



Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
OF PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

We, the Rector of the University of Rome La Sapienza, Rectors and Presidents of Israeli Universities and Rectors and Presidents of Palestinian Universities and research Institutes, have met preliminarily on April 20th in Jerusalem and now on May, 3rd and 4th, 2004 in Rome to discuss academic co-operation among the parties involved. We are all moved by our hope and ambition to contribute to renew a fruitful dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian Universities and research Institutes, to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation and to promote joint scientific and academic projects for the interest of all the parties in the Middle East Region and the Mediterranean basin and other regions of the world as well.

In our joint efforts, we are first of all conscious of our responsibilities and missions as heads of academic and scientific institutions, who are devoted to develop intellectual, cultural and human progress in our societies, according to universal human principles such as:

- a. The emphasis on the predominant place of human beings, their intellectual and professional formation, their honour, their dignity, their rights, their welfare and the sacred integrity and non-violation of their lives.
- b. The promotion of science and rational thinking in every domain, and the development of scientific education among the young generations and all those interested in the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of human life conditions.
- c. The enhancement of comprehensive studies of local, national, regional and international cultures and forms of life.

In virtue of these principles and in light of our academic duties, we agree on the following statements and scientific and educational projects:

- We call upon all academic and scientific institutions to work for the creation and the preservation of full conditions whereupon no academic institution, scientist or student whatsoever will be discriminated against and all will have full and free access in the pursuit of their academic activities, whether on the national, regional or international level.
- We call for the facilitation and renewal of exchange of students and scholars among Palestinian universities and academic institutions. This will facilitate as well such exchanges between Israeli and Palestinian universities and scientific institutions.
- We call upon all the parties involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to proceed in a sincere, immediate and continuous negotiation and to immediately stop the bloodshed, to achieve a peaceful solution accepted by the two sides.
- We call for the mutual respect and tolerance for the cultural values and beliefs of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and for a real and prompt reconciliation between the religious, cultural and political leaderships of the two peoples and societies.
- We call upon the Rectors of universities and heads of scientific institutions around the world to support our efforts and to join us in spreading the content of this declaration.

MD



Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

We hereby declare our commitment to making our campuses places where peace can grow and develop, where young people can learn about their rights and the rights of the other, in an overall environment of tolerance and pluralism.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the preceding principles, we hereby agree to consider joint research and activities in the following areas:

1. Environmental and natural sciences
2. Regional Social and Economic Development
3. Education - Education for Peace, Democracy and Understanding between Nations; Scientific Education and Humanitarian Affairs
4. The Establishment of a Joint University Cooperation Programme in Social Science and Humanitarian Affairs
5. Archaeology and preservation of cultural heritage
6. Engineering and technology

and in all the areas of common interest.

University "La Sapienza" of Rome
Prof. Giuseppe D'Ascenzo

University of Haifa
Prof. Joseph Chetrit

University of Tel Aviv
Prof. Israel Zang

Hebrew University in Jerusalem
Prof. Haim Rabinowitch

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt

Weizmann Institute of Science
Prof. Yosef Yarden

for *Al-Quds University in Jerusalem*
Prof. Sari Nusseibeh

Bethlehem University
Br. Neil Kieffe

Hebron University
Prof. Awmi Al Khateeb

Palestine Polytechnic Institute
Prof. Sultan Sultan



Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

Attendees

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Riccardo Sessa, Director General
for the Mediterranean and the Middle East

H.E. Amb. Francesco Caruso,
Permanent Representative to UNESCO

UNESCO
H.E Mounir Bouchenaki,
Assistant Director General

University of Rome "La Sapienza"
Prof. Dino Guerritore
Delegate for International Relations

Dr. Massimo Caneva
Assistant to the Delegate



**MR. MOUNIR BOUCHENAKI – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL UNESCO AND
AMB FRANCESCO CARUSO – ITALIAN PERMANENT DELEGATION TO UNESCO IN PARIS**