

Bridges to Palestine Program Outline

Seeking to Bridge the Gap between Brazil, Palestinian Nationals



July, 2007

Bridges to Palestine Program Mission

The Bridges to Palestine Program aims to promote peace and security, sustainable growth, rule of law and good governance as vital components in the Palestinian Territories. The Program is a long-term confidence building initiative to facilitate dialogue and constructive relations within the Palestinian Territories and between Brazil and the Palestinians. Bridges to Palestine draws upon experiences, instruments and concepts that have been successfully tested in the Brazilian-Palestinian relation, using these where applicable in the unique political and economic conditions in the Palestinian Territories.

Bridges to Palestine – Private Sector Initiative

The Bridges to Palestine – Private Sector Initiative (BP – PSI) aims to promote economic development in the Palestinian Territories in the wake of a possible Israeli withdrawal from the West bank. There are three main and complementary components of the project: 1) withdrawal facilitation; 2) Economic reconstruction; and, 3) Investment promotion. BP – PSI's withdrawal facilitation track initially aims to forge working level contacts between the two parties in order to discuss the assets to be transferred and other modalities relevant to the withdrawal. The project's economic reconstruction component focuses on supporting a receptive environment for the Palestinian private sector, specifically in relation to the opening of a technology estate in the West Bank. Finally, the investment promotion track will focus on mobilizing Brazilian, international donor and private sector resources in the aim of creating an important and early basis for sustainable economic growth in the Palestinian Territories.

Bridges to Palestine Dialogues Project

The Dialogues Project is aimed at bringing Palestinians and Israelis that do not normally meet and encourage them to speak to each other and to "think outside of the box" in addressing key issues. Meetings are being organized along three tracks, including the "Commerce" "Professionals" and "Student" tracks, and, taken together, they will have covered a large part of the Palestinians and Israelis in the Palestinian Territories and Israel, along with diaspora. The value and impact of each meeting is to 1) de-demonization on a personal level since many participants had never engaged with the other side; 2) better understanding of the other's and one's own fears, perceptions and positions; and/or 3) new and better-developed ways of addressing final status issues.