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Endorsement Letter

It's with the utmost pleasure that I write this letter to congratulate all those involved in bringing forth a hopeful and concrete vision for the future of the beleaguered Gaza Strip. The report entitled **"Global Palestine, Connected Gaza"** is a tangible spatial plan providing a path forward an unsustainable and disastrous status-quo.

The fact that the report outlines a vision that is grounded both in the immediate needs, future challenges and opportunities is a tremendous achievement that deserves the acknowledgment and support of all key stakeholders.

The report builds on previous plans including the 1998 and 2005 Regional Plans for the Gaza strip, not to mention the successive National Development Plans as outlined by the Palestinian Government strengthening the report and its political, practical and economic viability.

At the Ministry of Local Government, we send our deepest gratitude to the Palestinian Private sector for the highly important initiative. This is in Line with the ministry priorities and planes. We recognize the costs associated with the production of such a report and the public service that such a vision for the Gaza strip involves.

The Spatial Plan is based on four major components that are both interrelated and essential, these include; urban development, transportation, energy and water, and the focus of environmental and open spaces. The greatest contribution of this report lies in the dozens of projects it proposes for the spatial development of the Gaza Strip, making it a key trade, economic and logistical hub, while, maintaining the viability of the Gaza strip as a community oriented space. This will enhance the fiscal sustainability of the LGUs.

At the Ministry of Local Government we endorsed and welcomed the vision entailed in the report and hope that a similar initiative is taken by all relevant stakeholder including the Palestinian private sector to provide a complimentary vision for the West Bank including East Jerusalem in order to preserve a one vision for the state of Palestine .

We reiterate are gratitude, appreciation and support for such initiatives.

Sincerely Yours,

Hussein Al Araj -Phd

Minister of Local Government

