



Palestine Network
شبكة فلسطين

Palestine Network

[Final Draft Concept]



“ Together, Building the Democratic Palestine ”

www.PalestineNetwork.com

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The Palestine Network

Together, Building the Democratic Palestine

[Draft Concept]

Introduction

Whereas we, the members of the Palestine Network, enjoy diversity of opinion, religious and political affiliation, social and cultural practice and live in all continents of earth, we are united on the one goal of our historic struggle to end occupation: the DEMOCRATIC PALESTINIAN STATE that is based on the principles of human rights, equality, independence of Judiciary, freedoms of speech and press, right to worship and a democracy that enjoys political & social diversity; the dream state of the Palestinian people which is known as the Palestinian National Project.

The Palestine Network is an international volunteer-based, non-partisan, independent, transparent and democratic organization of clubs and individuals based in Palestine and all over the world who believe in the necessity of unity over the GOAL of those working to liberate Palestine and in order to reach this goal through active effective engagement that produces deliverables on the ground.

The members of the network, Palestinians and non-Palestinians are engaged in building the state through several specialized projects that allow every individual member to offer their support as their means allow and in accordance with their interest and professional capacity. Therefore, health professionals are engaged in building the health sector, lawyers and law-makers in building the judicial system, educators work on the education sector, artists on arts and so on. All projects of the Palestine Network originate from members and in accordance with the true needs of Palestine.

The clubs of the network are also involved in promoting and supporting the Palestinian cause in their communities through diverse projects that are designed and implemented by the local clubs and which are in line with the local laws of their countries. As a matter of fact the Palestine Network makes it mandatory for every club to organize in accordance with local laws and only promotes positive and amicable action built on local partnerships and based on mutual respect.

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Therefore our Declaration is:

We, the members of the *Palestine Network*, pledge our support to the goal of building the democratic state of Palestine that enjoys full independence and sovereignty predicated upon a system of political pluralism characterized by free election, peaceful transition of power, independent judiciary, rule-of-law, equality, and respect for human rights. The State will be committed to providing safety and security to all of its citizens. To this end, we are joining hands towards the realization of the Palestinian National Goal as it is formulated by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The *Palestine Network* is

- Independent, representative and democratic, non-partisan, non-governmental and participatory.
- Volunteer based; dependent on Palestinians and friends of Palestine from all over the world who contribute their effort, knowledge, know-how and resources to support the Palestinian national goals.
- Democratic and non-discriminatory; its leadership is elected.
- Dynamic and interactive; members will be connected to their clubs and to the whole network through a powerful yet user friendly online community.
- Modern and adaptive; suggested systems are based on successful current models of social networks.

Who is Behind this Idea?

The *Palestine Network* is the idea of active Palestinians (locals and expatriates), friends of Palestine and members of the Palestinian leadership who believe in the vision of a Democratic Palestine as established in the Network's Declaration, believe in the Palestinian people's right to exercise their internationally acknowledged Inalienable Rights, and understand the challenges faced by our people, as communicated by our expatriates from all over the world, and are active in resolving these challenges.



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Who Runs the Network?

The *Palestine Network* is a democratic organization that once is organized will be able to run itself through a representative system that keeps decision making powers in the hands of its members. Through its clubs, existing wherever there are Palestinians and friends of Palestine, members of the *Palestine Network* will be active on the local, regional and international arenas. They will also elect their leadership bodies and establish an effective working relationship with the leadership of the Palestinian people as well as civil society organizations.

How and when will this Network be up and Running?

The *Palestine Network* is being established in two phases as follows

I. Pre-Launch Phase

1. A large Task Force was established including Dr. Rafiq Hussein, Mr. Issa Kassissieh, and Mr. Ramzi Khoury and others as the initial committee to see to the realization of this project, the task force is currently being expanded to include several other personalities
2. Several activities were conducted to establish the needs of the project and receive feedback from expatriates from all over the world.
3. The Task Force charged Ramzi Khoury to be the Executive Director of this project, and in turn he established a temporary office and a team of individuals as the pre-launch secretariat charged with implementing the pre-launch phase. A plan was designed based on the two phases, the first was completed by end of 2009, and the other will be completed by holding the *Palestine Network Founding Conference* between the 19th and the 25th of Feb. 2010
4. The pre-launch secretariat has almost completed:
 - Communicating the project to potential stakeholders, Palestinian and non-Palestinian, on the organizational and individual levels, to bring those interested on board.
 - Building the tools necessary to implement the project including a comprehensive online community hardware/software solution that will allow the network to communicate effectively.

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“ The Palestine Network is a grassroots movement that will be built by the people of Palestine and the people of the world. It will be a network of clubs, each representing a community, and each club will be a democratic organization. The network will be a platform for the people of Palestine and the people of the world to express their views and to work together to achieve their common goals. The network will be a platform for the people of Palestine and the people of the world to express their views and to work together to achieve their common goals. The network will be a platform for the people of Palestine and the people of the world to express their views and to work together to achieve their common goals. ”

- Finalizing the draft communications, bylaws, rules and regulations that will later be revised, voted on and adopted by representatives of the network at large at the *Palestine Network Founding Conference*
- Identifying interested community leaders who want to build clubs of the network in their communities and who will be the founding members of the network.
- Communication with interested community leaders, supplying them with all needed information about the Network, and supporting them in conducting the preliminary work needed to enable them to establish clubs in their communities right after the conference,
- Organizing an international conference in Palestine to be held between the 19th and the 25th of February 2010, where community representatives who wish to organize clubs in their communities will study, adjust and pass the charter, bylaws, rules and regulations of the network, set the policy of the network and elect a Higher Committee that will lead the Network through the secretariat. This conference is dubbed «The Founding Conference.» The Higher Committee thereafter monitors and directs the secretariat through an online communications system and meets once every three months in order to resolve obstacles and make necessary decisions face-to-face.

II. Launch Phase

1. Conference members return to their communities and organize *Palestine Network Clubs* based on the charter, bylaws, rules and regulations adopted at the conference.
2. The Secretariat implements the plans approved by the Higher Committee and the network becomes functional.
3. Programs are designed and implemented to achieve the goals of the network.
4. The Network is expanded.
5. The First International Conference is held in the first quarter of 2011 representing the Network's Clubs, and because it is the first truly representative conference of the network membership all over the world it will be dubbed the *First International Conference* and thereafter will be held once every two years.



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Vision (Draft)

Building the democratic State of Palestine that enjoys full independence and sovereignty, including political pluralism based on the peaceful transition of power through free elections, independent judiciary, rule of law, equality, respecting human rights, and providing safety and security to its citizens.

Mission (Draft)

To create a platform that would bring together an active network of Palestinians and friends of Palestine from all over the world who adopt the Palestine Network charter and bylaws, and who wish to be actively engaged in ending the occupation and building the State of Palestine based on the values of democracy and human rights.

Goals (Draft)

1. To network, engage and activate Palestinians and friends of Palestine from all over the world to contribute to ending the occupation and the realization of the *Palestinian National Project*.
2. To contribute to building the Palestinian state through the transfer of knowledge, know-how, technology and capacity building.
3. *Facilitate Palestinian Brain Regain* by designing and implementing projects that will engage expatriate Palestinians in building their country and developing their society, through transfer of knowledge, knowhow, expertise and other resources.
4. To create effective two-way interaction and cooperation channels between Palestinians and friends of Palestine worldwide and the Palestinian leadership in Palestine on the political, social, cultural, scientific and civil society levels. To unify the diverse efforts of Palestinians and friends of Palestine worldwide towards achieving the Palestinian national goals; for in unity we can achieve much more.
5. To furnish Palestinians and friends of Palestine worldwide the tools, mechanisms, vehicles and materials needed for them to be effective in their own communities.
6. To maintain the connection between the Palestinian communities in the Diaspora and their societies back in Palestine.

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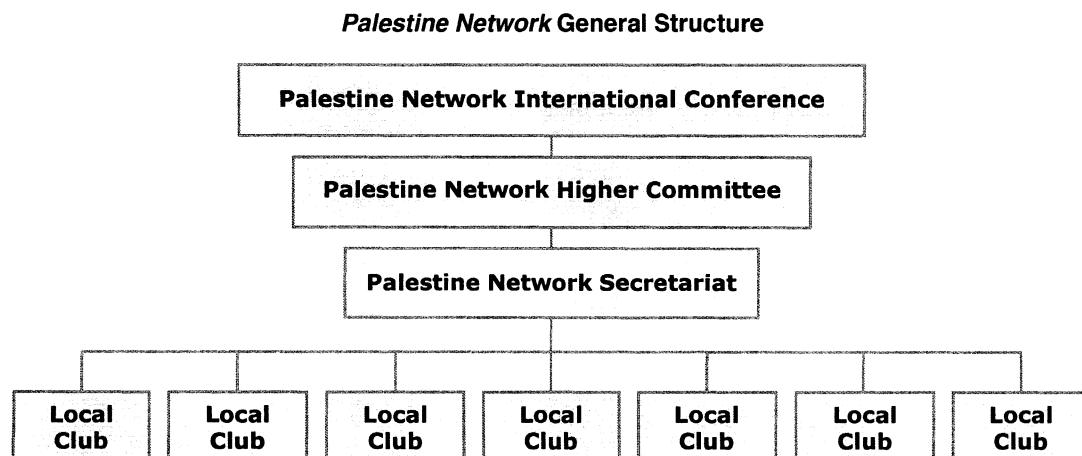
7. To actively engage with the pro-Palestine groups and individuals to unify efforts and actions in the localities.
8. To raise public awareness and clarify misconceptions about the Palestinian cause in these localities.

Membership (Draft)

Any individual who believes in the above concept and accepts our bylaws can become a member of the *Palestine Network* by simply joining our online community where they can engage with all other members all over the world and through which they may join in projects and activities that are carried out by the network in Palestine and all over the world. Membership through the online community is free of charge.

Structure (Draft)

The *Palestine Network* is based on the membership of individuals in clubs that are active in their localities led by an elected leadership through a full-time executive secretariat that manages the dynamic and interactive network and supports it at the club level. The network is empowered by an advanced online community communications system that supports vertical and horizontal communications within the network and which is designed to minimize obstacles and maximize productivity. Club leadership is elected to manage its functions in a manner that takes into account local reality and what is needed in that specific locality. The Structure of the organization is therefore as follows:





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The Palestine Network International Conference - PNIC

The most powerful body within the network representing the collective membership of the network through a democratic representative system. The conference is the source of all organizational legislation and is responsible to set mandatory policies through a democratic vote system. The initial conference will be dubbed the Founding Conference to be followed by the First Conference within a year and thereafter the Conference is held once every two years.

The Higher Committee

The leadership of the *Palestine Network* that is elected by the PNIC and charged to direct and monitor the work of the secretariat and ensure the implementation of the resolutions passed at the conference. In addition to setting the executive policies, the Higher Committee will undertake several other tasks including resolving conflicts within the network that the secretariat is involved in or cannot resolve through its mandate. The Higher Committee meets on a quarterly basis (once every three months) at the offices of the secretariat. The Higher Committee is made up of 11 members, 7 of which have to be Palestinian, including the positions of president and vice president.

The Secretariat

The body of full time employees in the network charged with creating and then expanding it, managing it, supporting it and producing the projects and supporting mechanisms, tools and materials it needs to be effective. The secretariat launches and dismantles clubs and implements all other bylaws of the network and reports to the Higher Committee on all work done as well as seek its directives on vague issues at every meeting of the Higher Committee.

Clubs

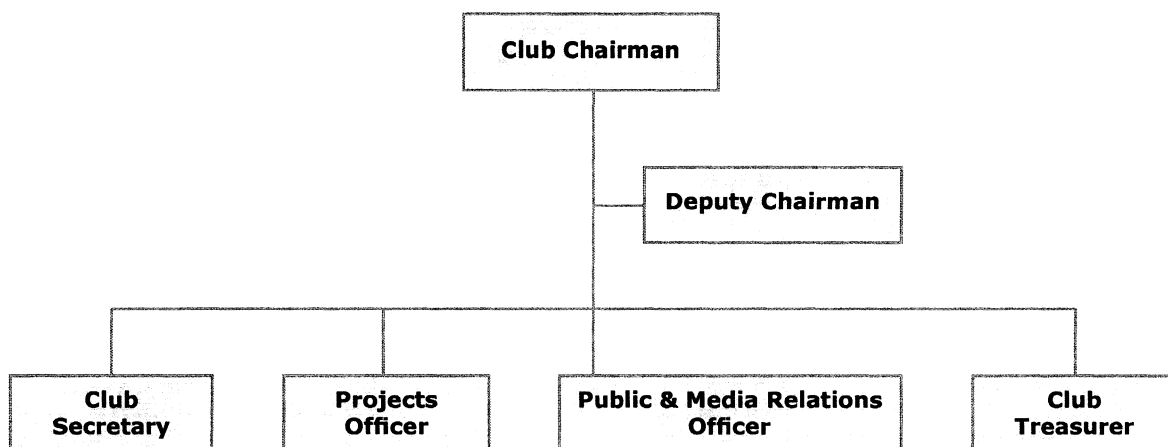
Any 25 or more individuals living in a certain locality who are members of the network can apply to organize a club in that locality. Every club enjoys an elected Executive Committee that will manage it in accordance with the charter and bylaws of the *Palestine Network*. Clubs implement Palestine Network projects and may also design and implement their own projects designated to their own locality. Based on the model of international organizations of modern social networks, it is suggested that clubs meet in any venue of their choice such as university, hotel, restaurant or cafe on a specific hour and day of every week.

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Individual Members

Any Individual who adopts and accepts the vision and mission of the *Palestine Network* can become a member of the online community and engage at their own capacity within the Network. Individual members however are not represented at the conference and are encouraged to form a club along with other individual members in their locality.

Palestine Network Club Executive Committee Structure



Suggested Declaration of the Palestine Network (Draft)

We, the members of the *Palestine Network*, agree on the integral goal of building the democratic State of Palestine that enjoys full independence and sovereignty, including political pluralism based on the peaceful transition of power through free elections, independent judiciary, rule of law, equality, respecting human rights, and providing safety and security to its citizens. Accordingly, we are working hand in hand towards the realization of the Palestinian National Project, the project of the Palestine Liberation Organization; the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.



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