

PEACE Programme

7th Session of the General Assembly

UNESCO Paris, 5 November 2007

FINAL REPORT

Opening of the Session, Quorum and Adoption of the Agenda

Professor Rami Hamdallah, President of PEACE informed the Assembly that of the 61 PEACE member-universities 31 were present and 11 were represented by mandate (cf. Annex 2, list of participants) and declared the meeting open. The number of member-universities represented by mandate is explained by the fact that several participants to the International Conference had to leave before the General Assembly session and mandated colleagues to represent them at the meeting. The draft Agenda was approved as submitted (Annex 1).

In his **opening address**, Prof. Hamdallah stressed the particular importance of the 7th Session of the General Assembly in light of the debates, proposals and recommendations of the International Conference: in order to enhance its contribution to capacity and institutional building of Palestinian universities, *the PEACE Network should undertake systematic action aimed at assisting them enhance research capabilities*. He emphasized that PEACE is and will continue to be a privileged partner of Palestinian institutions of higher education and pointed out that the participation of the Palestinian universities in the PEACE program has opened up new horizons for other ways of cooperation through bilateral agreements with European universities and through the participation in the higher education programs of the European Commission such as TEMPUS and Erasmus Mundus. He referred in particular to the EMU II Project, which will provide mobility grants to about 80 Palestinian students and young academics to study abroad.

Under **Item 1** of the Agenda, Professor Chitoran presented the **Report of Activities of PEACE** (Annex 3) over the period February 2005 - November 2007. Referring to the draft document distributed at the meeting and sent in advance to the participants and to the member-universities, he insisted on the issues raised for discussion in the Report, namely:

- the remarkable increase during the last two years in the number of **PEACE grants** for Palestinian students to study abroad. The Scholarship Scheme remains the first priority of PEACE and he expressed the hope that member-universities will continue to support it so as to keep the number of grantees at least at the same level in the future. It is also necessary to look for additional funds from agencies and foundations.

- while there has been encouraging progress with regard to several **academic projects** launched by PEACE, much more ambitious and systematic action is needed in order to assist Palestinian universities to develop their research capabilities. This should be a main line of action of PEACE in the future.

Under **Item 2** of the Agenda, Professor Radwan Barakat, the Treasurer of PEACE, presented the **Financial Report for the period 2005-2007**. He made relevant remarks based on statistical comparisons of revenues and expenses over the last two years and of the envisaged expenses for the next two years. The Assembly agreed with the significant increase of the contribution of PEACE to the Scholarship Scheme but insisted that funding should also be foreseen for academic projects as well, particularly for short term faculty exchanges and for missions to launch new projects and to secure funding. The Steering Committee and the PEACE Office should continue to keep operational costs as low as possible, but there is a need to allocate funds for secretariat services and for updating of the PEACE website.

The Assembly approved the Financial Report (Annex 4) which took note of the current financial situation of PEACE, appealed to the member-universities to pay their fees and asked the Steering Committee to increase efforts to obtain external funding from various sources.

Since Prof. Rami Hamdallah had to leave before the end of the meeting, the Assembly agreed to a change in the order of discussion of the agenda items and proceeded to **Item 4: Election of the Steering Committee of PEACE**. He stressed the need to renew the composition of the Committee, while retaining a core of old members in order to ensure continuity. For the representation of the Palestinian universities on the Committee, the principle of rotation was adopted. The Steering Committee was elected in the following composition:

Executive Bureau:

President: **Prof. Radwan Barakat**, Dean of Research, Hebron University

Vice-President: **Prof. Annick Suzor-Weiner**, Vice-President, Université Paris-Sud 11

Secretary General: Representative of the University of Granada (to be designated)

Treasurer: **Prof. Daoud Zadari**, President, Palestinian Polytechnic University, Hebron

Members:

Prof. Espen Bjertness, Academic Head, Section for Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology, University of Oslo

Dr. Imad Hodali, President Assistant, Al-Quds Open University

Prof. John Morgan, University of Nottingham (to be confirmed by his University)

Prof. Kim Van der Borght, Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

It was agreed to designate an additional member of the Committee from Purdue University, USA, when discussions about membership to PEACE are concluded.

Under **Item 3**, **Prof. Annick Suzor-Weiner** presented the **Plan of Action of the PEACE Programme for 2008-2009**. She pointed out that in elaborating the draft Plan of Action distributed to the participants for discussion the Steering Committee tried to put forward a realistic but ambitious line of action aimed at giving a serious push to the PEACE Network by expanding and diversifying its range of activities and by seeking broader alliances for their implementation. She said that the discussions held during the International Conference were most pertinent to the future action of PEACE. In particular, she appreciated the commitment of member-universities to take concrete action - both bilateral and multilateral - to support Palestinian universities.

She insisted on the vital importance of a better **PEACE website**, more accessible and carefully updated, with a list of on going or envisaged projects. The launching of European programmes (e.g. Tempus) should be announced not only on the website, but by messages to the members. All this requires secretariat assistance which has to be regular, and correctly remunerated. Finally, she insisted on the need to increase PEACE membership, beyond Europe if possible, and to secure new funding. This will be an important duty of the newly elected Steering Committee.

Under the same item, Dr. Filip Callewaert, Head of the International Relations and Mobility Office Vrije Universiteit Brussel, presented the provisions and the current status of the Erasmus Mundus University II Project, which includes 5 Palestinian universities as full partners and PEACE as a co-partner.

The General Assembly empowered the Steering Committee to revise the Plan of Action, particularly in light of the recommendations and suggestions that emerged from the debates of the International Conference. The revised Plan of Action is attached (Annex 5).

Professor Rami Hamdallah thanked the PEACE member-universities for their active cooperation during his mandate as President of PEACE and expressed the hope that the new line of action adopted by PEACE will reinforce international academic cooperation and solidarity with the Palestinian universities.

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7th Session of the General Assembly
UNESCO Paris, 5 November 2007

Annex 1: Agenda

- 10:15 - 10:35 **Opening address by Prof. Rami Hamdallah**, President of PEACE
- Report on the activities of PEACE since the last General Assembly**
(February 2005), **Prof. Dumitru Chitoran**, Advisor, PEACE Programme
Office at UNESCO
- 10:35 - 10:45 **Financial Report of the PEACE Programme, Prof. Radwan Barakat**,
Treasurer of PEACE
- 10:45 - 13:00 **Plan of Action of the PEACE Programme for the 2008-2009 period**
- The session will be introduced and moderated by **Prof. Annick Suzor-Weiner**,
Vice-President of University Paris-Sud, member of the Steering
Committee of PEACE, with contributions by representatives of member-
universities on specific topics, namely:
- The PEACE Scholarship Scheme
 - Academic Programmes
 - Presentation of the “Erasmus Mundus II” – Project
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:00 **Election of the new Steering Committee of PEACE**
- Closing of the General Assembly by the President of PEACE**
- 15:15 Meeting of the newly elected Steering Committee of PEACE

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Annex 2: List of participants

BELGIUM

Prof. Amine Ait-Chaalal, Director, Centre d'études des crises et conflits internationaux (CECRI), Catholic University of Louvain

Prof. Claude R Joiris, Free University of Brussels

Prof. Annick Stevens, University of Liege / BICUP

Prof. Kim Van der Borght, Free University of Brussels

DENMARK

Dr. Brian Dennis, University of Copenhagen

FRANCE

Prof. Fouad Badran, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM)

Dr. Dominique Ballereau, Observatoire de Paris-Meudon

Dr. Philippe Benoit Cordonnier, Director, International Relations Office, University of Health and Law - Lille 2

Prof. Jean-Paul Francke, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Health and Law -Lille 2

Prof. Albert Marouani, President, "Nice-Sophia Antipolis" University, Nice

Dr. André Moisan, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM)

Prof. Christine Pringent, Vice-President, University Paris I

Prof. Isam Shahrour, Vice-President of Research, University Lille 1

Prof. Annick Suzor-Weiner, Vice President of International Relations, University of Paris Sud

Dr. Marine Valette, Director of International Relations, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM)

GERMANY

Prof. Ulrich Eckern, University of Augsburg

Prof. Sabine Tamm, University of Augsburg

ITALY

Prof. Carlo di Benedetto, University of Bari, Community of Mediterranean Universities (CUM)

Prof. Gianni Vaggi, University of Pavia

NORWAY

Prof. Øyvind Wistrøm, Vestfold University College

Prof. Espen Bjertness, University of Oslo

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Prof. Younis Amr, President, Al-Quds Open University, Jerusalem

Prof. Gabi Baramki, Education Consultant

Prof. Radwan Barakat, Dean of Academic Research, University of Hebron, member of the Palestinian Council of Scientific Research

Prof. Hassan Dweik, Executive Vice President, Al Quds University, Jerusalem

Prof. Rami Hamdallah, President of the PEACE Program and President of An Najah National University, Naplouse

Dr. Irene Hazou, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bethlehem University

Prof. Hikmat Hilal, An Najah National University, Naplouse

Dr. Imad Hodali, Al Quds Open University, Jerusalem

Prof. Henry Jaqaman, Chair holder, UNESCO Chair in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Birzeit University

Dr. Imad Khatib, Director, Palestinian Academy of Science

Prof. Adli A. Saleh, President, Arab American University of Jenin

Prof. M. M. Shabat, Former Vice President of the Islamic University of Gaza

Prof. Daoud Zatari, President, Palestine Polytechnic Institute

SPAIN

Dr. Maria Jose Lera, University of Sevilla

Mrs. Maria Elena Marañón, Coordinator for Agreements and Networks, University of Granada

Prof. David Aguilar Peña, Rector, University of Granada

Ms Monica Margarit Ribalta, Director of International Relations, University de Barcelona

Prof. Clara Ubieto-Artur, Director of International Relations, University of Zaragoza

SWITZERLAND

Mrs. Antoinette Charon Wauters, Director of International Relations, University of Lausanne

Prof. William Ossipow, University of Geneva

UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Jafar El-Murad, University of Westminster

Ms Rania Hafez, Director of Post Compulsory Education & Training, School of Education, University of East London

Dr. Colin Matheson, Director of Scholarships, University of Westminster

Prof. John Morgan, UNESCO Chair of the Political Economy of Education, Director, Centre for Comparative Education Research, School of Education, University of Nottingham

UNITED STATES

Prof. Saber Elaydi, Trinity University, President of the International Society of Difference Equations (ISDE)

PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO

Prof. Dumitru Chitoran, Adviser to the PEACE Programme Office

Ms Elisabeth Petzl, Assistant to the PEACE Programme Office

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Annex 3: Report of Activities of the PEACE Programme
February 2005 – November 2007

Introduction

The period that has elapsed since the last ordinary session of the General Assembly (Bethlehem, February 2005) has known a steady development of the activities of the PEACE Programme, especially of its Scholarship Scheme. The PEACE Network owes this in the first place to its member-universities, some of which have been particularly helpful by offering grants or making facilities available for Palestinian students to study on their campuses, by involving Palestinian universities in university cooperation projects financed by the European Commission or by seeking support from their governments and from foundations to launch projects.

I. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND ACADEMIC MOBILITY

As in the past, activities in these areas were carried out through: *(i) grants for Palestinian students to study abroad, and (ii) faculty exchanges.*

(i) Grants for Palestinian students. After a period of serious difficulties preceding the Bethlehem Conference of 2005, there has been significant progress in offering the possibility to Palestinian graduate students to study abroad. The donation of **US\$50,000** by HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, President of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND), in 2005 has been very helpful. On its basis, but also with the strong support of several member-universities, the Scholarship Scheme was resumed successfully in 2005. All in all, 23 Palestinian students went to study abroad during the 2005-2007 period through grants and other arrangements facilitated by PEACE (cf. Table 1)

Special mention should be made of several highly supportive universities. By offering two grants per year on a long term basis, the University of Westminster has helped give stability to the Scholarship Scheme. The university has now three Palestinian students on its campus and has offered another grant to a student who will begin studies in January 2008. In addition, WU has renewed the grant for 2008-2009 to another student who did not receive the exit permit in time for this academic year. The University of Granada, in addition to offering a full grant every year, has provided facilities for other Palestinian students to pursue studies with financial support from PEACE. It has now 3 students on its campus student a fourth one will begin studies in January 2008 on a full grant. The Universities of Pavia and Siena have also been highly supportive, by offering grants to 4 Palestinian students, in conjunction with an academic Programme launched in 2005. The Universities of Lille 1 and Paris Sud as well as Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Belgium have offered facilities, which - combined with PEACE financial support - have enabled 6 PEACE candidates to study abroad.

The “*Erasmus Mundus University II*” (EMU II) Project approved by the European Commission this year has opened new perspectives to Palestinian students for studies abroad. Coordinated by Vrije Universiteit Brussel - which is a member of PEACE - the Project envisages the possibility for some 80 Palestinian students, researchers and academic staff of Palestinian universities to travel to the European partner universities, while also providing grants for European academic staff and postdoctoral researchers to go to Palestinian universities. The PEACE Programme, which is an

associate partner to EMU II, plays an active role in the execution of this Project. One PEACE candidate has already been accepted for an EMU II grant and 4 others are under consideration.

(ii) Faculty Exchanges. Exchanges between Palestinian and foreign universities continued to be organized during the period through bilateral cooperation arrangements. Faculty exchanges were also included in several academic programmes established at Palestinian universities with foreign support (e.g. the universities of Pavia and Siena). PEACE members and other universities make use of TEMPUS and of other higher education programmes of the European Union in order to initiate cooperation projects with Palestinian universities. However, it should be stressed that PEACE must increase considerably its capacity to use Erasmus, TEMPUS and other European and international cooperation programmes in the future. At the same time, it is necessary to assist the Palestinian universities to reinforce their international relations offices so as to be able to make better use of the opportunities to open up through international cooperation in higher education.

II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND RESEARCH

Activities in this field usually start from existing bilateral links between a European and a Palestinian university, which are reinforced with the help of university consortia and networks set up by PEACE. The most important projects now in progress or under preparation will be presented in a more detailed manner at the International Conference on “Research Development in Palestinian Universities”. Below is a brief listing of the current projects, with basic information on their current status:

- **Centre of Excellence in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Birzeit University, Palestine (ECCE-Birzeit).** Initiated by a group of well-known mathematicians and physicists from Europe, this project is a major academic undertaking, based on broad international cooperation and support to enhance teaching and research capabilities in these fields. A UNESCO Chair and Network for Mathematics and Theoretical Physics was set up in 2007 at Birzeit University to serve as a focal point for the Centre. UNESCO has allocated the sum of 10.000 US dollars for the initial activities of the Chair.
- **Centre of Advanced Studies and Research in International Cooperation and Development in Palestine (CASR-ICD).** Initiated by the Universities of Pavia and Siena, with support from the Italian Ministry of Higher Education and Research, this project has started with a Master Degree Programme launched at the universities of Bethlehem. The Centre is meant to help develop such programmes at the other Palestinian universities as well. Several grants have been offered to Palestinian students and academic staff within the framework of the project.
- **Establishment of an Educational Hospital at An-Najah National University.** Aimed at filling in a badly felt need (there is no hospital for the population of 2 million in the West Bank) the Project is based on broad international cooperation and assistance. The University of Medicine and Law of Lille (Lille II) is the major European partner but several other universities from Spain, Belgium, Norway and Malta have expressed interest to be associated to it.
- **E-Learning and Open and Distance Education at Palestinian Universities.** This is a recognized priority for Palestinian universities as a means to up date the quality of their programmes, to increase international links and also to overcome current difficulties encountered by staff and students to reach their universities. Several initiatives have been taken by the European universities (CNAM and the University Cergy-Pointoise, France) have taken useful initiatives (such as the RUFO Project, financed by the European Commission) to meet these needs. The possibility has been discussed at past PEACE meetings to develop and launch a wide-scale programme aimed at promoting e-learning and distance education technologies and methodologies at Palestinian universities. The time has come to take

concrete action on this Project, by building on work done within the framework of the **Avicenna Project** and on the initiatives mentioned above.

Several other projects are being renewed or at a planning stage, namely:

- Support extended to the **Palestinian Teacher Education Initiative**, launched by UNESCO, for which the setting up of a UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education has been envisaged. Several PEACE-member-universities have expressed strong interest to join the project.
- **Water Resources Management**. Based on work in progress for this Project, under the responsibility of the UNESCO Office in Cairo, there are real possibilities to develop it further with the support of PEACE member-universities.
- **Microelectronics and Computer Science**. This is a recognized priority for many Palestinian universities. There have been several initiatives in the past to develop concrete projects in this field, but none has been successful. It is time to consider resuming action in this field.

III. REINFORCEMENT OF THE PEACE PROGRAMME

The last General Assembly asked for steps to be taken in order to reinforce the PEACE Network with regard to membership, activities and links with IGOs, NGOs and universities worldwide.

Membership. The PEACE Programme has 61 members at present, namely: 50 European universities and all the 11 Palestinian universities. It has a core of active member-universities which offer grants, initiate or take part in academic programmes and pay their membership fees to PEACE. It is with regret that we have noticed the loss of interest in our activities by member-universities in Holland, and – to certain extent, Italy. The first task of PEACE is therefore to revive the interest of its less active members. At the same time, PEACE should further seek to attract new members. We are happy to welcome the University of Sevilla and the Faculty of Life Sciences of the University of Copenhagen as new members of PEACE at this General Assembly Session. Through the efforts of Prof. Radwan Barakat, the Treasurer of PEACE, we are particularly happy to welcome the presence at the General Assembly of a representative of Purdue University, USA, which is considering joining PEACE. Another American university is also considering joining. In addition to making efforts to increase its membership in Europe, USA and Canada, PEACE should also open up to the other regions of the world.

Relations with UNESCO and the European Commission. The Steering Committee and the PEACE Office paid special attention to reinforcing links and securing the support of **UNESCO** to PEACE activities. Members of the Committee met the Deputy Director General of UNESCO and other high ranking officials of the Organization on several occasions. While asking for UNESCO support to PEACE activities, they also pointed out the readiness of our Network to take part in the activities foreseen by UNESCO to enhance capacities for higher learning and research in Palestine. The deputy Director General of UNESCO, who attended the last meeting of the Steering Committee appreciated this and recommended coordination of action between the UNESCO units which have responsibilities for action in the field of higher education and research in Palestine and PEACE.

It has long been envisaged to arrange for the visit of a PEACE delegation to the **European Commission** for high level talks. With the approval of EMU II and of several other EC supported projects involving Palestinian universities, this visit has become a first priority.

Links with NGOs of Higher Education. Members of the Steering Committee and of the PEACE office at UNESCO used their presence at various international meetings in order to present the PEACE Programme and discuss possibilities for support from these organizations. Useful links have been continued by PEACE with CICUP (Committee for Interuniversity Cooperation with Universities in Palestine), a very active group of concerned French academics who are committed to developing cooperation with Palestinian universities. A similar Belgian Committee (BICUP) has been set up, with which PEACE has established good working relations. The possibility to set up similar structures in countries where PEACE has several members (Spain, Italy) should be examined. At the same time, further steps are needed to build up closer links with the major NGOs of higher education (IAU, European Association of Universities, the Arab Association of Universities, the Community of Mediterranean Universities (CUM), the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) etc.).

The PEACE Website. The PEACE website has been updated with the voluntary help of a team of students of the “Hautes Etudes des Technologies de l’Information et de la Communication” (HETIC) and of the temporary assistants of PEACE during this period (Zaina Al-Moje, Monica Petrovici and Elisabeth Petzl). In addition to the old website on UNESCO’s main frame, it has been arranged to include updated information on PEACE activities on the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Portal. But we still need a complete and better structured website, with information on its activities and a section devoted to recent news and events of the Network with a special section devoted to the Higher Education System in Palestine. The University of Paris-Sud has agreed to host it. We hope to complete the technical details form opening that web site soon, and invite the member-universities to provide relevant information regularly to keep it up to date.

Meetings of the Steering Committee

The Committee met twice during the period: **London**, February 2006 and, **Paris**, November 2006. Both meetings were very productive, contributing to the reinforcement of the activities of PEACE. The Paris meeting occasioned high-level discussions with officials in the UNESCO secretariat. The PEACE Office at UNESCO kept the members-universities informed about the outcome of these meetings.

Secretariat services

The PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO continued to provide useful services to the Network. Professor D. Chitoran has continued to work on a voluntary basis. Two part-time assistants, Ms Monica Petrovici and Ms Elisabeth Petzl were hired as temporary assistants for periods of time, when needed. It is necessary to foresee future temporary assistance on a more regular basis for the PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO, given the increased amount of work. The Steering Committee members have stressed the need to set up a permanent, active PEACE Office in Palestine. This need was badly felt during the preparations of the International Conference and in handling matters related to the Palestinian grantees.

Conclusion

PEACE is undoubtedly on a good track at present. Despite numerous difficulties, we are very much encouraged to see not only our member-universities, but also other institutions of higher education in various parts of the world concerned by the harsh conditions imposed on the Palestinian universities. There is a new wave of academic solidarity with the Palestinian universities. It is the task of the PEACE Programme to build on this potential. The 7th Session of the General Assembly takes place at a time of increased action by the international community to resume discussions and negotiations at

the international level aimed at finding a solution to the Middle East conflict. It is within this favourable context we appeal to the member-universities and to the international academic community to support PEACE, so as to render its action more effective.

Table 1: Peace grantees – Period 2005-2007**1. Palestinian students currently at European universities on PEACE grants, or on arrangements facilitated by PEACE in 2004- 2005**

Student	University in Palestine	University in Europe	Conditions of grant and situation of studies
1. Rasha Khayyat	An Najah National University	Studies in Pharmacy at the University Paris-Sud	Full grant awarded in 2004 for MA studies; extended in 2006 (French Consulate) for PhD studies
2. Ghadi Younis	Palestine Polytechnic University, Hebron	Doctoral studies at German university	DAAD grant for a period of 4 years.
3. Aber Masri Fadda	Arab/American University, Jenin	Katolieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL)	Governmental grant (BTC) for PhD studies in medicine. Expected to finish in one year.

2. PEACE grantees who began studies in 2005-2006

Student	University in Palestine	University in Europe	Conditions of grant and situation of studies
4. Maher Al-Abed	Al Quds University	PhD in Clinical Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast	3 rd year of studies. PEACE will continue to cover 50% of fees. (4759,36 € paid in 2007). Al Quds Univ. covers living expenses
5. Abdel Kareem Awwad	Birzeit University	PhD studies in Computer Engineering, Erlangen Univ. Germany	DAAD grant
6. Hanal Abu Zant	An Najah National University, Nablus	PhD studies in Computer Engineering, University of Lille I	3 rd year of studies. Costs covered jointly by Lille University and by the PEACE Programme (300 €/month)
7. Ala Masri	An Najah National University, Nablus	PhD studies in Computer Engineering, University of Lille I	Same as above
8. Ahmad Shraideh	An Najah National University, Nablus	PhD studies in Management of the Information Systems, University of Lille I	Same as above

3. Palestinian students who began studies in 2006-2007 and continue them in 2007-2008

Student	University in Palestine	University in Europe	Conditions of PEACE grant and situation of studies
9. Musa Khaldi	Birzeit University	PhD studies, Science Education, Nottingham University	2 nd year of studies. PEACE is committed to sharing costs with Nottingham University (4092,36 euros in 2007)
10. Musa Na'el	An Najah National University	PhD studies in Economics at the Univ. of Siena, Italy	2nd year of studies. Full grant for 3 years
11 Sarsour Shakar	Birzeit University	PhD studies in Economics at the Univ. of Siena, Italy	2nd year of studies. Full grant for 3 years
12. Basel Mansour	Birzeit University	Master in International Cooperation and Economic Integration, Univ. of Pavia	Full grant. Is currently finalizing thesis. Has applied for continuing studies for PhD degree, with good chances for acceptance. Will work for four months in an UNCTAD office.
13. Ghanan Belal	An Najah National University	Master in Internat. Coop. and Dev., Univ. of Pavia	Full grant for 1 year. Will complete studies in January 2008.

14. Mohammed Sharaf Alzebdi	Hebron University	Masters in Eng. in computer systems engineering (2006-2007) at Westminster University	Extended for a full grant for PhD studies in computer systems engineering at Westminster University beginning in September 2007.
15. Abdel Baset Abdelghani	Arab American University (AAUJ), Jenin	PhD in MIS Vrije University Brussels (VUB)	2nd year of studies. Fees exemption and accommodation in student hostel. PEACE contribute 300 euros per month. AAUJ tops up expenses. Under consideration for a EMU 2 grant.
16. Mohamad Omar Al Ja'bari	Hebron University	PhD in Computer Information Systems at FUNDP, Namur, Belgium	2nd year of studies. FUNDP contributes 600 and PEACE 300 euros/month.
17. Naem Kuomi	Al Quds Open University	PhD in Applied Mathematics University of Granada	2nd year of studies. PEACE contribution: 300 euros/month.
18. Iyad Khalel Yousef Al Hrebat	Palestinian Polytechnic, Hebron	PhD in Applied Mathematics University of Granada	2nd year of studies. PEACE contribution: 300 euros/month.

4. PEACE grantees accepted for the academic year 2007-2008

Student	University in Palestine	University in Europe	Conditions of PEACE grant and situation of studies
19. Feraz Fayeze Al Battah	Arab/American University in Jenin	University of Geneva	9 months research grant. Has asked to begin studies in autumn 2008 and to shorten stay to one semester.
20. Nour Nafez Hammac	Gaza Islamic University	Westminster University	MA studies in English literature. Full grant for 15 months. Has arrived at Westminster.
21. Bassam Banat	Bethlehem University	University of Granada	PhD studies in Social Sciences. PEACE contribution: 300 euros/month) and international transport. Has arrived at Granada
22. Mousa Alrefiyeh	Palestinian Polytechnic University	University of Granada	PhD Studies in Computer Science. Full grant. Has postponed arrival for t January 2008. The University of Granada as agreed
23. Bahjat Abuzanouna	Al Aqsa University Gaza	University of Westminster	MA in Public Communication. Full Grant. Travel permit not issued in time to begin studies this year, WU has agreed to renew his grant for 2008-2009
24. Mr. Na'El Yousif Moh'd SayedAhmad	Hebron University	University of Westminster	MA in Finance and Accounting. Full grant. Beginning in January 2008.

5. Candidates considered for grants within the framework of the EMU II Project

25. Mohammad Q.S. Shbair	Al-Azhar University	University of Lille II, France	Accepted on an EMU II grant.
26. Iyad F.I. Hashlamon	Palestinian Polytechnic University	Sabancı University, Turkey	Request submitted
27. Hakeem Ahmed El Talla	Al-Aqsa University	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium	Request submitted
28. Belal Amro	Hebron University	University "La Sapienza", Italy	Request submitted

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Annex 4: Financial report for the period January 2005 – November 2007

The present financial report concerns the situation of the PEACE bank accounts at the Europe Arab Bank in Paris for which the PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO has responsibilities. The Steering Committee examined the financial situation at its meetings held in London (February 2006) and Paris (November 2006). The situation of the PEACE Programme accounts at the Europe Arab Bank in Paris, as reported to the last Session of the General Assembly on 7 February 2005 was the following:

Account	Total
Deposit account in Euros no.1101-024258-611	€13.313,91
Deposit account in US dollars no.1101-024258-610	US\$ 113,034.66
Current account in Euros no. 1101-024250-111	€1.122,03
Current account in US dollars no. 1101-024250-110	US\$ 6.324,44

The report below presents the evolution of the budget of the PEACE Programme (income and expenses) as reflected in the statements of accounts received from the Europe Arab Bank. (Copy of the statements of accounts presented in table form, will be available for examination by the participants at the General Assembly).

I. INCOME

The only source of income over the period has been the **membership fees**. Revenues from fees during the period were as follows:

- 2005 : 20 paying member-universities, bringing an income of **€17.433,91** and **750 US\$**.
- **2006 : 18** paying member-universities, bringing an income of **€17.487,60**
- **2007 : 22** paying member-universities, bringing an income of **€17.714,58**.

In addition, interest on the deposit accounts amounted to **€2.732,54** and **US\$ 12.635,75**.

Total income over the period: €55.368,63 and US\$ 13.385,75.

II. EXPENSES

(i) Payment of grants to Palestinian students under the PEACE Scholarship Scheme:

2005

- €1.760 (= €220 x 8 months) to Mr. Rizek Sleibi (bank charges included)
- €2.400 (= €200 x 11 months + bank charges €20 per transfer) to Mr. Belal Amro
- €709 and US\$ 767 to Mr. Belal Amro (reimbursement of air ticket, bank charges included)

Sub total: €4.869 and US\$ 767

2006

- €10.840 to An Najah University for the 3 students at Univ. of Lille 1 (2005-2006)
- € 4.610,10 to Queens University, Belfast, tuition fee for Mr. Maher Al Abed
- € 3.640 (= €300 x 12 months + bank charges) to Mr Naeem Al Koumi at Univ. of Granada
- € 3.640 (= €300 x 12 months + bank charges) to Mr. Al Hrabat at Univ. of Granada
- € 652 Reimbursement of international travel for Mr. Naeem Al Koumi
- € 648 Reimbursement of international travel for Mr. Al Hrabat
- € 3.640 (€300 x 12 months + bank charges) to Mr. Mohamad Al Jabari at FUNDP

- €10.840 to An Najah University for the 3 students at Univ. of Lille 1 (2006-2007)

Sub total: €38.510,10

2007

- € 4.759,77 tuition fee for Mr. Maher Al-Abed, Queens University
- € 3.300 to Mr. Abdel Baset Abdel Ghani (VUB)
- € 4.092,26 to Mr. Musa Khaldi (Nottingham University)
- €10.840 to An Najah University for the 3 students at Univ. of Lille 1 (2007-2008)
- € 3.600 (€300 x 12 months) to Mr Naeem Al Koumi at Univ. of Granada
- € 3.600 (€300 x 12 months) to Mr. AlHrabat at Univ. of Granada
- € 4.167 (€300 x 12 months plus travel reimbursement = equivalent of US\$ 755 and €17) to Mr. Bassam Banat, Granada University.

Further payments for grants (amounting to around **€12.000** according to previous commitments made by PEACE) are expected for 2007.

Sub total: €34.359.03 (€46.359,03 if additional estimated costs to the end of the year are taken into account).

Total expenses for grants over the 2005-2007 period: €77.738,13 (€89.738,13 if envisaged costs to the end of the year are taken into account) and US\$ 767.

(ii) Secretariat and other expenses.

(a) Temporary assistance and other secretariat expenses

- €5.200 temporary assistance (13 months x €400; Jan – Dec. 2005 and Jan – Feb 2006)
- €4.200 temporary assistance (6 months x €400 in 2006 and 3 months x €600 in 2007)
- €2.700 temporary assistance (3 months x €400 and 3 months x €500 in 2007)
- €1.815 for the purchase of a portable computer in 2006, approved by the Steering Committee
- €18 DHL letter to the General Consulate of Spain, Jerusalem (visa for Mr. Bassam Banat in 2007)
- €7 International phone card
- €22,40 for the duplication of the PEACE leaflet and of the Conference documents

Subtotal temporary assistance and other secretariat expenses: €13.962,40

(b) Reimbursement of travel costs to PEACE meetings by Mr. Chitoran:

- €761,11 air ticket to attend the Bethlehem Conference, February 2005:
- €315 reimbursement of costs for participation at the Steering Committee Meeting February 2006 (i.e. €90 train ticket London, €76 visa and €199 accommodation for 3 days).
- €411,70 travel and accommodation costs, Erasmus Mundus II meeting, Rome, June 2007

Subtotal reimbursements: €1.487,81

Total secretariat expenses: €15.450,21

(c) Expenses for the PEACE International Conference Paris, 4-5 Nov, 2007

UNESCO has approved the sum of 4.500 US dollars to cover conference-related costs for the Palestinian participants. This financial support is very valuable and PEACE is most grateful to UNESCO for once again helping PEACE. However, the sum was not sufficient. The Steering Committee has agreed to cover expenses travel and accommodation expenses for the Palestinian members of the Committee (4 Persons) and for another 6 Palestinian participants invited to make contributions to the Conference. ***These expenses are estimated at around €12.000.*** A more precise estimation will be presented during the General assembly meeting. We wish to thank the University of Paris - Sud and CICUP for taking over part of the accommodation expenses.

Subtotal International Conference-related costs (estimate): €12.000

(d) Bank charges

- €200 Account fees in 2005
- €200 Account fees in 2006
- €240 Transaction fees

Subtotal bank charges: €640

Total expenses since the last session of the General Assembly are at present €93.828,34 and US\$ 767. They are expected to be around €17.828,34 and US\$ 767 taking into account the estimated further costs to be paid by the end of the year for the International Conference and for the grantees.

IV. Current Situation of the PEACE Programme Accounts

The situation of the bank accounts of the PEACE Programme at the Europe Arab Bank, Paris on 31 October 2007 was as follows (to be completed after we receive the statement later accounts from the Bank):

Account	Total
Deposit account in Euros no.1101-024258-611	€27.895,97
Deposit account in US dollars no.1101-024258-610	US\$ 111.790,92
Current account in Euros no. 1101-024250-111	€7.445,80
Current account in US dollars no. 1101-024250-110	US\$ 678,68

Conclusions: Expenses made during the period 2005-2007 are far above the received income: **€93.828,34 and US\$ 767or (€17.828,34) compared to €55.368,63 and US\$ 13.385,75 income.** Payments of grants have gone up from **€4869** in 2005 to **€38.510,10** and will be around **€46.000** in 2007. This was planned by the Steering Committee, which relied on previous budgetary reserves and decided to re-launch the Scholarship Scheme by increasing the contributions it could pay to those grantees who did not get full grants from the receiving universities or from other sources. The budgetary reserves of PEACE will allow PEACE to continue this policy for a few years, but the reserves will be exhausted soon if no additional sources of income are found. The Steering Committee should launch a funding campaign for PEACE with the help of its member universities.

Secretariat expenses have continued to be kept at a minimum, by relying on the facilities placed at the disposal of PEACE by UNESCO. However, it is necessary to foresee temporary secretariat assistance on a regular basis and to make provisions for other office expenses (a printer, stationary and communication) which are no longer provided by UNESCO on a regular basis.

PEACE Programme
7th Session of the General Assembly
UNESCO Paris, 5 November 2007

Annex 5: Draft Plan of Action for 2008 and 2009

1. The PEACE Scholarship Scheme

The Scholarship Scheme will continue to remain the first priority of PEACE. During the current academic year, 27 Palestinian students are already at European universities, or are expected to begin studies abroad on grants offered by the member-universities and on facilities arranged by PEACE. The target is **to maintain the figure of grantees at the same level for the next two academic years**. Taking into account past commitments, the current budgetary reserves and the income of PEACE for the next two years, the following proposals for the Scholarship Scheme are made for 2008-2009:

(a) Committed costs still to be paid in 2007 = **12.000 EUR**

(b) Envisaged costs for 2008

- 3 students who will continue studies (PEACE allocation) x 3600 EUR = 10.800 EUR
- 3 new students (PEACE allocation) x 3600 EUR = 10.800 EUR
- 3 air tickets x 700 EUR = 2.100 EUR

Sub total 2008: 23.700 EUR

(c) Envisaged costs for 2009

- 3 students who will continue studies (PEACE allocation) x 3600 EUR = 10.800 EUR
- 4 new students (PEACE allocation) x 3600 EUR = 14.400 EUR
- 4 air tickets x 700 EUR = 2.800 EUR

Sub total 2009: 28.000 EUR

Total contribution to the Scholarship Scheme: 63.700 EUR

There are already several commitments made by the PEACE member universities to offer full grants for the next academic year (Westminster University, Université Catholique de Louvain, Université de Genève, Universitat de Barcelona, Université Paris-Sud 11, etc.). It is expected that the number of full grants offered by the member universities will increase, particularly through their bilateral co-operation agreements with the Palestinian universities. In addition, PEACE will make efforts to secure grants for its candidates within the framework of the EMU II Project, particularly for students from the non-partner Palestinian universities and within the framework of other EC projects.

2. Academic Projects

(a) Building on the experience acquired thus far, the Network will encourage the setting up of **consortia** of member universities, capable to launch, secure funding and implement the following large-scale academic projects:

- Establishing a **Centre of Advanced Studies and Research** in International Cooperation and Development in Palestine (CASR-ICD)
- Establishing a **Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics** at Birzeit University, Palestine (ECCE-Birzeit)
- Establishing an **Educational Hospital** at An Najah National University
- Project for **E-Learning and Open and Distance Education** at Palestinian Universities
- **Palestinian Teacher Education Initiative** developed by UNESCO and implemented by the UNESCO Ramallah Office, with the financial support of the Government of Norway. Two Norwegian PEACE member-universities are involved (Oslo University and Vestfold College) and many other have expressed the interest to join.

(b) PEACE will also resume or reinforce past projects that were interrupted and project proposals that could not be implemented, namely:

- Cooperation in **Law and Public Administration** and **Political Science Studies** initiated by the University Paris 1- Sorbonne and carried out by a consortium of other 7 French universities and higher education institutions.
- **Water Resources Management** (based on work in progress, under the responsibility of the UNESCO Office in Cairo).
- **Microelectronics and Computer Science**, which is a recognized priority for many Palestinian universities.

It is not possible for PEACE to contribute financially to the implementation of the projects listed above under (a) and (b) which require considerable sums. Its role is mainly to facilitate cooperation with a view to help solve the **academic** needs of such projects (training, transfer of expertise, exchange of data and information, etc). However, minimum financial support is needed for that purpose. Proposed budget:

- Project-related missions by **Palestinian academics**
 - Per diem: 4 persons x 1 month x 1.000 EUR = 4.000 EUR
 - Air tickets: 4 persons x 700 EUR = 2.800 EUR
- Other travel missions to promote PEACE and seek funds = 3000 EUR
- **Total contribution to promote academic projects = 9.800 EUR**

3. Reinforcement of the PEACE Network

Action to reinforce PEACE will be focused on:

- clarifying the situation of its membership, while seeking to make PEACE better known and establishing closer links with universities in all regions of the world and with NGOs of higher education;
- reinforcing the structures of PEACE, especially its Offices at UNESCO in Paris and in Ramallah;
- securing a stable funding base for its activities.

Membership. PEACE will focus on increasing membership and reinforcing the **consortia** set up for the implementation of various projects, while broadening its **networking and partnership links**. PEACE should look beyond the traditional links between European and Palestinian Universities, these will continue to be the backbone of the program, but the Network must open to partner institutions in all **regions of the world**.

The **PEACE website** will be used in order to make PEACE better known by the international academic community and by its potential supporters. In addition to up dating regularly the new PEACE site on the UNITWIN portal at UNESCO, a new, **completely restructured PEACE website will be installed at Université Paris Sud**. The member-universities are requested to extend their support in order to further develop it and keep them up to date.

PEACE Secretarial support. The considerable growth of the volume of activities of the Network requires temporary assistance on a regular basis (10 months per year x 600 EUR/month). Proposed budgetary provisions:

- temporary assistance: **12.000 EUR (6.000 EUR for 2008 and 6.000 EUR for 2009)**
- Equipment (printer) stationary, communication and other expenses: **1.000 EUR**

Total secretariat expenses: 13.000 EUR

Total expenses of the PEACE Programme for 2008-2009 = 86.500 EUR

Expected revenues for 2008-2009, if limited only to membership fees, are about **37.000 – 40.000 EUR** (unless the number of fee paying universities increases significantly). It means that PEACE will have to cover some **50.000 EUR** from its budgetary reserves for the activities foreseen in the Plan of Action. The reserves would be exhausted in a very short time. The Steering Committee will therefore have to look for additional funding, especially for the Scholarship Scheme. The renewal of the AGFUND allocation is an urgent need. The member universities are also requested to help by seeking financial support from their national authorities and from foundations or the private sector.

Conclusions

The proposed Plan of Action is open for discussion by the representatives of the member universities present at this Session. Relevant proposals and recommendations for future PEACE action have emerged from the debates of the International Conference. We expect similar proposals and recommendations from the debates of the Assembly. On their basis, the Draft Plan of Action for 2008-2009 will be finalized and distributed to the member-universities and to other cooperation partners of PEACE.