

## **ANNEXES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NABLUS CONFERENCE**

The Participants formulated the following recommendations addressed on the one hand to the Ministry of Higher Education of the Palestinian Authority and to the Palestinian universities and colleges, and, on the other hand to the member universities of the PEACE Programme.

#### **Institutional Development of Higher Education in Palestine**

1. Elaboration of a national policy of higher education, through rationalisation and restructuring as well as through setting up a national system of evaluation and accreditation of programmes and institutions.
2. Assuring access to higher education, on the basis of merit, through measures aimed at achieving both equity and quality.
3. Higher education institutions should formulate their goals and objectives in mission statements, stipulating their rights and obligations, in keeping with the principles of academic freedom and university autonomy, while being aware of their obligations and accountability to society.
4. Improving management at all levels of the higher education system.

#### **Raising the Quality, Relevance and Efficiency of Palestinian Higher Education**

5. In order to improve the quality of teaching, a policy for the recruitment of staff should be instated, and training on teaching methods should be promoted, with international support.
6. Faculty development, to meet immediate and long-term needs for qualified teaching and research staff, should be promoted.
7. Research, both basic and applied, should be strongly promoted and reinforced; a national research plan should be elaborated, a national council for scientific

research should be created and national scientific societies be founded to develop links with the international scientific community.

- 8 The use of new information and communication technologies should be promoted at all Palestinian universities, in co-operation with foreign partner institutions.

### **International Co-operation**

In the implementation of the above recommendations, international co-operation in general, and the PEACE Programme in particular, play an important role. International co-operation should be further encouraged and promoted. It should combine the expression of solidarity with concrete action.

9. Efforts should be continued in order to further extend the membership of the PEACE Programme and to expand and diversify the range of its activities.
10. Its action should be geared towards:
  - stressing high quality programmes at Palestinian universities,
  - awarding scholarships and grants for study abroad, with stress on selecting young graduates with the relevant skills and potential for study in high quality programmes, so as to bring new blood into the faculty;
  - assistance for the establishment of graduate studies in relevant fields;
  - support for scientific research, through joint research programmes between Palestinian and foreign universities.
11. The PEACE Programme Office at UNESCO should establish an inventory of priorities and needs of Palestinian universities with regard to studies and research, to be matched with offers for support by PEACE Programme member-universities, through concrete projects for which support from the international community will be sought.
12. The international governmental and nongovernmental organisations, the national authorities in charge of higher education, development aid agencies, foundations and all potential donors in the public and private sector, are called upon to increase their support to the further development of Palestinian higher education, in the belief that this represents an important contribution to the self-sustainable development of the Palestinian people, to stability, safety and just peace in the region.