



**25th SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL**
17 - 23 APRIL 2015 ♦ NAIROBI

Monday, 20 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 11

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

**Planning Matters in West Bank,
including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip**

**Ministry of Local Government, State of Palestine and
UN-Habitat Palestine**

Background

The purpose of this side event is to showcase Palestinian planning in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. The event highlights why 'Planning Matters' in these three communities. In February 2015, an International Advisory Board visited Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank to benchmark local planning initiatives against international standards. The Board's findings will be presented by one of the members, Christine Platt. In East Jerusalem, the role of community based Palestinian planning initiatives to secure development rights are described.

In Gaza, 'Planning Matters' for building back better. During the July - August war, the 51 days resulted in 2100 deaths, over 10,000 injuries and widespread destruction of housing, economic assets and infrastructure. UN-Habitat's spatial analysis shows the concentration of damage in specific neighbourhoods highlighting the importance of using a strategic and neighbourhood planning approach and owner driven rebuilding to support the communities affected.

The event will conclude with a call for Planning to tie the outcomes for these separate communities together through the efforts of the National Spatial Plan and Visioning.

Purpose

The event is relevant to the mandate of UN-Habitat in the focus it gives to sustainable urbanization, rural – urban linkages and the key importance of urban planning and especially participatory methods proposed in twenty-fifth session of Governing Council. The event highlights the link between rural and urban communities and in importance of building back better in reconstruction efforts.

Organizer

Ministry of Local Government, State of Palestine and UN-Habitat Palestine