

Municipal Alliance for Peace

MAP PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2005

Dear MAP partners,

The second MAP Newsletter of 2005 lies in front of you and it carries an important message: it holds a report of the very first meeting of the International Board of MAP, which took place in Strasbourg, on 18 and 19 September 2005.

The meeting was hosted by the Council of Europe, where the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, Mr. Di Stasi, warmly welcomed the Board and expressed its support for MAP's objectives and work plan.

This newsletter consists of four chapters: 1) the general outcome of the International Board meeting, 2) an update on MAP's institutional framework, 3) an outline of the challenges still ahead of us and 4) an overview of upcoming activities.

General Outcome of the International Board Meeting

In June 2005, the first joint international conference of APLA and ULAI took place in The Hague. It marked the establishment of the Municipal Alliance for Peace and showed the willingness of Israeli and Palestinian local governments to work together towards sustainable peace in the Middle East.

This constructive working spirit was repeated in Strasbourg, where all MAP partners adopted the MAP Draft Strategy and Work Plan. This document unites and defines MAP's main practical benchmarks, including a joint Palestinian/Israeli secretariat, an international Trust Fund for trilateral, municipal partnerships, an effective PR strategy, active lobby to the national Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, and local action plans of MAP partners implemented and facilitated by the MAP secretariat.

MAP's Institutional Framework

In order to retain the current momentum, MAP requires a decisive International Board. Based on input from the other Board members, VNG will draft a paper identifying the exact duties of the International Board, apart from offering strategic and political guidance. The next Board meeting will be in February 2006, possibly in Jericho, but certainly in the Middle East region.

Since secretarial backup is crucial, the MAP Secretariat is scheduled to be operational by 1 November 2005. For the time being, the Secretariat will be run by two United Nations Volunteers (for ULAI and APLA) who will receive operational budget and office facilities from UNDP. From February 2006, an international coordinator will be in place to supervise the Secretariat. The main tasks of the Secretariat will include assisting in the formulation of proposals for trilateral, municipal projects

and preparing initiatives for fundraising. Technical backstopping will be provided by VNG International.

To ensure a solid financial basis for the trilateral, municipal partnerships, a multi-donor Trust Fund will be administered by UNDP. In cooperation with other MAP partners UNDP will organise donor conferences and roundtables, the first one of which will be held in Jericho in November 2005. Additionally, MAP counts on the networks of its international partners.

Challenges to the Success of MAP

In order for the donor conference in November to be successful, two project proposals under each of the four focus areas (Youth, Economic Development, Municipal Management and Environment) should be available, so that they can serve as 'business cards' for MAP.

The MAP strategy indicates that proposals should be based in a trilateral, municipal partnership between a Palestinian, an Israeli and an international municipality. In concrete terms, MAP aims at projects concerning activities such as youth parliaments, school exchange, waste management, labour migration, tourism, decentralisation and citizens participation. All projects should have a clear peace building component and should be geared towards generating mutual understanding and respect among Israeli and Palestinian citizens. In developing project proposals, due attention should be paid to the clear difference in needs between Israeli and Palestinian municipalities.

As the participation of municipalities and their citizens forms the core of MAP, the Alliance will assist municipal actors in the formulation of their own local action plans and the development of new, strategic initiatives. Furthermore, MAP will assist in mobilising the necessary resources to implement local action plans and ensure that these initiatives have the highest political impact possible. In this respect, the involvement of ULAI and APLA has been commendable and it will remain crucial to MAP's success.

The role of the international municipality in the trilateral partnership will be to mediate, offer political support and technical advice. As such it functions as the cement that ensures a sustainable, fruitful cooperation.

Upcoming Activities & Deadlines

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Recruitment of MAP staff by UNDP, ULAI, APLA; establishing the MAP Secretariat in Jerusalem | September/October 2005 |
| ▪ Formulation of realistic, trilateral project proposals in each of MAP's four focus areas | October 2005 (available for donor conference) |
| ▪ Organisation of a donor conference in Jerusalem or Jericho | November 2005 |
| ▪ Presentation of MAP at the Annual General Meeting of Eurocities in Lyon (by Mr. Deetman, chairman of MAP) | 19/22 November 2005 |
| ▪ Presentation of MAP at the 2 nd European Conference of the European Network of Local Authorities for Peace | 22/24 November 2005 |

in the Middle East in Córdoba (workshop by Mr. Peter Knip, director of VNG International; Speeches by Mr. Al-Farra on behalf of APLA and Mr. Eldar on behalf of ULAI)

- Recruitment and installation of international coordinator for the Secretariat 1 February 2006
- 2nd International Board meeting February 2006

Request for Project Proposals

Especially in the start-up phase we are in now, municipalities are urged to contact the MAP secretariat and present their trilateral partnership projects. The MAP Secretariat will assist municipal actors in designing their own local action plans and project proposals, in order for them to be eligible to be presented to the donor community. Additionally, the MAP Secretariat can assist in finding (Israeli/Palestinian/international) municipalities to complete a trilateral partnership.

Success so far!

As a result of the conference in The Hague, the municipality of Prague 1 established a twinning with the Israeli municipality of Rosh-Ha'ayin. A delegation from Prague will visit Israel in November to discuss details and finalise the agreement.

Hopefully this will be an impetus for other municipalities to engage in twinings and develop partnership projects.

Further information

MAP Secretariat

C/o VNG International

E-mail: map@vng.nl

Tel: +31 70 3738108

Fax: +31 70 3738660

Web: www.vng-international.nl

APLA

Communication Department APLA

E-mail: apla@palnet.com

Tel: +972 2 2980601

Fax: +972 2 2980602

Web: www.apla-pal.org

ULAI

International Relations Department

E-mail: ulais@netvision.net.il

Tel: +972 3 68844210

Fax: +972 3 68844211

Web: www.ulai.org.il

MAP

Municipal
Alliance
for Peace



Participants, Strasbourg, 18 and 19 September 2005

APLA:

- Mr Hasan Saleh Ismail Alhussein, Mayor of Jericho
- Mr. Ahmad Rabi, Executive Director APLA

ULAI:

- Mr. Eli Levy, Chairman Committee International Relations of ULAI and Mayor of Lehavim
- Mr. Avi Rabinovitch, Deputy Director General of ULAI

UNDP:

- Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Special Representative UNDP Jerusalem
- Mr. George Khoury, Head of Agricultural, Rural & Economical Development Unit UNDP Jerusalem

Federation of Canadian Municipalities:

- Ms. Gloria Kovach, First Vice-President FCM, Councillor City of Guelph, Ontario
- Ms. Wafa Saad, Regional coordinator, Middle East

Network of European Local Authorities for Peace in the Middle East:

- Mr. Flavio Lotti, Director Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights
- Mr. Miguel Angel Prieto, Representative Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, Spain

VNG:

- Mr. Wim Deetman, Chairman of VNG and Mayor of The Hague
- Mr. Rolf Swart, Business Unit Manager VNG International
- Mr. Edwin Willemsen, Consultant VNG International
- Mr. Chris van Hemert, Project Officer VNG International

Council of Europe

- Mr. Mehdi Remili, Secretariat (LDA) Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe