



22 September 2020

STATUTE

OF

THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN GAS FORUM

(EMGF)

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**The Cypriot, Egyptian, Greek, Israeli, Italian, Jordanian and Palestinian Governments
(hereafter referred to as the Founding Members),**

- Recognizing that significant offshore gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean will have profound impact on the region's energy and economic development,
- Realizing that new discoveries and exploitation of significant gas fields are of vital importance to the region's energy security and prosperity,
- Desiring to cooperate to monetize their reserves, utilize their existing infrastructure, and build new ones as necessary for the benefit and welfare of their people,
- Confirming their adherence to the announcement made by the Ministers of Energy of the Founding Members during their meeting held in Cairo on 14 January 2019 to establish the East Mediterranean Gas Forum,
- Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.
- Affirming that nothing in this statute shall affect existing rights or obligations of any EMGF Member under any other international treaty or rule of International Law.

Have agreed as follows:




Article 1
Establishment of the Forum

The Founding Members hereby establish the Eastern Mediterranean GAS Forum, as a regional inter-governmental organization, hereinafter referred to as "EMGF" or "Forum" in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

Article 2
OBJECTIVES

1. The fundamental objectives of the Forum are:

- a) Respecting the rights of Member Countries over their natural gas resources and cooperating to manage the sustainable, efficient and environmentally conscious development, use and conservation of natural gas resources for the benefit of their peoples;
- b) Fostering cooperation, creating a structured and systematic dialogue on natural gas issues, and setting an agenda to formulate regional policies in this regard. The Forum will focus on governmental cooperation and endeavor to set common strategies based on shared vision for the future of the region's resources;
- c) Supporting the efforts of producing countries and/or countries with gas reserves in the region to expedite the monetization of their existing and future reserves, through: fostering cooperation among them, and with the transit and consuming countries in the region; examining ways to utilize the existing infrastructure and developing more infrastructure options to accommodate future discoveries as needed;

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- d) Helping consumer countries secure their demand and participate with the transit countries, in order to enable sustainable partnership among key players across the value chain stages in the gas industry;
- e) Supporting the formation of a regional gas market that benefits the members through security of supply and demand, optimized resource development, optimized infrastructure cost, competitive pricing, and improved commercial relationships;
- f) Contributing to a dialogue to unlock the full gas resource potential of the region leading prospectively to the development of a regional gas market and potentially a trade hub.

2. The above objectives will be promoted through the following:

- a) Developing **policies and strategies** for cooperation to enable the efficient utilization of region reserves, enabling adequate planning and building a clear future vision of the market;
- b) Enhancing **governmental cooperation** whereby producing, consuming and transit countries and/or countries with gas reserves in the region cooperate on technical and economic issues ;
- c) Conducting **technical and commercial dialogues between the members**;
- d) Aiming to develop a **sustainable regional gas market**, through sustainable commercial relations and developing reliable infrastructure in order to consider ways for enabling efficient and agile response to market variations;
- e) Supporting cooperation **among business partners**; including different stakeholders (producers, traders, permitting-licensing authorities, suppliers, Transmission Systems Operators (TSOs), Distribution System Operators storage systems and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) operators);
- f) **Exchanging experiences** and best practices on natural gas related issues and provide governmental facilitation for conducting **studies** for promoting regional gas projects;
- g) Promoting discussion for coherent **frameworks** and standards for supply among the Members (commercial regulations, taxation, environmental guidelines); taking into consideration the respective laws of the Forum Members;
- h) Supporting project **financing**, through facilitating cooperation with financing institutions and promoting policies to minimize investment risk;
- i) Promoting cooperation between the members on **field development** projects and encouraging, where possible, the **common use of existing or new infrastructure** to expedite the monetization of the gas discoveries.

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**Article 3
MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the "EMGF" are the Parties to this statute.

**Article 4
Admission**

The "Forum" shall be open to any East Mediterranean Government representing Gas producer, consumer or transit country which desires to become a Member and is deemed to be able and willing to share the common interests and fulfill the objectives of the Forum, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a. Submission of an application to the Secretariat in order to obtain the status of a Member of the Forum (a "**Member**")
- b. Approval by consensus of the Founding Members that have signed and ratified the Statute, that is without the objection of any of these Founding Members.

**Article 5
Observer Status**

Observer Status in the Forum shall be open, upon request, to any Gas producer, consumer, transit country, or regional or international intergovernmental organization which expresses its readiness to make practical and valuable contribution to the work of the forum provided the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a. Submission of a request to the Secretariat including formal acceptance of EMGF Statute, in order to obtain the status of an observer at the Forum (an "**Observer**").
- b. Approval by consensus of the Ministerial Meeting, that is without the objection of any EMGF Member (hereinafter "**Consensus**").

Observers may attend plenary Ministerial Meetings and participate in the discussions, but shall not have the right to vote. Observers may also be invited by the Ministerial Meeting to attend any Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting, meetings of the Executive Board or Expert Working Groups and to participate in their deliberations without the right to vote.

Upon the request of any Member Country, a meeting may take place with the participation of Members only.

**Article 6
Main BODIES**

The Forum shall have three main bodies:

- I. The Ministerial Meeting;**
- II. The Executive Board; and**
- III. The Secretariat.**

**Article 7
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING**

1. The Ministerial Meeting is the principle governing body of the Forum and serves as a venue for high level, open, informed and continued regional gas dialogue among Members of the Forum.

2. The Ministerial Meeting shall consist of delegations representing the Members. A delegation may consist of one or more delegates, provided that one delegate shall act as the Head of Delegation.
3. The Ministerial Meeting shall have a quorum of at least two thirds of the Members to convene.
4. Each Member shall have one vote. All decisions and publications of the Ministerial Meeting shall be adopted by Consensus.
5. A Member that is not able to attend a Ministerial Meeting shall have the right to notify the Secretariat of its objection to a decision no later than 2 weeks from the notification by the Secretariat to the Members of the outcome of the meeting.
6. The Ministerial Meeting shall be held annually at the Headquarters of the Forum. However the Meeting may be held in any other country as agreed by the members based on a decision taken by Consensus to this effect.

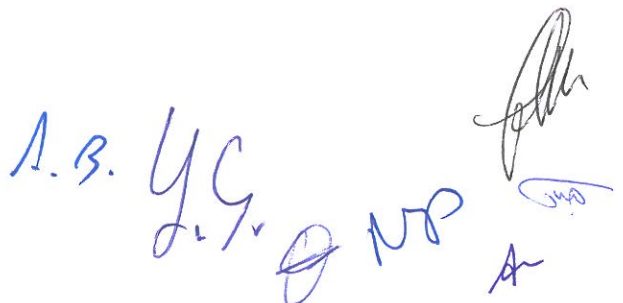
Article 8 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL MEETING

Extraordinary Ministerial Meetings may be convened at the request of a Member following its notification to the Secretary General or by the Secretary General of EMGF, after consultation with the President of the Ministerial Meeting and subject to approval by a simple majority of the Members.

The date and venue of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting shall be determined by the Secretary General of EMGF in consultation with the President of the Ministerial Meeting.

Article 9 PRESIDENCY OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. The Ministerial Meeting shall appoint at its first meeting a President of the Ministerial Meeting from among the Ministers of the Members in alphabetical order. The term of each Presidency shall be for a period of one (1) calendar year. All Founding Members should have their turn at the Presidency of the Forum before any new Member.
2. The President shall, in coordination with the Executive Board and the Secretariat, conduct the Ministerial meeting so that it leads to a focused and result-oriented dialogue in pursuit of the objectives of the Forum.
3. In case of absence of the President, or when he/she is unable to carry out his/her responsibilities, the responsibilities of the President of the Ministerial Meeting shall be exercised by the Alternate President of the Ministerial Meeting, who shall be the Minister of the Member who shall assume the Presidency of the Ministerial Meeting the following term.
4. The Secretary General shall be the Secretary of the Ministerial Meeting.



Article 10
FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Ministerial Meeting shall:

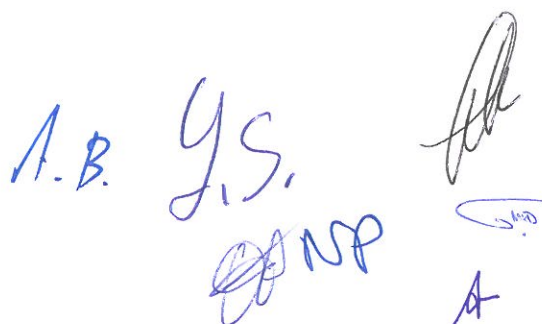
1. Appoint the Secretary General;
2. Formulate the general policy of the Forum and determine the appropriate ways and means of its implementation;
3. Decide upon any new membership application for the Forum;
4. Confirm the appointment of members of the Executive Board;
5. Direct the Executive Board to submit reports and or make recommendations on any matters of interest to the Forum;
6. Consider and decide upon the reports and recommendations submitted by the Executive Board;
7. Consider and decide upon the Forum's Budget as submitted by the Executive Board;
8. Consider and decide upon the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report, as submitted by the Executive Board;
9. Appoint the Auditor of the Secretariat upon the recommendation of the Executive Board for a duration of one year;
10. Approve any amendments to this Statute; and
11. Appoint the Chairman of the Executive Board.

Article 11
OTHER MATTERS

All matters that are not expressly assigned to other Bodies of the Forum shall fall within the competence of the Ministerial Meeting.

Article 12
MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board shall be composed of senior officials representing The Ministers responsible for energy matters from the Members of the Forum as nominated by each Member (one nominee from each Member).
2. Each Member shall be represented at all Executive Board meetings.
3. The Executive Board shall have a quorum of at least two thirds of the Members.
4. Each Executive Board member shall have one vote and the decisions of the Executive Board will be taken by Consensus.



Article 13
CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board members shall meet twice a year, at suitable intervals to be determined by the Chairman of the Executive Board after consultation with the Secretary General.
2. The meetings of the Executive Board shall normally be held at the Headquarters of the Forum, and they may also be held in any other country as agreed by the Executive Board members based on a decision taken by Consensus to this effect.
3. An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Board may be convened at the request of the Chairman of the Executive Board, the Secretary General, or two thirds of the Executive Board members.
4. The Executive Board may establish Expert Working Groups or committees to assist in the performance of its functions.

Article 14
FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall:

1. Direct the management of the affairs of the Forum and review the implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting;
2. Consider and decide upon any reports submitted by the Secretary General;
3. Submit reports and make recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting on the affairs of the Forum;
4. Approve the work program of the Secretariat;
5. Review and approve the annual budget of the Forum for each calendar year as prepared by the Secretary General and submit it to the Ministerial Meeting for approval;
6. Recommend to the Ministerial Meeting the appointment of the Auditor of the Secretariat for a duration of one year;
7. Consider the Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's Report and submit them to the Ministerial Meeting for approval;
8. Adopt the structure and the staff strength of the Secretariat, and approve the appointment of Heads of Departments, upon nomination by Members, with due consideration to be given to the recommendations of the Secretary General;
9. Prepare the agenda for the Ministerial Meeting;
10. Assess the qualifications of nominees for the position of the Secretary General and make necessary recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting for its decision; and
11. Define the procedural matters.
12. Any other matters delegated or tasked to the Executive Board by the Ministerial Meeting.
13. The Executive Board may, upon approval of the Ministerial meeting, establish other Advisory Committees to assist the EMGF in meeting its objectives.

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Article 15
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Chairman of the Executive Board shall be the senior official representing the Presidency of the Forum for that year.
2. The Chairman of the Executive Board shall convene the meetings of the Executive Board and preside over them. He/She will also coordinate with the Secretariat the preparation of the Executive Board meetings.

Article 16
THE SECRETARIAT

1. The Secretariat shall carry out the administrative functions of the Forum in accordance with the provisions of this Statute under the direction of the Executive Board.
2. It shall consist of the Secretary General and such staff as may be required to carry out its functions.
3. The Secretariat plans, organizes and executes activities included and assigned to it by the Ministerial Meeting, takes part in the preparation for the Ministerial Meetings, and performs any additional activities assigned to it by the Executive Board.

Article 17
THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The Secretary General shall be the legally authorized representative of the Forum.
2. The Secretary General shall be the chief officer of the Secretariat and in that capacity shall have the authority to direct the affairs of the Forum in accordance with this Statute, the directions and decisions of the Executive Board and the Ministerial Meeting.
3. The Secretary General shall be liable and accountable to the Executive Board and the Ministerial Meeting.
4. The Secretary General shall perform his/her duties impartially.

Article 18
APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The Ministerial Meeting shall appoint the Secretary General by Consensus for a period of (3) three years that may be extended for one additional term.
2. This appointment shall take place upon nomination of candidates by the Members and after an assessment has been made of the candidates' qualifications have been made by the Executive Board.
3. The Secretary General should have (15) fifteen years' experience, of which at least (10) ten years in positions directly related to the gas industry, and five years in highly responsible executive or managerial positions. Experience in Government-Company relations and in the international aspects of the gas industry is desirable.
4. The Secretary General shall be a national of a Member country.

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5. The Secretary General shall maintain a residence in the city where the Headquarters of the Forum is located.
6. The remunerations of the Secretary General shall be determined pursuant to the Staff Regulations approved by the Executive Board.

Article 19
DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- 1- The duties of the Secretary General are to:
 - a. Ensure that the budget and the program of work of the Forum are complied with;
 - b. Organize and administer the work of the Forum;
 - c. Ensure that the functions and duties assigned to the Secretariat are properly carried out;
 - d. Prepare reports for submission to Executive Board meetings concerning matters which call for consideration and decision;
 - e. Inform the Executive Board of all activities of the Secretariat, of all studies undertaken and of the progress of the implementation of the resolutions of the Ministerial Meeting; and
 - f. Ensure the due performance of the duties, which may be assigned to the Secretariat by the Ministerial Meeting or the Executive Board.
- 2- The Secretary General shall be responsible to the Executive Board for all activities of the Secretariat. The functions of the different departments of the Secretariat shall be carried out on his behalf and under his authority and direction.
- 3- The Secretary General shall attend all meetings of the Executive Board. Should the Secretary General be unable to attend any meeting of the Executive Board, he/she shall appoint an officer in charge of the Secretariat to represent him/her at the meeting.
- 4- The Secretary General shall be assisted in the discharge of his duties by sufficient and efficient structures deemed necessary and approved by the Executive Board to accomplish the functions and objectives of the Forum.
- 5- The structure of the Secretariat will be prepared by the Secretary General in accordance with the tasks and duties assigned by the Executive Board.
- 6- Heads of Divisions and/or Departments shall be appointed by the Secretary General upon nomination by Members and with the approval of the Executive Board.
- 7- Other officers of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Secretary General upon nomination by the Member countries or by direct recruitment in accordance with staff regulations. In making such appointments, the Secretary General shall give due consideration to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat.
- 8- The Secretary General may, upon the approval of the Executive Board, convene at any time Expert Working Groups to carry out any studies on specific subjects of interest to the Members. The Secretary General shall have the right within the relevant budget provisions to commission consultants or convene Working Groups comprised of representatives of Members of the Forum to advice on special matters or to conduct expert studies when such work cannot be undertaken by the Secretariat.
- 9- The Secretary General shall serve as the Depositary of the Statute.

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Article 20
STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT

International employees from member countries constitute the core staff of the Secretariat. In the performance of their duties, they shall neither seek, nor accept, instructions from any government, or from any other authority outside the Forum. They shall refrain from any action, which might reflect on their position as international employees, and they shall undertake to carry out their duties bearing in mind the interests of the Forum. International staff may either be seconded by a Member or be appointed by the Secretary General.

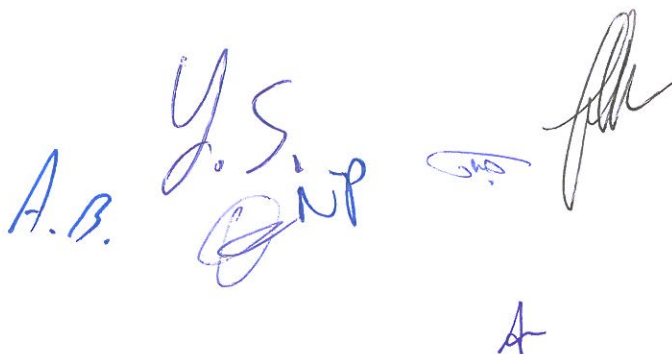
The remunerations of the staff of the Secretariat shall be determined pursuant to the Staff Regulations approved by the Executive Board.

Article 21
GAS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. A Gas Industry Advisory Committee shall be established to advise and assist the Executive Board and the Secretary General on activities of The Forum, and may submit recommendations and studies pursuant to the Forum's objectives. It shall hold its meetings on the side of the Ministerial and Executive Board meetings. Members of the Gas Industry Committee may also, upon the invitation of the Ministerial Meeting and/or the Executive Board, attend their respective meetings.
2. The Gas Industry Advisory Committee shall include representatives of business enterprises and industry entities, including International Oil Companies (IOC's), National Oil Companies (NOC's), traders, shippers, LNG operators, Transmission Systems Operators (TSO's), Distribution System operators (DSO's), Licensing-Permitting Authorities and others that are active within the jurisdiction of the Members of the Forum, following a Consensus of the Executive Board.

Article 22
SPECIALIZED BODIES

1. The Ministerial Meeting may establish specialized bodies, as circumstances require, in order to study certain issues of particular importance. The specialized bodies shall function in accordance with the resolutions prepared to that effect.
2. The specialized bodies shall operate within the general framework of the Secretariat, both functionally and financially.
3. The specialized bodies shall act at all times in accordance with the objectives of the Forum stated herein and decisions of the Ministerial Meeting.



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Article 23
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The Budget of the Forum shall be drawn up for each calendar year. The budget year of EMGP starts on the 1st. of January and ends on the 31st. of December of each year.
2. The Ministerial Meeting, in accepting any Observer to the Forum, may ask such Observer Member to pay a fixed annual subscription to be considered as its financial contribution to the Forum.
3. The EMGF Budget contributions shall be apportioned on an equal basis among all Members after taking into consideration the annual subscriptions of the Observers
4. Each Member shall bear all expenses incurred in its participating in Ministerial Meetings and Expert Working Groups.
5. The Forum shall bear the travelling expenses of members of the Executive Board who attend meetings of the Executive Board.

Article 24
Members' obligations

1. EMGF shall be based on the principle of the equality of its Members, which may enjoy the rights and benefits thereof and shall fulfill the obligations undertaken by them upon the entry into force of this statute.
2. This Statute shall be applied in full compliance with the national laws and regulations of the Members, as well as in compliance with international obligations and those arising from the membership of Members of the Forum to the European Union.

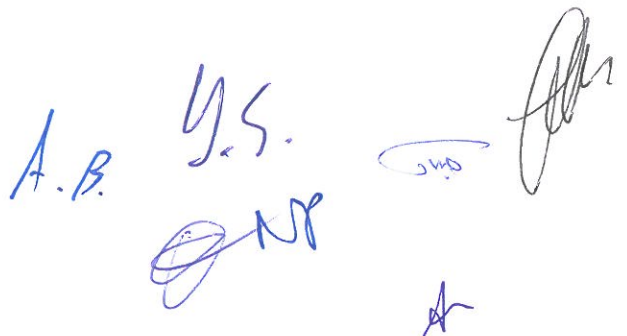
Article 25
AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Statute may be proposed by any Member by providing prior written notice to other members including the proposed amendments. Such proposed amendments shall be considered by the Executive Board which, if it so decides, shall recommend their adoption to the Ministerial Meeting. Any amendments to this Statute must be approved by the Ministerial Meeting by Consensus.
2. All amendments to this Statute adopted in accordance with Paragraph 1 shall be communicated by the depository to all Members for ratification, acceptance or approval. They shall enter into force and form an integral part of this statute upon receipt by the depository of instruments of ratifications, acceptance or approval by all Members.

Article 26
FORUM LANGUAGE

English shall be the official language of the Forum.

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Article 27
Differences in Interpretation

Any differences that may arise regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of the Statute shall be settled by negotiations and consultations among the Member Countries within the bodies of the forum.

Article 28
HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters of the Forum is in Cairo, The Arab Republic of Egypt. The Host Country and the Forum shall conclude a Headquarters Agreement to grant EMGF privileges and Immunities necessary for the carrying out of its activities.

Article 29
Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

1. The Statute shall be open for signature by all the Founding Members of the Statute upon adoption by the Ministers representing the Founding Members governments.
2. This Statute shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory Founding Members of the Statute.
3. Following the entry into force of the Statute, the Founding Members who have yet to sign and ratify the Statute, may do so without any conditions.
4. This Statute shall be open for accession by any country which has not signed the present Statute after its membership has been approved by the Ministerial Meeting in accordance with Article 4 of this Statute.
5. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt who shall serve as Depository of this Statute until the respective functions are transmitted to the Secretary General of the Forum upon the entry into force of this Statute.

Article 30
ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Statute shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of all instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by at least five of the signatory Founding Members of the Statute.
2. For Members acceding to this Statute in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 29, the Statute shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of their instruments of accession.
3. The Depository shall inform all members of the date on which the Statute enters into force, and of any ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by additional countries submitted in accordance with Article 29(4) and the entry into force thereof.

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**Article 31
WITHDRAWALS**

A Member may withdraw its membership by submitting a written notification in this regard to the Secretary General acting as Depositary who shall inform the members of the Forum. Such notice shall take effect after two months starting from the next day after the date of its receipt by the Ministerial Meeting, subject to the Member having at the time of the said notification fulfilled all financial obligations arising out of its membership.

Done at Cairo on this 22nd day of September 2020 in seven (7) originals in the English language, one to be retained by each Founding Member.

FOR THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT

Ms. Natasa Pilides
Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry

FOR THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT

Eng. Tarek El Molla
Minister of Petroleum And Mineral Resources

FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

Mr. Konstantinos Hatzidakis
Minister of Environment and Energy

FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

Dr. Yuval Steinitz
Minister of Energy

FOR THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Mrs. Alessandra Todde
Italian State Secretary competent for Energy

FOR THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT

Eng. Hala Zawati
Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources in Jordan

FOR THE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Diab Allouh
Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt

A.B. Dr. Mohammad Mostafa
The Economic Advisor of the President of Palestine