 2007, the APLA would like to attempt to structure and organise these relationships. Municipalities are closest to the population, and get to hear of their needs in the local setting. Although the central government talks about decentralisation, so far there has not been any clear or joint line. The municipalities believe that decentralisation will improve things for everyone by clearly allocating competences. But this must not be merely symbolic. It must also be operationalised. In any case, decentralisation must take place gradually. It must be initiated by the central government, and driven by the central government's will.



Musa Hadid

### Comments made during the plenary discussion:

**Professor Daoud Zatari:** President Mahmud Abbas attended one of the last meetings, and supports the APLA in serving the needs of the local population. I'd also like to note that we would appreciate some input and support from the German municipalities concerning what they believe decentralisation entails and means precisely. Municipalities can only be operational if they are financially sustainable and able to act efficiently. But how can that work under the conditions of the occupation? Here I would advocate a transfer of expertise concerning how we can best go about moving from a centralised government apparatus to decentralised structures.

**Dr. Peter Kurz:** It is important to have a strong municipal association. Particularly so with respect to global development and globalisation, where local processes are once again gaining importance – as a direct reaction to what is perceived as growing powerlessness. So this is an important point not only for Palestine, but also in the context of the international debate. Another aspect is the fact that the idea of local self-government in Germany is highly developed, and even has constitutional status, but is also becoming increasingly widespread worldwide. The Council of Europe has even produced a Charter of Local Self-Government, which has now been signed by 47 countries and is supported by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). At the Habitat III conference an attempt will be made to elevate this Charter to the UN level, thus internationalising it even further. Perhaps this information is useful for further

discussion; perhaps one might ask the government whether they would support this Charter.

**Vera Baboun:** I'd like to draw attention to some further challenges regarding local self-government structures. First of all the geographical location, and then the construction of the wall, make it very difficult for municipalities to communicate with each other. Each municipality is left to its own devices. Secondly, the government does not support the municipal structures, and no budget is provided. This affects the services that we are able to provide as municipalities. Thirdly, a portion of revenues is handed over to the Ministry of Finance, which makes it difficult for municipalities to generate their own funds.

**H.E. Sameeh Tubaila:** I'm very pleased about the constructive criticism, and I'm happy to be here in two capacities and thus represent both sides. Perhaps this will enable me to find the right path to a solution. I will communicate the results of our discussion to the government directly, and I'm certain the central government is also interested in moving decentralisation processes forward.



H.E. Sameeh Tubaila

**Dr. Albrecht Schröter:** I'm pleased about these developments. Speaking on behalf of the Board of the Association of German Cities, we need a strong partner association. The more smoothly that association operates, the better we can work at the level of the two associations and provide support. We can talk at length about solid waste and other issues, but local self-government is a key issue and I will be raising it when I meet with the Board of the Association of German Cities. I'd like to see a close partnership between the two associations. I would be glad to communicate this to the German government and the BMZ, but I'd also like to make

a few remarks. In the course of my life I have learnt that no overcoat should be mended using other people's patches. We can make suggestions from the German side and pass on the lessons we have learned regarding what works well and has taken root in our context. But the Palestinian side must decide for itself what it can use. This is an important principle, and I'd like to see us use it sensitively. I think it's important that we step up the existing, vibrant dialogue on your experience of municipal life in Palestine. How about the direct election of mayors? What role do important families play in the life of the municipality? Conversely, central governments also benefit from strong municipalities. Where municipalities are able to act, this affects people's lives much more directly than action taken by the central government, whose role is rather to create enabling frameworks. When this division works well, pressure on the central government is relieved. Central government does not relinquish power; it also gains strong partners. Communicating this insight is an important task. I'm pleased to be taking these points away with me, and I'm happy about this concrete outcome of the conference. We will then have to see how we can continue this dialogue and on what level. But we'll certainly do it unbureaucratically, and with a good measure of passion and wisdom, as well as a clear will to succeed.



Exchanging gifts

## Good practice examples from the work of the German-Palestinian partnerships

### 1) Bergisch Gladbach – Beit Jala

Stephan Dekker (Director of the Mayor's Office) from Bergisch Gladbach first of all explained several aspects of the partnership:



Stephan Dekker

- **The background:** The partnership is based on a private initiative. After the mayor, Lutz Urbach, visited Beit Jala in 2010 a decision was taken by the municipal council concerning a possible partnership. The anticipated resistance did not materialise. Conversely, a proposal was made to also seek a partnership with an Israeli municipality. This was then realised in 2011 with the municipality of Ganey Tikva.
- **Ideas and goals:** We cannot and do not wish to make global policy. We know that all actions are also political in nature, but we are focusing primarily on cultural exchange between (young) people. We think people should see the situation in Palestine with their own eyes, report on it in Germany, and if possible boost tourism and thus also the economy. Exchange visits have therefore taken place between school groups, wheelchair users, drama groups and artists. A football field is being supported through fundraising.
- **Difficulties:** None of the difficulties feared have yet materialised. Lutz Urbach has the full support of the municipal council, the citizens and the local media.
- **Success factors:** Generally speaking the mayors play an important role as actors. Someone who is passionately committed can then achieve and move a great deal. We need the municipal administration, the municipal council and the local associations. In the future we envisage that these

actors will take on more responsibility for the actual work, so that people can breathe life into the partnership. I can only encourage others to enter into a partnership.

- **External factors:** Engagement Global and the Service Agency play an important role, and have been highly engaged. The political situation has a major influence, of course, as does funding for the implementation of possible projects.
- **Lessons learned:** Above all else, a partnership provides enrichment. Partnerships enable us to know more about different cultures and political systems. This partnership gives the conflict a face, and transports it to Germany so that Palestine can gain a hearing. The local associations have strongly supported the administration; without them this would not be possible.
- **The goal:** We want to motivate other municipalities to enter into partnerships. This will benefit all of us.

**Nicolas Khamis** (Mayor of Beit Jala) added: In Bergisch Gladbach and Jena we have two municipalities that understand, listen to and support us. This is very important, because they make clear to their citizens how much the Palestinian population are suffering and how much they need support – not only politically, but in material terms too. I myself only been mayor for one year, and now I'm also engaged in the partnership. Every year people from Bergisch Gladbach come to visit us. We want to encourage them to see our suffering for themselves and become our friends. We think a great deal of our guests, and invite them with all our heart to come and see us. Each time we explain that the wall is unjust and is destroying the last opportunity for peace. Rulings by Israel's Supreme Court are mutually contradictory, independently of which the Israeli army is continuing to extend the wall further and further. The situation is not at all predictable, and we do not know who to turn to. Bergisch Gladbach is providing us with support, including material support. This is important, because the municipalities do not have any funds to implement even one project. We lack infrastructure, water and power supply, planning permission etc. Our youth are weeping, and the only solution they find is aggression, even though all we actually want is peace. Our hope lies with Europe and with Germany.

## 2) Hebron – Mannheim

Dr. Peter Kurz (Mayor of Mannheim):

- **The background:** Our partnership is a young one. So far it has been a partnership between the two local authorities, but I could imagine that in the future we might extend it to include civil society. We have long-standing links with the city of Haifa, and we did think about launching a trilateral project, though this never got off the ground. This did not discourage us, however, and during a visit made by a delegation in 2013 we established links with Hebron. In a Memorandum of Understanding we formulated the objectives and cooperation activities in terms of traditional local government themes. After two years we intend to take stock of initial progress.
- **The rationale:** How do we justify the partnership to our own population? We see ourselves as an international city – our city is home to people from 170 nations. When there is a war, all people demonstrate in our city. International conflicts are reflected at the local level. This is why we have an interest in being truly credible in the positions we take, because we cannot ignore the global issues at our local level.
- **Activities:** In cooperation with a start-up centre in Mannheim we are currently supporting the establishment of a start-up centre in Hebron. Through the Nakopa project managed by the Service Agency, we have also received BMZ funding for the construction of a sewage treatment plant in Hebron. This also includes the training of personnel and the connection of a further district to the sewer system.
- **Success factors:** First of all I'd like to emphasise that the partnership would not work without the engagement of the top local government officials. Civil society is also important, and we are now planning to also

**Prof. Dr. Zatar** (Mayor of Hebron) added: Hebron is located in the southern part of the West Bank in Area C, which is under the control of the Israeli security forces. Israeli settlers have also occupied the historic part of the city, where the Ibrahimi Mosque, the bazaar, shops, the bus station and the local government offices are also located. This means we are also losing a lot of income. Furthermore, we are currently unable to collect fees for municipal water and power supply, but the

municipality must still carry the cost of providing these services for the settlers, who are at the same time making life difficult for people. Hebron is a trading town, and the Palestinian economy depends on it. We also export to Europe, but the borders are controlled by the Israeli security forces. We want to raise the standards of our products so that we can export more. To do so we need expertise. We already have a great deal of experience and good entrepreneurs, as well as ideas and projects, and we'd like to create win-win situations for everyone involved. For example, together with other partner municipalities we are planning a technology park, and we want to attract innovators from industry and universities. I invite you to get involved. Another project is the sewage treatment plant, which will deliver major benefits. However, the Israeli side first of all did not approve the project, and then did, but they have now postponed it till February 2016. I'm telling you this to show you how difficult the situation is for us. But we are very proud of our relations with Mannheim, and were it not for the war in Gaza we would surely have achieved a great deal more.

### Comments made during the plenary discussion:

**Frieder Wolf:** Thank you very much for your comments. Professor Zatar's remarks underline the fact that the Palestinian municipalities are not just recipients, but also have a great deal to offer – and not just hospitality. They also know how business works. Palestine is full of founding spirits. It would be great to mobilise this potential. In Cologne I have not yet managed to attract businesses to Bethlehem. My question would be how we might manage that.

**Dr. Peter Kurz:** This is also a topic with a global dimension. People used to go to work, today work goes to them. Cities have well-trained people with entrepreneurial qualities, therefore cities must create enabling frameworks for dynamic economies. Good support for economic development must therefore be geared to this trend. Openness is an important factor here, because there can be no productive development without an economic base.

**Ulrich Nitschke:** The idea of incubators points in the direction of local economic promotion, and clearly falls within the sphere of responsibility of municipalities. Tourism might be another topic, perhaps also a local tax for tourists. In Palestine, the municipal promotion of local economic development is often discussed as a means of generating revenue for the empty coffers of the municipalities. By contrast, in Germany the municipality primarily plays the role of facilitator for small and medium-sized businesses. Furthermore, there is no business tax in Palestine. So I think we should take another close look at what the requirement is exactly, and how small and medium-sized businesses can play a role in that context.

## 7. SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE SERVICE AGENCY COMMUNITIES IN ONE WORLD OF ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL

**Day 3: Thursday, 12 November 2015**

The third day of the conference focused on the various forms of support provided by the Service Agency, good practices and the working groups. The day began with a presentation for participants on the Service Agency's Nakopa programme. After that the participants took part in two excursions, and then met in working groups that continued until midday of the following day



Dr. Britta Milimo

The Service Agency offers a wide range of support. Dr. Britta Milimo presented some of the Service Agency's offerings for municipalities. Under the Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (Nakopa) programme, for instance, the Service Agency offers BMZ funding to support municipal partnership projects involving German municipalities or municipal associations. Since 2013, under this programme development projects have been financed that focus on sustainable services of general interest, good local governance or climate change mitigation/adaptation in a partner country. The Service Agency also supports the work of partnerships and municipal

exchange per se. A project involving Mannheim and Hebron is currently being funded. Furthermore, the Service Agency provides assistance with preparing project proposals, and invites interested applicants to 'implementation seminars'.<sup>4</sup>

There are also opportunities to receive support in the form of human resources through the programmes ASA-Kommunal and Integrated Experts for Municipalities Worldwide (IFKW/CIM). The Service Agency's also offers technical support as well as the funding of one expert mission per year, or work on joint development projects. The Service Agency thus aims to strengthen structures for sustainable cooperation between partners, in order to foster development engagement in municipal partnerships on a long-term basis.

<sup>4</sup> For further information please click here: [www.service-eine-welt.de/nakopa/nakopa-start.html](http://www.service-eine-welt.de/nakopa/nakopa-start.html).

## 8. EXCURSIONS

### Sanitation: visit to Jena's central sewage treatment plant (Jena Municipal Utilities Company)

Jena's Municipal Utilities Company, which is wholly owned by the City of Jena, delivers services in the energy and water sectors, as well as in other areas. The Municipal Utilities Company is one of the largest employers in Jena, and is even able to generate a surplus that it pays into the city's budget.

The Head of the Sanitation Department and Director of the Jena Water Company then presented the company and Jena's central sewage treatment plant. The plant has been operating since 1976, and treats the domestic and industrial wastewater of the city of Jena and several neighbouring municipalities.



Touring the sewage treatment plant



Participants inspecting the clarification tanks

Participants then toured the compound of the treatment plants following the path taken by the wastewater: from the mixed water sewer, via the computing systems and on to the mechanical and biological treatment processes in the various clarification tanks.

### Solid waste management: visit to the recycling yards



Visiting the recycling yard

The Jena Municipal Services (ksj) company was established in 2002, and today employs a workforce of some 300. Owned by the city, this is the company responsible among other things for solid waste management, and road and pavement cleaning. It also provides numerous other services (including commercial services) involving solid waste management and disposal, including its container service and the disposal of all types of waste from industrial enterprises.

The ksj runs two recycling yards in Jena where various types of waste are accepted, e.g. construction waste, timber, electric and electronic appliances, monitors, garden waste and hazardous substances. Participants were able to visit the recycling yard, which is located on Löbstedter Strasse, and ask questions. In the discussion that followed, participants raised various questions concerning the acceptance of the recycling yards by the population, waste disposal fees and recycling.

## 9. WORKING GROUPS

The participants formed working groups to generate ideas for further work. The results were subsequently presented in plenary.

### I. Mannheim – Hebron

Presented by David Linse and Marwan Elakhdar

The partnership between Hebron and Mannheim is described in detail above (see Section 5). The meeting at the conference provided a good opportunity to discuss the sewage treatment plant in more precise detail, which is the partnership's main project. Implementing it will also entail improved environmental protection and improved use (and re-use) of water. Cesspits are being decommissioned, for instance, and road maps drawn up for further work on this issue, particularly in the field of industrial waste (wastewater from the tanneries). The two sides also discussed the technology park. Mannheim now intends to also get the city council and civil society more closely involved. If cooperation at the working level continues to run smoothly, then the next step over the next two years would be to establish a full twinning arrangement.

### II. Bonn – Ramallah

Presented by Kamal Daibes (Member of the Municipal Council of Ramallah)



Kamal Daibes

Links between Bonn and Ramallah have existed since 2013. So far there has not been any opportunity to sign official agreements. Participants in the working group agreed to intensify the links. They focused on the following ideas and areas of activity:

- Identify stakeholders and multipliers in the two cities in order to establish a firm and continuous partnership.
- Identify points of entry for contributions by civil society and the population (e.g. cultural exchange, information and education, environment and climate change). The partners see the cultural sphere in particular as offering potential.
- Cooperation with universities
- Sewage treatment plant/use of treated water: promote connection to the sewage system and use treated water for a planned park in Ramallah.
- Clarify funding opportunities and identify stakeholders for material (and political) support.
- Create a peer-to-peer partnership
- Ramallah as a smart city with technology themes;

next steps in cooperation with Engagement Global's Service Agency: Sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** as the basis for future relations. This will enable a programme that supports delegation visits to facilitate expert exchange. In turn, this will generate key momentum for further developing relations.

### III. Bad Oldesloe – Jifna

Presented by Hartmut Jokisch and Maher Abu Khalil

The aim of the 'Friends of Beer Yaacov/Jifna' association is already evident in the name: Alongside the existing partnership with Beer Yaacov in Israel the partnership with Jifna is currently being established, which might one day also lead to trilateral relations. A Memorandum of Understanding facilitated by the Service Agency is already in place, and the two sides now plan to sign a partnership agreement. Since the links emerged from within civil society, the challenge is to persuade policymakers



and administrators in Bad Oldesloe of the benefits of the partnership. This is the reason why it has not yet been possible to get any municipal projects off the ground. Next year it might be possible to develop a partnership agreement with the support of Engagement Global's Service Agency.

#### IV. Nuremberg – Nablus

Presented by Dr. Peter Pluschke

This year the two sides of the partnership are already meeting for the third time – with the Service Agency's support. In May 2015 experts from both sides met and identified key programmatic areas. Dialogue was thus intensified. So far the local governments have taken the lead, and the following project ideas exist:

- **Sewage treatment plant:** Here the idea is to develop technical solutions for a sewage treatment plant (including using treated water for irrigation and disposing of sewage sludge as fertiliser). A further idea is to build a photovoltaic system on top of the sewage treatment plant in order to provide an off-grid power supply, in cooperation with the Municipal Utilities Company of Nuremberg.
- **Solid waste management:** Two refuse collection vehicles are currently en route to Nablus. Further activities are also planned that involve waste separation, recycling and reducing the quantity of solid waste (including composting and the generation of energy from organic waste).
- **Civil society:** There are plans to involve the public to a greater extent in the future. In this connection the municipal council of Nuremberg will be holding a meeting, and a partnership association will be founded.

#### V. Tourism (Cologne, Bergisch Gladbach, Jena, Xanten / Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al Ubedeiyah, Al Doha, Al Khader, Battir)

Presented by Hanan Manoly (Beit Sahour)



Hanan Manoly

**The background:** For many of the German-Palestinian partnerships, tourism is an important issue. It has therefore been discussed at several working meetings. One outcome of this was the fact that tourism is very high on the agenda for all municipalities. There is huge potential, but the municipalities are currently deriving little benefit from it. The group already developed a number of project ideas as to how the municipalities might use tourism as a source of income. In August 2015 another preparatory meeting of the German municipalities took place in Bergisch Gladbach. There participants discussed the idea of training personnel. The question thus arises of how the German municipalities might support the partner municipalities in the Bethlehem region in developing infrastructure for tourism.

#### Objectives of the workshop:

- Agree a joint project to boost tourism in the region
- Formulate a goal
- Clarify further coordination and the further procedure

**Status quo in the Palestinian municipalities:**

## a) Bethlehem

- The local authority in Bethlehem does not have a department for tourism, but it does have a department for culture, which is responsible for preserving the cultural heritage.
- The tourist itinerary of Bethlehem is dominated by Israeli travel agencies, which bus the tourists to the attractions only during the day and then take them back to their hotels. The streets are therefore empty and shops are closed.
- Bethlehem has more to offer, but no information is available on that. Infrastructure would need to be strengthened, so that travel agencies and the private sector could begin operating.
- Right now the tourists are more of a burden, because they do not bring the municipalities any revenue, but they do for instance generate waste that needs to be disposed of.

## b) Beit Sahour

- The municipality would like to use historic contexts for tourism (as was already done with the Shepherds' Fields), and create special offerings for pilgrims; it would also like to
- create incentives for tourists to also spend the night in Beit Sahour;
- develop the road network, design tourist routes and create transport facilities;
- build a car park for tourist buses (this would reduce traffic jams and parking fees might be a source of income) and put up signs in various languages;
- develop a tour of the old town;
- use the youth marathon and other annual events for cultural activities

## c) Battir

- Battir has developed its tourist industry only in the last few years. The terraces of Battir are a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- There is a municipal tourist office, and a master plan for tourism that revolves around ecotourism. There is already a hiking trail with over 37 km of paths.
- There is a small guesthouse and a bus stop. An artisanal workshop has been created where products can also be sold.

## d) Al Ubedeihah

- A museum is currently being planned.
- The municipality would like new water mains and a sanitation system with sewage treatment plants and biogas production. The haphazard cesspits have created a 'wastewater river' that has since turned into a tourist attraction. Tourism can be used to generate political pressure here.

## e) Beit Jala

- The municipality reports preliminary discussions on a cableway that would link Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Beit Jala. This would also solve traffic and environmental problems, and generate jobs and income in the municipality. The cableway, which would be approximately 8 km long, could also be combined with walking tours that would enable tourists to get to know life in the town.

**Findings**

- There is a consensus that tourism in the region has priority for economic development, and should also generate income for the municipalities.
- Tourists should spend more time in the region, sleep there, and get to know the cultural heritage of the towns and villages (→ restaurants, souvenir shops, handicrafts, festivals etc.).
- There are various types of tourist group (ecotourists, pilgrims, people demonstrating solidarity...) that need to be approached differently.
- In the course of their annual and budgetary planning, municipalities should also think about creating a budget for tourism

**Concrete project ideas**

- Set up a tourism unit for the region that coordinates all activities continuously.
- Provide training in fields such as guiding tourists, languages, service and catering.
- Ecotourism: develop a network of hiking routes that links all municipalities and includes opportunities to experience the local culture.
- Feasibility study for a cableway linking Bethlehem with Beit Sahour and Beit Jala. This would have twin benefits for the population and for tourism.
- Develop a joint marketing strategy:
  - central marketing of a standard programme with a calendar of events bringing together all attractions and cultural events in the region

- presentation of the joint offering on a website and in social networks
- development of a brand image (including a logo and merchandising products).

### Conclusions

- As a partner of the Palestinian Authority, the GIZ might be able to prepare the ground for a study that would identify the status quo, propose strategies and measures, and in a third section set out the possible marketing instruments. An expert exchange might also be organised. At the same time pragmatic activities could proceed, such as linking the attractions in the region e.g. through a joint tourist map. The tourist office that might be planned could take care of this and function as a contact point.

### Points agreed

- One individual will be responsible for coordination on each side.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding** will be signed, with support from the Service Agency.
- A meeting of the Palestinian municipalities will take place in December 2015, supported by the Service Agency.

# 10. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND OUTCOME

**Day 4: Friday, 13. November 2015**

## **Musa Hadid, President of the APLA**

The entire Palestinian delegation would like to thank the Mayor of Jena, Engagement Global and everyone involved for their hospitality. Thank you very much indeed having given us such a warm welcome. We didn't speak so much about Jena, but we did have a wonderful time here and it seems to me the city has a great future, one that will be peaceful and safe, and we hope that it will continue to bloom. We have seen how the municipality goes about performing its tasks, also with regard to cooperation with its utility companies. We are still very far from such a division of municipal structures, but we can learn from it and we intend to try to integrate this experience in our municipalities.

It was a successful conference at which many bilateral relationships and concrete examples were presented. The current partnerships have now reached a good level. For the future it is important that we develop more municipal partnerships. As we do so, we shouldn't forget the Palestinian refugees in the municipalities. There are for instance also partnerships between French municipalities and Palestinian refugee camps, and I believe we should also think about this kind of relationship. We also want high-quality partnerships that create success stories for both sides. This also means that the partnerships should exist not only between the local authorities, but also involve civil society. We come across a great deal of reticence on both sides, and when we see how many Israeli-German partnerships there are we'd like to see more courage in building relationships. Perhaps there is not enough belief in our cause. If so, then we should conduct more study trips to Palestine in order to create a deeper understanding

of our affairs. We shouldn't always attempt to build trilateral relationships. We are not opposed to them per se, but we would ask our partners to first of all support us in establishing equality. This means meeting on an equal footing, and with dignity. We must have equality, which also goes hand-in-hand with our obligations of course. But this can only work with an independent state that exists alongside the Israeli state on an equal footing. Unless and until we achieve this situation, there cannot be any trilateral relationships. We are talking about our national cause, and I hope that our German partners are fully aware of this.

Once again, I warmly invite you to next conference in Palestine. I support Dr. Albrecht Schröter's proposal that we should hold that conference once we have launched 30 partnerships. That would be a good, concrete indicator. We felt extraordinarily comfortable here, thank you very much indeed for your kind hospitality.

## **Vera Baboun, Mayoress of Bethlehem**

Thank you very much to everyone for attending. We have seen that the partnerships cannot be detached from the political context. I would like to underline what Musa Hadid already said: The relationships are sometimes characterised by reticence – on both sides. Perhaps this is also because the call for trilateral relationships is often in the air, but we would first need to make it possible to meet on an equal footing. We cannot meet on these terms right now, due to the occupation. I will be travelling to Cologne today, where we will be launching the fundraising campaign for refurbishment of the Church of the Nativity. We will continue to work on the tourism sector,



Vera Baboun

and in December we will develop a clear master plan. I hope that we'll be able to make progress on this and achieve a number of objectives. I also hope that we'll be able to establish even more partnerships. We should also make sure that the larger municipalities create some kind of compensation for the small ones, which are often very marginalised. In this connection I would advocate a final declaration, and I regret that several participants have already had to leave.

Despite the challenges that we face on a daily basis we want to preserve life. We warmly invite you to come and visit us in Bethlehem and light up the Christmas candles. Thank you very much to all the municipalities and their representatives.

### Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Mayor of Jena

Friends, we have reached the end of the conference that we prepared with a great deal of love. The fact that we didn't always do everything right is something I noticed in the course of the conference. I didn't think a final declaration would have been as important as concrete results, for instance. But I did learn that a declaration is also a concrete result. We will find a solution. We will summarise the key points in a concluding paper. We'll be forwarding this to the partner municipalities and asking them to add their comments. Finally we will then have a paper that has been discussed and agreed on, and that we can continue working with. Please kindly add your remarks. I'm confident that things we've talked about will actually be implemented. Even if only 50 per cent of the wishes and proposals are realised – that would always be progress.



Dr. Albrecht Schröter

At the beginning I mentioned three levels:

1. The political level: The final paper will express our conviction that the prerequisites for fully achieving our joint objectives are: just living conditions free from occupation and free from a policy of settlement, in conjunction with a state with the pre-1967 borders. There has already been a positive response to our conference in two major German newspapers. They have reported that there should be more solidarity with people in Palestine and that we need more partnerships. I also see this as my job. I can't do everything, but I would like to do one thing: work to win over more German partner municipalities, and not forget refugee camps and small municipalities.

2. The national level: We wish to further improve networking among the Palestinian and German municipalities respectively. Jena will play the role of convener here, perhaps together with Cologne. We will meet and consult with each other regularly; perhaps the same thing could then also happen in Palestine. The same thing also applies to the APLA and the Association of German Cities. We wish to share information and exchange ideas, and support each other, particularly with regard to decentralisation and local self-government. I will press the issue, and then we'll see how we can best concretise this task.
3. Bilateral partnership agreements: I am very grateful for what has taken place here. I find it moving that the partners met. Some partnerships have been running for some time, while others are just beginning. Perhaps the greatest value of the conference was everything we discussed. Something is growing, which is encouraging. Trust and friendship are emerging.

I'd like to say a big thank you to the German participants and partners, and to the wonderful organisation team, the moderators, the interpreters and the Service Agency. And once again I'd like to express my gratitude to our Palestinian guests for coming. I know that this cannot be taken for granted, and this is of great value in itself. Thank you very much, chokran! And thank you for the Palestinian side's invitation to a next conference. We'll be glad to go anywhere, and I now hand over the symbolic baton to Musa Hadid. This baton is a baton of peace, understanding and reconciliation. I look forward to seeing you again soon.



Group photo of municipal representatives



# ANNEX

## Agenda

Tuesday, 10/11/2015	
Town Hall	
18:00 onward	Registration in the Town Hall
19:00	Reception and dinner at the Town Hall Welcome address by Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Mayor of Jena Welcome address by Dr. Jens Kreuter, Managing Director, Engagement Global Welcome address by Musa Hadid, President of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)

Wednesday, 11/11/2015	
Town Hall	
09:00	Introduction by Dr. Albrecht Schröter and Nicola Khamis (Mayor of Beit Jala)
09:15	Welcome speeches Dr. Khouloud Daibes, Ambassador, Palestinian Mission Stefanie Scharf, Deputy Head, Middle East Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
10:00	Mayors' forum
11:30	Group photo
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Input by Mathias Gritzka (GIZ) and Musa Hadid followed by good practice examples from the work of German-Palestinian partnerships (Mannheim-Hebron, Bergisch Gladbach-Beit Jala), needs and moderated discussion with the plenary group (integrated coffee break)
17:00	Preparation for the following day (till 17:30)
19:00	Meet at Town Hall, then proceed to the Scala Restaurant
19:30	Dinner in the Scala



Thursday, 12/11/2015	
Town Hall	
09:00	Support offered by the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global
10:00	Excursions with the bus: split into two groups <b>Group 1:</b> 10:30 Presentation of the Jena Municipal Utilities Company 10:45 Visit to the sewage treatment plant of the 'Jena Water' special-purpose association and presentation of the utilities company, including discussion 11:30 Visit to the recycling yard of the 'Jena Municipal Services' utility  <b>Group 2:</b> 10:30 Arrive at the recycling yard of the 'Jena Municipal Services' utility 11:45 Welcome/presentation of the Jena Municipal Utilities Company 12:00 Visit to the sewage treatment plant of the 'Jena Water' special-purpose association and presentation of the utilities company, including discussion
13:30	Lunch at the Town Hall
14:30	Working groups on partnerships part 1 (largely in English) I. Mannheim – Hebron II. Bonn – Ramallah III. Nuremberg – Nablus IV. Advice offered by the Service Agency (Arabic-German)  Seminar room Am Anger 15 Moderator: Petra Schöning (integrated coffee break)
19:30	Visit to the Imaginata centre (depart 18:45), welcome by Albrecht Schröter and dinner Short programme of entertainment by the Momolo Circus

Friday, 13/11/2015	
Town Hall	
09:00	Welcome
09:30	Working groups on partnerships part 2 (in English) I. Mannheim – Hebron II. Bad Oldesloe – Jifna III. Bonn – Ramallah IV. Nuremberg – Nablus V. Tourism (Jena, Bergisch Gladbach, Cologne, Xanten / Beit Jala, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Battir, Al Ubeidye, Al Doha, Al Khader) Moderator: Petra Schöning
11:00	Presentation of the results of the working groups in plenary
12:30	Conclusions
13:00	Lunch and departure
15:30 – 16:30	Tour of the city

## List of participants

Nr.	Title	Surname	Name	Municipality / Institution
1.		Abbas	Nicola	Interpreter
2.		Abdalmasih al Hayek	Hani	Beit Sahour, Mayor
3.		Abdel Fatah	Dana	Interpreter
4.		Abu Dayyeh	Suleiman	Head of Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Jerusalem
5.		Abu Ghosh	Sulaiman	Nablus, Director of Treatment Plants/Water and Waste Water Dept.
6.		Abu Khalil	Maher	Jifna, Mayor
7.		Abu Shalbak	Hasan	Ramallah, Member City Council
8.		Al Assa	Sulaiman	Al Ubdeiyah, Mayor
9.		Al Azzeh	Younis	Al Khader, City Engineer
10.		Baboun	Vera	Bethlehem, Mayoress
11.		Bader	Akram	Battir, Mayor
12.		Bettenhäuser	Matthias	Jena, Managing Director of the Division Mayor
13.		Daibes	Kamal	Ramallah, Member City Council
14.	Dr.	Daibes	Kholoud	Berlin, Ambassador
15.		Dekker	Stephan	Bergisch Gladbach, Managing Director of the Division Mayor
16.		Dibs	Ibrahim M.D.	Al Doha, Engineer and Senior Projects Manager
17.		Dola	Ribhi	Beitunia, Mayor
18.		Eilers	Neele	Engagement Global
19.		Eismann	Doreen	Engagement Global, Project Management
20.		Elakhdar	Marwan	Hebron, Head of Wastewater Department
21.		Ghoury	Emile	Ramallah, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
22.		Grasser	Andreas	Photographer
23.		Gritzka	Matthias	Ramallah, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
24.		Groß	Rainer	Xanten, Honorary Mayor
25.		Hadid	Musa F.M.	Ramallah, Mayor and President of APLA
26.		Hamdan	Maher	Al Ubdeiyah, City Engineer
27.		Honka	David	Engagement Global
28.		Hussein	Raif	Hanover/Berlin, Head of German-Palestinian Association
29.		Isa	Ismail	Al Khader, Deputy Mayor
30.		Jawarish	Walid D.A.	Bethlehem, Member City Council
31.		Jokisch	Hartmut	Bad Oldesloe, Member City Council
32.		Juha	Issa	Beit Jala, Head of Projects Department
33.		Khamis Larach	Nicola	Beit Jala, Mayor
34.		Khammas	Achmed	Interpreter
35.		Klingmüller	Gabriele	Bonn, Mayoress
36.	Dr.	Kotsas	Konstantin	Eschborn, GIZ/Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung (CIM)
37.	Dr.	Kreuter	Jens	Bonn, Managing Director of Engagement Global gGmbH
38.	Dr.	Kurz	Peter	Mannheim, Mayor
39.		Linse	David	Mannheim, Head of International Office and Protocol
40.		Masri	Rami	Nuremberg
41.		Mauritz	Alexander	Mannheim, Urban Drainage Dept.
42.	Dr.	Milimo	Britta	Engagement Global

Nr.	Title	Surname	Name	Municipality / Institution
43.		Musleh	Hanan J.D.	Beit Sahour, Municipality Director
44.		Nasser	Michel	Battir, Director Eco Museum
45.		Nitschke	Ulrich	Moderation
46.		Omar	Vera	Interpreter
47.		Othman	Ghalib	Beitunia, Head of Health Section
48.	Dr.	Pluschke	Peter	Nuremberg, Deputy Mayor and Department of Environment and Health
49.		Roeder	Eva	Documentation
50.		Sabra	Martina	Moderation
51.		Salah	Khalid A.M.	Al Doha, Engineer and General Director
52.		Scharf	Stefanie	Berlin, Head of Division Middle East, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
53.		Schöning	Petra	Engagement Global
54.	Dr.	Schröter	Albrecht	Jena, Mayor
55.	Dr.	Schürgers	Norbert	Nuremberg, Head of International Office
56.	Dr.	Sentürk	Beyhan	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Jerusalem
57.		Shaheen	Nancy	Ramallah, Administration
58.		Shqair	Michael	Jifna, Member Village Council
59.		Tabbone	Therese	Jena, Project Management and Consultant of Twinning and European Affairs
60.		Tavangarian	Janine	Jena, Consultant of Twinning and European Affairs
61.		Tubaila	Sameeh	Nablus, Mayor
62.		Urbach	Lutz	Bergisch Gladbach, Mayor
63.		Wagner	Stefan	Bonn, Head of International Office
64.		Wolf	Frieder	Cologne, Head of International Office
65.		Wolter	Andreas	Cologne, Mayor
66.	Prof. Dr.	Zatari	Daoud	Hebron, Mayor
67.		Zubaida	Yousef	Nablus, Head of Traffic Supervision Unit

## Glossary

APLA .....	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities
BMZ .....	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
GIS .....	Geographical Information Systems
GIZ .....	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
IFKW .....	Integrated Experts for Municipalities Worldwide
MDLF .....	Municipal Development & Lending Fund
NAKOPA .....	Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development
UCLG .....	United Cities and Local Governments



# PUBLICATIONS OF THE SERVICE AGENCY COMMUNITIES IN ONE WORLD

All publications and information leaflets of the Service Agency Communities in One World can be ordered free of charge (if not yet out of print) or downloaded on its homepage under [www.service-eine-welt.de](http://www.service-eine-welt.de). Please find below the list of publications available in English.

## Dialog Global-Series of the Service Agency:

- No. 40: 50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015. Documentation of the third phase of the project. Bonn, May 2016
- No. 32: 50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015. Documentation of the second phase of the project. Bonn, December 2014
- No. 29: 50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015. Documentation of the Pilot Phase. Bonn, May 2013 [German/English version]
- No. 25: Participatory Budgeting Worldwide - Updated Version. Study. Bonn, November 2013.
- No. 24: International Congress on Models of Participatory Budgeting. Documentation. Bonn, November 2010 [Also available in German]
- No. 22: Migration and Development at the Local Level. An excerpt from the best practice guidelines. Bonn, November 2012

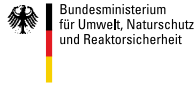
## Material-Series of the Service Agency:

- No. 70: International Workshop of the Municipal Climate Partnerships. Presentation of the Programmes of Action July 1 - 3, 2014. Bonn, February 2015
- No. 54: International Kick-off Workshop "50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015" 14th - 16th November 2011. Documentation. Bonn, May 2012

## Others:

- About Us. Bonn, February 2016
- The services we offer. Bonn, July 2015

All current information, dates, activities, tips, and background reports can be found in the monthly \*\*\*Eine-Welt-Nachrichten\*\*\* of the Service Agency (only available in German). Free of charge! The order form is available on our homepage under: [www.service-eine-welt.de](http://www.service-eine-welt.de).



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On behalf of



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development