

Message of His Excellency  
Mr. Mahmood Abbas  
President of the Palestinian National Authority  
Addressed by Dr. Sabri Saidam  
Presidents Advisor Telecom, IT and Tech. Education

**Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished lecturers  
and organizers, Friends and guests,**

It gives me great pleasure as you are opening the Second International Conference under the title “Water: Values and Rights”; to convey to you the greetings of President Mahmoud Abbas and his sincere wishes to you, and your conference success in achieving what you are looking forward to and get effective recommendations on water as it is the lifeline of economic prosperity.

The Conference is being held this month after the fifth International Forum on water which was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The international forum came up with fifteen recommendations that meant to be identical in content with the values of humanity and the rights of nations, especially their rights to natural resources, specifically water. This wealth, renamed by some people as the blue and gold depleted secret of life is more than ever vulnerable to the risks at the same time, a source of conflicts and disputes, and the subject of the greed of some of the powerful neighbors at the expense of others.

I would like to refer briefly to the rapid scale of the suffering that we live in Palestine, by the policies of the Israeli occupation, which controls the sources of our water and exhaust stockpiles, and deprives people of their

## *2nd International Conference: Water values & Rights*

rights, for example the Israeli per capita consumption is equal to eight times as much every single Palestinian consume. You can imagine the dark side when the political landscape in the occupation of Arab land continues in addition to the expansion of settlements and building the separation wall, not to mention the continuation of occupations' control over our groundwater sources in the two main reservoirs in the west bank and the water piracy operations that never stop in Gaza Strip.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our most basic rights in water are prohibited from us by the occupation. for example, we can not in Palestine take advantage of the policy of water harvesting that is practiced in many countries of the world through the establishment of large or small internal dams, or drilling of groundwater wells to provide the needed water for our people for human daily consumption; Hence, it is necessary to focus on a very important aspect of water, namely the principle of justice in the sharing and use, and the protection of the rights of each party. We all know that water constitutes more than 70% of the ground but the water that is drinkable is only 1%; this figure reflects the volume and seriousness of the problem of security and world peace, health and human environment.

In order not to prolong, I am simply saying that the battle in Palestine is not confined to geography, demography, but extended to include water sources and other components of our lives; therefore there is no peace without the restoration of all our rights. I renew to you the greetings and blessing to you, from Mr. President, and his wishes for the Conference to achieve the desired goals. He highly values all your continued work for the convening of this Conference and in particular, Palestine Academy for Science and Technology and the Palestinian Water Authority and the sponsoring organization, the United Nations Development Programme.