



STATE OF PALESTINE  
NATIONAL SPATIAL PLAN

# Palestine 2025 Palestine 2050

الرؤية التخطيطية  
ENVISIONING PALESTINE

2015



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



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# Acknowledgement

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The Palestinian Government has given special attention for planning since its establishment, planning is a key pillar for development and independence embodiment, the resource management as one of the important aspects of the planning is becoming increasingly important in the fact of limited resources and unclear geopolitical vision. Through the preparation of the first National Spatial Plan for the Palestinian State, the Palestinian government manages the basic planning elements human being and land across time to ensure the optimum utilization of available resources and the spatial distribution of economic and social activities .

In the first stage, the team who is in charge of preparing the National Spatial Plan and the Technical Committee under the supervision of the Ministerial Committee have prepared "The Protection Plan for Natural Resources and Archeological Sites" as a temporary reference to guide land use until the completion of a comprehensive national plan and to ensure balance between the desired development and preservation of the environment and natural resources.

As a vital stage in the process of preparing the National Spatial Plan that has witnessed a wide participation, a future planning vision for the Palestinian State was developed: "Palestine 2025 and Palestine 2050". Consequently the vision is presented to your behalves, hoping that this document will constitute a reference guideline for decision-makers, development plans and strategic plans developers, as well as for spatial planning in its three levels.

I would like to have this opportunity to thank all key players who contributed in preparing and financing this document. Special thanks to the members of the supervisory Ministerial Committee, their Excellencies: Minister of Planning and Administrative Development, Minister of National Economy, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Public work and housing. I would like also to thank members of the technical committee, representatives of ministries and partner institutions and members of the executive technical committee that have participated in all stages of this important project, namely : Dr. Ali Shaath, Dr. Tawfiq al-Bodairi, Eng . Bashar al- Juma, Dr. Farah Sawafta , Eng. Sana Berawi , and to the head of the national spatial plan Dr. Ahmed Saleh and the technical team for their effort to complete the plan. I would like also to express my gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for their financial support for the completion of this plan.

Dr. Hussein Al-Araj  
Head of the Ministerial Committee for the National Spatial Plan





## INTRODUCTION

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In accordance with legitimate international resolutions and in light of the national decision to establish a Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967, the Palestinian government has decided to prepare a National Spatial Plan under the supervision of a ministerial committee. This committee comprises seven ministries, includes the Ministers for Local Government, Planning and Administrative Development, Transport, Public Works & Housing, Agriculture, National Economy, Tourism & Antiquities. In addition, a technical committee will be formed of representatives of the seven ministries and of the Environment Quality Authority, Water Authority, Energy Authority and Land Authority.

The Cabinet decision calls for a National Spatial Plan to define a long-term vision for comprehensive development with optimal use of available and potential resources while ensuring environmental security and sustainable development. The Plan will also serve as a tool for guidance at regional and local levels and a framework to regulate Palestinian development. Linking both spatial and developmental planning, the plan covers all sectors in the northern and southern governorates and regional links with neighboring countries.



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To prepare for national spatial planning and the achievement of these goals, a series of workshops were organized with substantial participation by the public, non-governmental and private sectors, and in which academic figures and experts examined spatial challenges in various fields. This was followed by a series of studies on ways to address the main challenges, followed by the “Palestine Vision: 2025, 2050” Conference attended by 85 experts. A youth version of the conference included selected university students from fields similar to those of the experts in the main conference to examine the ideas and needs of future generations.

The experts worked throughout the conference to draft future visions for the main issues relevant to each sector and proposed spatial mechanisms and interventions to achieve these visions within the defined timetable. Here, we present the results of the Visioning Conferences for use as guidelines for government, civil, private and academic institutions working in planning and development in the northern and southern governorates. This tool will constitute a framework to regulate planning processes at all levels and a vital tool for building the Palestinian state, additional to its political reference for development and sustainable planning.

**Ahmad Saleh Sadaqa, PhD**  
**Head of National Spatial Plan**



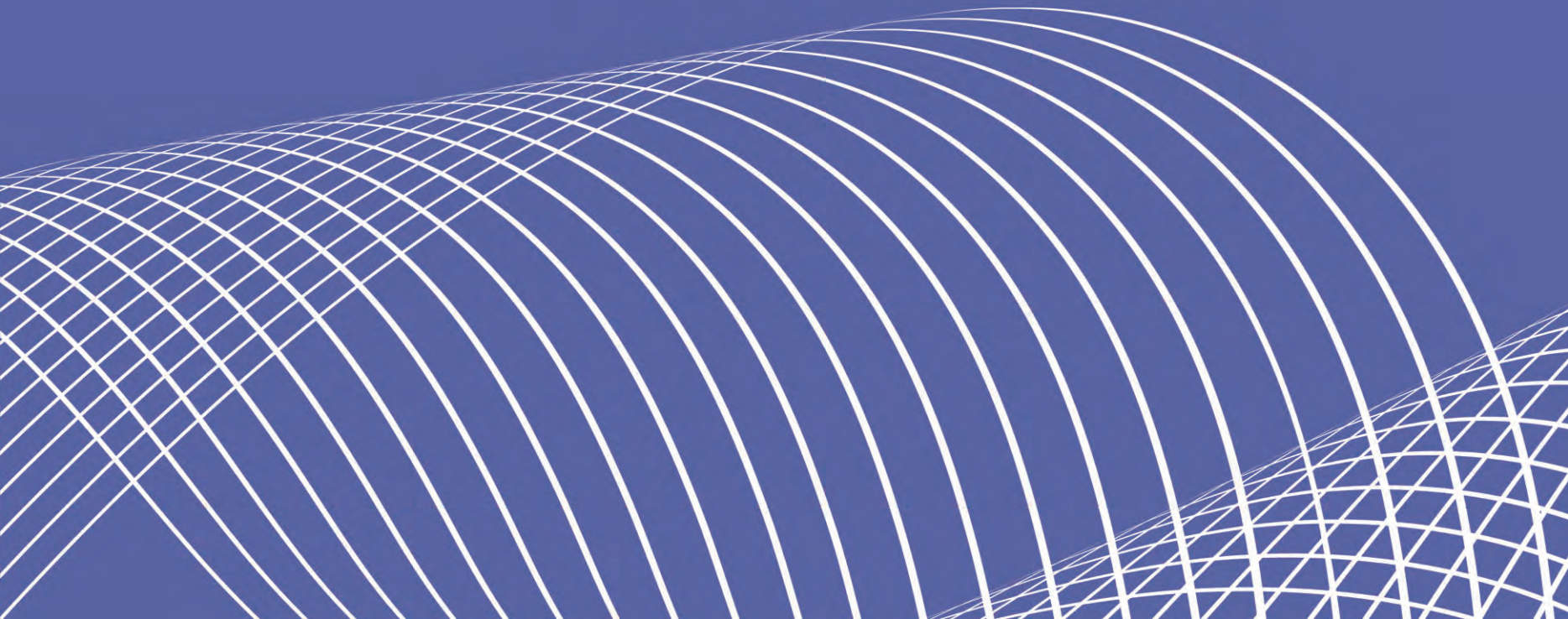
# CONTANTS

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- 1  Economic Development
- 2  Resources Management
- 3  Urban and Rural Development
- 4  Infrastructure
- 5  Demography and Society
- 6  International Relations and Politics
- 7  Services Sector

# 1

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





# 1.1

## MULTI-SECTORAL ECONOMY

Economic diversity that reinforces productive agricultural and touristic entrepreneurship in the context of a strategic developmental manufacturing process linking vital sectors and that secures the best use of natural resources.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To intensify investment and policies conducive to investment to increase the productivity of sectors in the GDP.
- To link agricultural production to the manufacturing process and ensure appropriate spatial planning.
- To allocate or facilitate a research environment on the locations for economic diversity.
- To allocate areas for facilities and plans for the requisite infrastructure to support the linkage between agricultural, industrial and traditional industrial sectors.
- Invest and allocate spatial distribution for the establishment of new and modern strategic industries.
- To guide investment in strategic industries and to ensure a balance between environmental and health requirements and production needs.

# 1.2

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

To preserve the limited agricultural land and manage it using advanced technology, to counter limited water supplies, and make use of treated water for agricultural purposes and to consolidate food security and production capabilities.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Land reclamation and encouragement to work in the agricultural sector.
- To allocate agricultural land within structural zoning plans.
- To find mechanisms to end the fragmentation of land ownership.
- To establish cooperatives and organizational councils.
- To enhance efforts in the field of husbandry.
- To provide farmers with educational materials and guidance.
- To provide high quality agricultural inputs at competitive prices.
- To develop an aquifer and surface water resources and adopt modern technologies to extract and distribute water.
- To establish wastewater treatment plants to use treated water for irrigation of agricultural products.
- Financial policies that motivate small-scale farmers and activate compensation mechanisms for damage, natural disasters and price fluctuations.
- To provide modern marketing facilities (silos, refrigeration storage, stations to sort products, packaging).



# 1.3

## INDUSTRY DRIVES THE ECONOMY.

An industrial sector that employs the available resources and integrates with other sectors to act as a springboard for scientific research, innovation and creativity, and an industry that provides the broadest possible base of commodities and strategic goods.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To allocate appropriate land for the establishment of strategic industries.
- To establish industrial zones and specialized industrial compounds.
- To provide services (energy and water) at reasonable prices.
- To establish specialized industrial incubators to promote innovation and creativity.
- To encourage direct imports of raw materials and customs-free machinery.
- To focus on industries related to other sectors, especially food industries and mining.
- To establish specialized technological centers to support the industrial sectors.
- To provide adequate financial services for funding, trust funds and insurance.
- To ensure optimal organization of the process of industrial exploitation of natural and metal resources.

# 1.4

## TO FACILITATE TRADE TRANSACTIONS.

A trade sector that serves local production with a vision to achieve the highest standards of trade promotion.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To rehabilitate border crossings and prepare them for multi-modal transport.
- A sea port in the Gaza Strip and airports in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- A trade corridor that links the West Bank with the Gaza Strip.
- Signing of new trade agreements in line with the trade policies of the independent state of Palestine.
- To establish an advanced transport network linking all Palestinian territories internally and externally.
- To support embassies in the targeted markets with commercial attaches.
- To establish customs clearance stations that must operate on crossings under Palestinian sovereignty.



## STATE OF PALESTINE: A UNIQUE TOURIST DESTINATION.

To take advantage of the religious and historical sites and diverse climate to make State of Palestine a unique tourist destination, and develop support services and facilities.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- Intensive investment in the building of hotels and restaurants, and establish public transport stations, tourist agencies and guides.
- To establish a hotel management institute and introduce specialized topics in this field in universities.
- To allocate land for public parks and tourist resorts.
- To establish and develop museums.
- To conduct promotional campaigns highlighting state of Palestine as a tourist destination by focusing on religious and historic sites.
- To enhance regional cooperation in a manner that maximizes Palestine's share of tourism revenues.
- To mark and celebrate religious and national occasions (seasonal).
- To encourage people on scholarships or attending seminars abroad to attract tourists and provide them with information on tourist sites and activities in the state of Palestine.
- To establish an electronic tourist guidebook to assist people to obtain information about potential tourist venues and events in Palestine and facilitate the process of reservations.

# 1.6

## SERVICES THAT ENHANCE PRODUCTION.

An organized services sector that supports the productive sectors and meets the needs of the individual and society.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To allocate adequate areas for freeways outside cities and residential areas.
- To upgrade the public transportation sector, rehabilitate and develop the existing roads network.
- To organize the telecommunications and IT sector and create a climate conducive to investment in scientific research that takes into consideration environmental and public safety standards.
- To expand financial services and make them accessible to optimal numbers of people in residential areas, and develop electronic banking services.



# 1.7

## QUALIFIED LABOR FORCE

Highly productive and qualified labor force that responds to practical and developmental needs, and endowed with entrepreneurship and resilience.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- A social security system.
- A comprehensive and efficient medical insurance system.
- Vocational education within a holistic developmental vision.
- Business incubators to promote entrepreneurship among young people and women.
- To increase wages and minimum salaries to match the living conditions and qualifications of workers.
- Independent trade unions and associations that represent the labor force.

# 1.8

## ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT ARE DESIGNED AND EMPOWERED.

To adopt macroeconomic and financial policies that promote growth, investment and social justice.

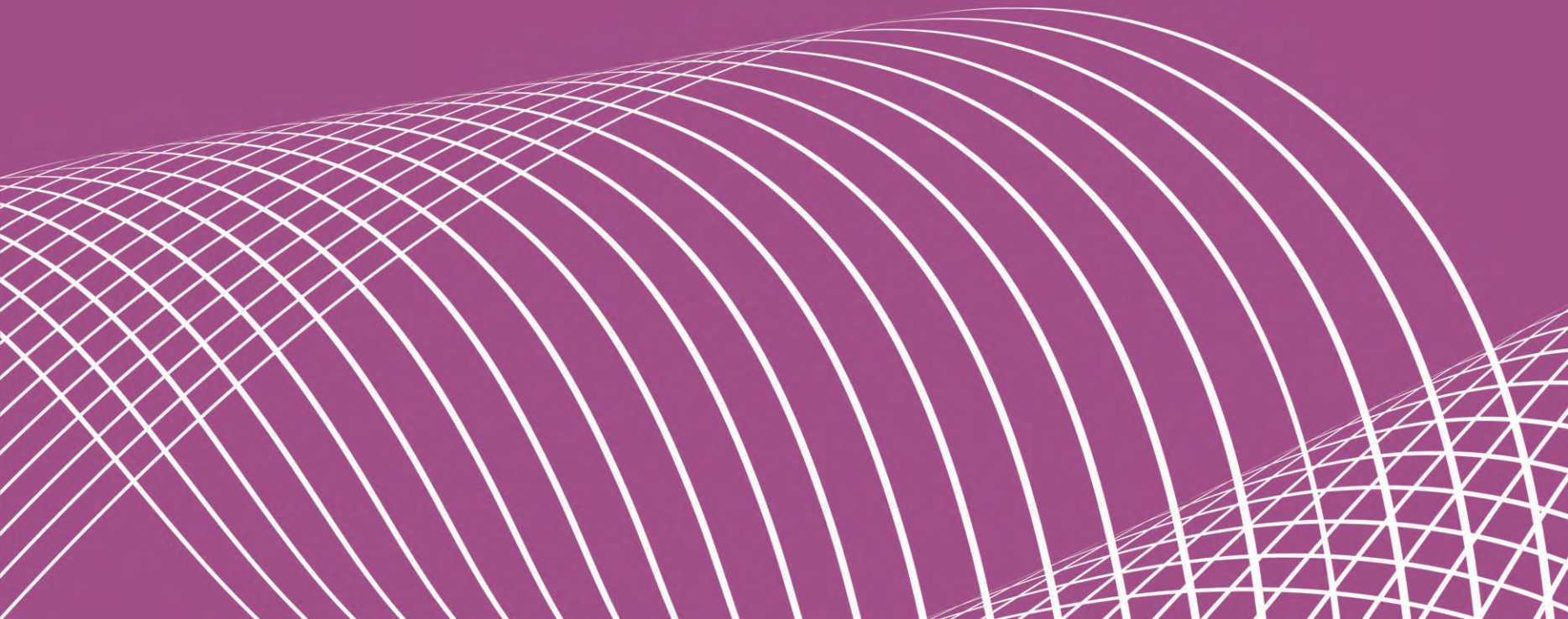
### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To adopt macroeconomic policies that support the stabilization of prices and sustainable economic growth.
- An investment climate that guides, promotes and organizes public and private investment (local and foreign), producers and officials, and committed to national interests, developmental goals and the preservation of natural resources.
- To adopt a public financial policy that guides investments, enhances the competitive capacity of local production and provides a competent infrastructure.
- To allocate higher budgets for developmental expenses and for the social sector (health, education, care for the marginalized).
- To introduce policies and laws on free zones and industrial estates on the basis of size of investment and number of laborers.



# 2

## RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



# 2.1

## WATER RESOURCES

Full control and sovereignty over water resources and regain previous shares of water from all resources.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Legal and institutional development to enhance control and full sovereignty.
- To build a national infrastructure for full management and sustainable development of water resources, including national transport between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- A desalinization plant in the Gaza Strip and establish the western Jordan Valley canal.



# 2.2

## AGRICULTURAL LAND

To exercise sovereignty over all Palestinian land and exercise sustainable management of land within a comprehensive plan for land use.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Legal and institutional framework established to exercise sovereignty.
- To enhance the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and support local production instead of importing.
- To encourage, support and empower Palestinian farmers.
- To balance agricultural imports and exports and seek the most appropriate consumer markets for such products.
- Best use of climate diversity to produce a wide range of produce.
- To encourage the use of treated water and conduct specialized research to determine appropriate plantations where treated water can be used and provide positive results.

## 2.3

### FISHING

To develop the fishing sector and fish farms (fisheries).

#### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- Raise awareness of the need to increase the number of fisheries.
- Control and sovereignty over regional waters according to international treaties.
- Infrastructure as part of a comprehensive plan for fisheries.
- Improve the competitiveness of fishermen and connect them to markets in the West Bank.



# 2.4

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources management to serve socio-economic development and improve scientific research and vocational education.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To develop vocational education and centers.
- To modernize existing strategic plans that meet the needs of local and regional markets.
- To expand the infrastructure of vocational education.
- To expand scientific research on economic development needs.
- To improve awareness of management and production.
- To review the higher education strategy to meet developmental needs.
- To provide a climate that attracts competent people.

# 2.5

## ELECTRICITY

To improve production and set the price of energy in line with developmental economic needs, and encourage alternative energy resources and regional exchanges of these resources.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish electricity power stations.
- To encourage investment in the field of energy generation and distribution of solar, earth and wind energy.
- To introduce octagon electrical extensions.
- To exchange electrical energy with neighboring countries and to ensure efficient distribution of energy.
- To ensure a reasonable tariff that balances the incomes of individuals and the cost of energy production.



# 2.6

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The possibility of exploiting alternative sources of energy within economic feasibility and environmental considerations.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To optimize the use of alternative energy sources to the maximum in line with the available capabilities.
- To allocate land to use for alternative energy.
- To plan and establish appropriate infrastructure to produce and distribute energy derived from alternative energy.
- To establish policies that govern and organize the alternative energy sector and that support its development.
- To establish infrastructure for light transport such as bicycles, which can save energy and are environmentally friendly.
- To establish standards and legislation pertaining to environmentally friendly buildings and create plans to encourage the use of alternative energy to deliver a healthy urban setting and energy-saving.

# 2.7

## STONE EXTRACTION

To develop the stone and granite industry in the state of Palestine as to contribute to the economic development of the state, taking into consideration preservation of the environment and rehabilitation of disused sites.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To provide infrastructure for quarries.
- To rehabilitate disused quarries.
- To enhance the competitiveness of the stone and granite industry.
- To enforce economic and environmental monitoring of quarries and institutions working in this sector.
- To issue and ratify laws that organize work in this sector in order to ensure sustainability and the rights of future generations.
- To conduct geological studies on land to estimate reserves of different types of stone.
- To establish mechanisms to limit the impact of quarries on geological formation in the region.



# 2.8

## HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

To protect natural historic and archeological resources from urban development, conduct regular renovation of this heritage and raise awareness in this respect.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To preserve natural, historic and archeological heritage.
- To allocate regions for natural tourism as part of nature reserves and biodiversity regions.
- To conduct an accurate classification of archeological sites and their contents.
- To establish priorities with regard to preservation of architectural and archeological heritage.
- To encourage religious tourism and link it to these sites.
- To preserve the identity of historic cities and link them with the modern parts of cities.

# 2.9

## SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

To protect the environment and achieve balance between development and modernization.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish nature reserves and preserve nature and biodiversity.
- To allocate land for dumping waste, establish recycling factories and reduce emissions through a friendly environmental industry.
- To build a sewage network linked to wastewater treatment plants.
- To stop the depletion of natural resources.
- To participate in international agreements on the reduction of gas emissions and other pollutants.
- To raise awareness among individuals and institutions of the issue of sustainability.
- To improve the skills of individuals to participate in preservation of the environment, recycling processes and the use of environmentally friendly materials.



# 2.10

## OIL AND GAS

Full sovereignty over oil and gas to meet the needs of future generations.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To conduct a geological and geophysical survey of land under Palestinian sovereignty.
- To sign international agreements stating clearly Palestinian rights to these resources.
- To locate the infrastructure and legislation needed to extract oil.
- To make plans for the sound use of oil extractions and guarantee sustainability.
- To conduct economic feasibility of extracting and using these natural resources and to analyze the potential market for this product.

# 2.11

## THE DEAD SEA

A unique local and international competitive advantage which is also viewed as a touristic, economic and therapeutic location.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To develop infrastructure in the Dead Sea region.
- Allocating regions to make use of natural resources.
- To make use of the Dead Sea springs and privatize them.
- Integration with Jordan in offering touristic and therapeutic services.
- Sustainable consumption of Dead Sea resources.
- To preserve the water level in the Dead Sea via the Jordan River route or the Dead Sea Canal, if implemented, and increase its water levels if possible.



# 2.12

## JORDAN RIVER

To support its touristic and religious role and reaffirm the baptism site on the Palestinian bank.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To affirm the sovereignty of the Palestinian state over its share of the Jordan River.
- A detailed developmental plan for the Jordan River basin.
- To allocate land for the Jordan River Canal.
- To allocate areas for tourist attractions.
- To study the impact of the use of water in the Jordan River on Dead Sea water levels.

# 2.13

## FORESTRY

To increase the ratio of forests from 1% to 5% for its environmental and touristic importance and establish sound management for this sector.

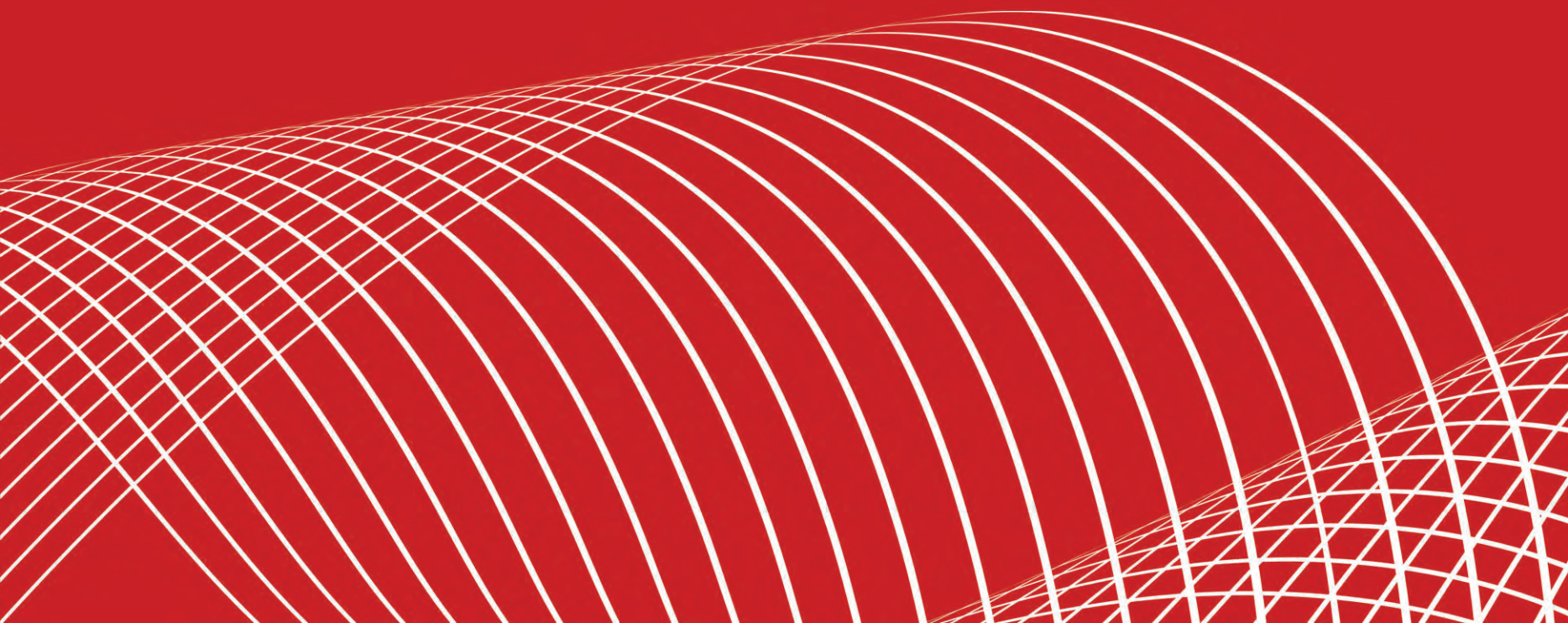
### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Special legislation on the protection of forestry.
- A long-term plan to expand forests and introduce new ones.
- To raise public awareness of the importance of forestry.
- To seek balance and environmental diversity when planting new forests.
- To use existing forests as sites for tourism and entertainment in an efficient manner.
- To find alternatives for urban expansion to prevent infringement into forest areas.



# 3

## URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



# 3.1

## CENTRALIZATION AND DECENTRALIZATION

Gradual move from centralization to decentralization in management of urban areas.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To move gradually (horizontally and vertically) to transfer authorities over services and functions on the basis of specific spatial aspects highlighted in special studies to guarantee balanced and sustainable development.
- To determine the hierarchy of residential areas on the basis of functions and services.
- To study spatial relations between different residential areas.
- To create a legal and administrative environment.
- To raise awareness of decentralization and reinforce principles of good governance.
- To prepare the administrative institutions of spatial areas to move towards decentralization.
- To link the move towards decentralization with representation of communities in the Legislative Council and local committees as a means to enhance hierarchical distribution.



## 3.2

### POPULATION DENSITY

To address major gaps in densely populated areas through the use of regions with areas of low population and strategic value.

#### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To prepare detailed studies determining priorities when dealing with densely populated areas and control the borders of residential areas.
- To try and avoid any overlap between building units to reduce lack of harmony.
- To determine discrepancies and regions with areas of low or high population.
- To determine the per capita ratio in all sectors and prepare an appropriate system to address gaps in the services delivered, taking into consideration the special features of each region, and giving special consideration to the regions around Jerusalem.
- To develop laws on development and construction.
- To link the developmental plans for the economic and services sectors with the policy of demographic distribution.
- To create centers that attract residents to regions with low population.
- To improve living conditions and services in rural and marginalized areas.
- To decentralize the distribution of services and public institutions and not concentrate them in one area that might attract large-scale internal migration.
- To create diversity in building densities between cities and residen-

# 3.3

## RESIDENTIAL CENTERS

Functional distribution of the main urban centers: Nablus, Jerusalem, Jericho, Hebron and Gaza.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To create decentralized centers for residential areas.
- To build a functional and services hierarchy for the different residential areas.
- To reinforce the identity of every functional center and its branches.
- To link economic development policies with the various functional centers.
- To monitor the geographic distribution of resources and natural resources and their relationship to the distribution of functional centers.
- To develop appropriate infrastructures for the different functional centers and link them with each other.
- To take into consideration the functional distribution of urban centers in neighboring countries and guarantee functional integration with them.
- To establish policies to ensure integration of the performance of functional and urban centers with their branches and with the other functional centers.



# 3.4

## TERRITORIAL LINKAGE BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES.

To link northern governorates to southern governorates using ground, rail and aerial means, in addition to services (gas, water and electricity).

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish physical linkage through a corridor that links the northern and southern governorates and a rail-way and airspace.
- To establish services linkage to transport gas, water, electricity and oil products between governorates.
- To achieve Palestinian sovereignty over airspace through international agreements and guarantees.
- To secure integrated links with the road network, rail-way, airports and seaports and the rest of the infrastructure in the governorates.
- To prepare Palestinian communities, as referred to previously, for internal migration related to this linkage.

# 3.5

## CITY OF JERUSALEM

East Jerusalem as the political and administrative capital of the state of Palestine.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To treat Jerusalem as a metropolitan city and create balanced polar distribution to bypass the city state.
- Jerusalem should not be treated as a separate entity isolated from the urban fabric.
- To maintain the identity of Jerusalem and divide the roles of the city with neighboring cities.
- To limit and organize urban expansion towards neighboring cities and avoid random construction.
- To prepare a detailed study of Jerusalem as an integral part of the spatial planning of the state of Palestine.
- To prepare a future scheme for the city of Jerusalem and link it with the functional centers proposed in previous items.
- To prepare alternative plans on the basis of political scenarios.
- To consider the special features of Jerusalem and its surroundings (Ramallah and Bethlehem) and the suburbs.



# 3.6

## NEW CITIES

To build new cities that absorb the high rate of population growth, anticipated internal migration, and the return of the displaced without any discrimination.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To prepare a detailed study on proposed sites where new cities can be built and their relationship to existing cities.
- To consider the location of these cities when preparing the structure of residential communities and service centers.
- To create plans to secure social integration of residents of these regions with the population of neighboring regions.
- To observe sustainability in the selection of locations for these cities and build them to function as environmentally friendly cities.
- To establish these new cities as “smart city model” which add value to the urban fabric of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

# 3.7

## REFUGEE CAMPS

To improve the living conditions of residents in refugee camps until a political solution is found and maintain the legal status and national dimension.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To integrate the camps within the infrastructure networks of neighboring cities.
- To enhance government services in the camps.
- Create plans to empower women.
- Create plans to empower young men and women.
- To create physical linkages that join the camp with the city (markets or public institutions).
- Create plans that guarantee social integration of the residents of the camps.
- To empower the popular committees that manage the camps.



# 3.8

## PALESTINIAN RURAL AREAS

To develop and improve rural services and integrate them with the main and secondary urban centers using an appropriate and gradual strategy.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To apply an integration policy as a tool for planning and administration, and not only for management.
- To place rural communities as part of the central structure of communities.
- To provide rural communities with basic services in an appropriate manner.
- To create attractions in rural regions to ease pressure on urban centers.
- To transform parts of rural communities into secondary centers that support and complement the main urban centers.
- To encourage investment in the tourism and agriculture sectors linked to a large extent with rural regions.
- To preserve the rural identity of Palestinian rural areas and limit the urban expansion into these regions.

# 3.9

## BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES

Bedouins are an important part of Palestinian society, and part of the identity and culture of the Palestinian state.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Offer national and international support to improve the living conditions of Bedouin communities.
- To integrate the citizens of these regions socially with neighboring regions.
- To enhance the Bedouin identity and lifestyle of the citizens in these regions.
- To link these regions with the comprehensive plan to develop tourism in the state of Palestine.



# 3.10

## SLUMS

To reduce the spread of slums and their social and security impact on Palestinian society.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To find solutions for re-planning slums and find alternatives.
- To provide security plans to control negative phenomena in slums.
- Social integration of the residents of slums.
- To provide jobs inside and outside slums for residents.
- To raise the standard of living of residents of slums by providing them with basic services where parts of slums still exist.

# 3.11

## CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS AND LAWS

Regulations and legislation to meet modern needs, especially in zoning, construction and management of resources.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To replace Jordanian laws with Palestinian laws.
- Palestinian draft laws need to consider the special conditions facing the state of Palestine.
- To improve control by the executive authority over construction and zoning violations.
- To find creative mechanisms that solve the issue of fragmented ownership.
- To draft laws that regulate relations between ministries and government services for citizens.
- To provide legal tools that organize relations between private property and developmental plans in various fields.



## EVACUATED ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

To reuse, remove or integrate settlements in a manner that serves the best interests of Palestinian society.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To prepare a comprehensive study of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land, including the classification and assessment of these settlements.
- To provide a mechanism to organize ownership of land where settlements were built.
- To find means to integrate the infrastructure of settlements with local infrastructure networks.
- To alter the appearance of existing settlements and those that will remain to fit into the Palestinian landscape.
- To use settlements that will remain in developmental plans, especially urban and rural development.
- To create plans for settlements that will be demolished in a manner compatible with the future vision for the various developmental sectors.
- To draw up a national plan to demand compensation from the Israeli government for the use of the land on which settlements were built through the international courts and relevant bodies.

# 3.13

## CENTERS OF OLD CITIES

The historic centers of cities have historic, cultural and political value and identity that must be maintained.

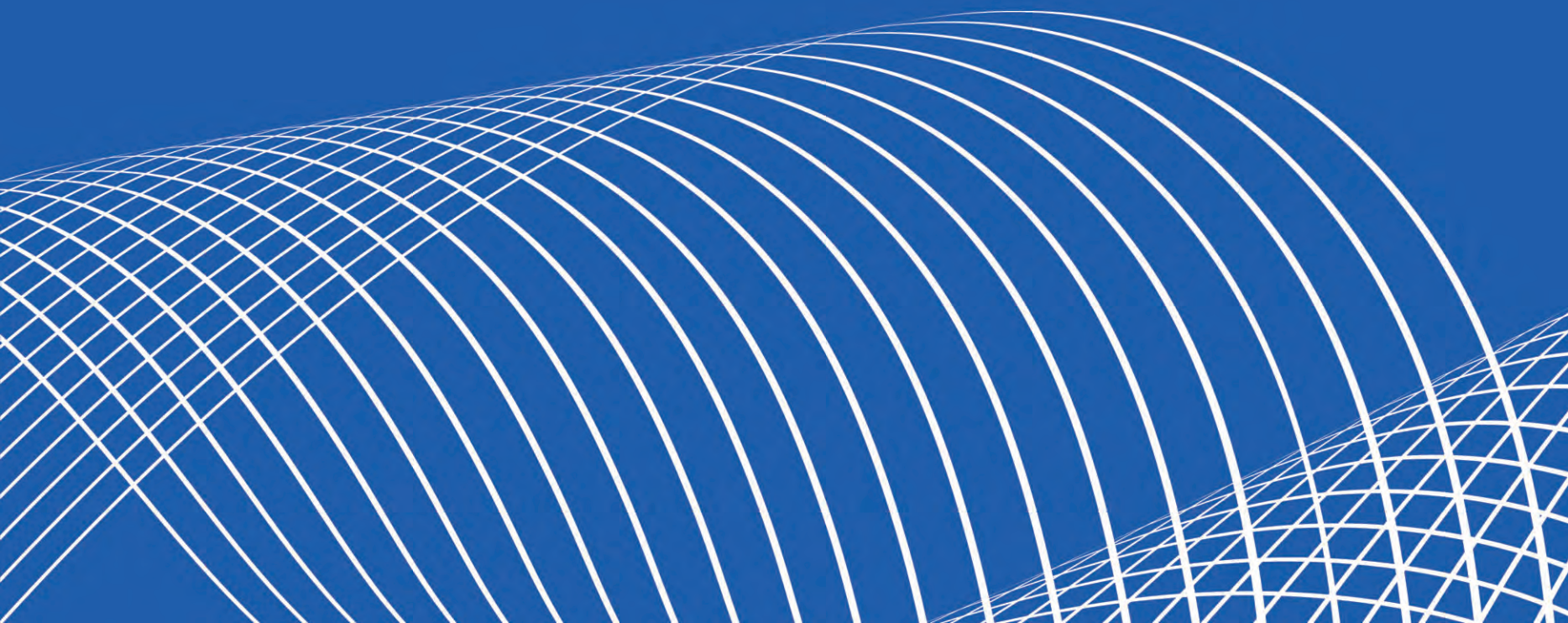
### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To preserve the identity of each city center according to its location.
- To include the centers of historic cities within national tourism development plans.
- To regenerate abandoned historic centers.
- To allow local community participation in creating plans to develop and regenerate these centers.
- To identify rigorous mechanisms, regulations and laws to preserve these centers.



# 4

## INFRASTRUCTURE



# 4.1

## NATIONAL ROADS

To develop and expand the existing national road network to meet developmental needs in the state of Palestine and integrate them with the regional road network.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To create a comprehensive plan (master plan) to develop existing roads and open new roads.
- To plan and design the necessary administrative and institutional structures to manage and operate a national road network efficiently.
- To create policies, legislation, specifications and standards.
- To create funding plans and determine gaps and available resources.
- To establish a national road fund.



# 4.2

## REGIONAL ROADS

Integration of the Palestinian road network with the regional and international road network.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To link both parts of the state (northern and southern governorates).
- International and regional agreements to guarantee integration of the road network with the movement of trade and passengers.
- To exert pressure on the relevant international agencies and secure Palestinian regional links with the world.
- To develop plans for international links.
- To secure necessary funding to establish international roads.
- To conciliate Palestinian and international standards on operation and construction.
- To guarantee the integration of the regional road network with the national and domestic road network and to ensure an overall hierarchy for the road network .
- To coordinate construction developmental plans for Palestinian cities and villages.

# 4.3

## SEAPORT

Maritime gateways under Palestinian sovereignty.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To demarcate the Palestinian naval borders based on international maritime law.
- To prepare detailed economic, technical, environmental, social and maritime studies.
- To join the International Maritime Organization.
- To develop professional staff, roads and institutions for this type of activity.
- To develop multi-modal transportation and link the road network, railways and airports with the seaport.
- To adopt modern methods of maritime transport and fishing.
- To make use of the strategic and international location of Gaza seaport and its links with commercial, maritime and ground transportation.



# 4.4

## AIRPORT

Aviation gateways under Palestinian sovereignty.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To define Palestinian airspace and sovereignty and aviation routes.
- To rebuild Jerusalem international airport and open it to aviation.
- To rebuild Yasser Arafat international airport in Gaza and open it to aviation.
- To establish an international Palestinian airport and open it to aviation.
- To create legislation, laws and regulations needed to operate Palestinian airports.
- To join international organizations in the field of aviation.
- Integration between airports, sea ports and local and regional road network to guarantee efficient transportation of passengers and goods.
- To take into consideration economic activities, especially religious, tourism and entertainment locations, when selecting the site of airports.

# 4.5

## TRAINS AND RAILWAYS

An internal railway and an international railway integrated with other transport networks additional to internal trains brought into operation.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To study the development of existing railways and a plan for an internal network linked with the international network.
- To study how to link urban regions via a rail network.
- To prepare technical and specialized studies.
- To establish an institutional structure and train specialized professionals in this field.
- To provide finance for studies and gradual implementation.
- Integration with master plans for Palestinian cities and villages.



# 4.6

## LOGISTICS ZONES

Logistics and customs zones to facilitate external trade.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Studies on external transport and trade.
- Studies on the location of logistics zones.
- To establish logistics and customs zones compatible with Palestinian priorities.
- Institutional and legislative development to organize the use of these zones.
- Diversity and specialization of logistics zones.
- To link logistics zones with regional and local transportation networks.
- To consider plans for economic, industrial and building development when establishing logistics zones.
- To ensure Palestinian sovereignty over logistics zones bordering neighboring countries.

# 4.7

## HOUSING

To provide residence to low and middle income, in line with their income, and to provide the main services.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To prepare a study on the status and conditions of housing and determine gaps, including structural plans.
- To prepare a strategic housing plan.
- To build partnerships with the private sector and the non-governmental sector.
- To legislate for improved housing.
- To allocate locations for housing projects.
- To introduce systems of advanced technological construction in housing.
- To develop financial organizations that support housing.
- To integrate these plans with the existing cities, villages and neighborhoods plans and those to be built.
- To take into consideration the architectural style and construction methods used in this sector.
- To provide necessary and appropriate services in residential areas and housing projects to guarantee a decent standard of living for those living in these projects.
- To use modern planning methods for sustainability in housing projects and urban expansion.



# 4.8

## WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

To provide an adequate supply of water for all uses.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To study the status and condition of water distribution networks.
- Sovereignty over water resources and protect water sources.
- To develop additional water resources.
- To develop infrastructure.
- To prepare studies for a regional pipeline.
- To develop regulations and laws for the optimal and most efficient use of water.
- To attract investment and funding with private sector participation to develop this sector.
- To treat wastewater for use in industry, agriculture and appropriate fields.
- Integrated water distribution systems with neighboring countries to secure efficient distribution.

# 4.9

## ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

A national and highly efficient electricity network.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To study demand for electricity.
- To improve, develop and consolidate the existing electricity network.
- To develop administrative systems for the electricity sector.
- To develop a tariffs policy for accessible electricity for subscribers.
- To develop systems of alternative energy and encourage its use.
- To replace the existing electricity network with an underground network.
- To link the local electricity network with neighboring countries to ensure optimal distribution of electrical power.
- To establish power stations and stations to distribute electricity environmentally and sustainably.



# 4.10

## BORDER CROSSINGS

To guarantee the independence of existing crossings for passengers and goods and rehabilitate them to become the land gateways to the Palestinian state.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To plan, operate and maintain sovereign crossings bordering neighboring countries.
- To coordinate construction and operation procedures.
- To establish specialized crossings on the borders of the state of Palestine.
- To develop measures for the passage of passengers and goods in line with international standards.
- Integration of crossings with other logistics zones.
- To link crossings with regional and local road networks.
- To take into consideration tourist sites in relation to crossings and the movement of passengers.

# 4.11

## SEWAGE SYSTEMS

To establish sewage networks and link all installations with the sewage network and wastewater treatment plants.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish wastewater treatment plans according to Palestinian specifications to serve all residential areas.
- To develop systems to reuse treated water and establish water distribution networks for development purposes.
- To develop and expand sewage systems and networks.
- To establish a special strategy for sewage.
- To develop and establish rainwater drainage networks independent from the sewage networks.



# 4.12

## SOLID WASTE

To collect solid waste and recycle it as part of environmental sustainability.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish a strategy for solid waste dump sites and consider the environmental effects.
- To create a plan to sort, collect and transport solid waste.
- Use the solid waste to generate power and produce fertilizers.
- To develop policies for sorting solid waste inside houses and installations.
- To raise awareness about sorting, recycling and reusing solid waste.
- To introduce policies that encourage institutions and installations to engage in recycling and reuse of solid waste.
- To establish specialized dump sites for medical or industrial waste with adequate future capacity.
- To enact legislation and laws to organize the disposal of solid waste and monitor these processes and their impact on the environment and aquifers.

# 4.13

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INTERNET NETWORKS AND THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION.

Efficient modern telecommunications networks.

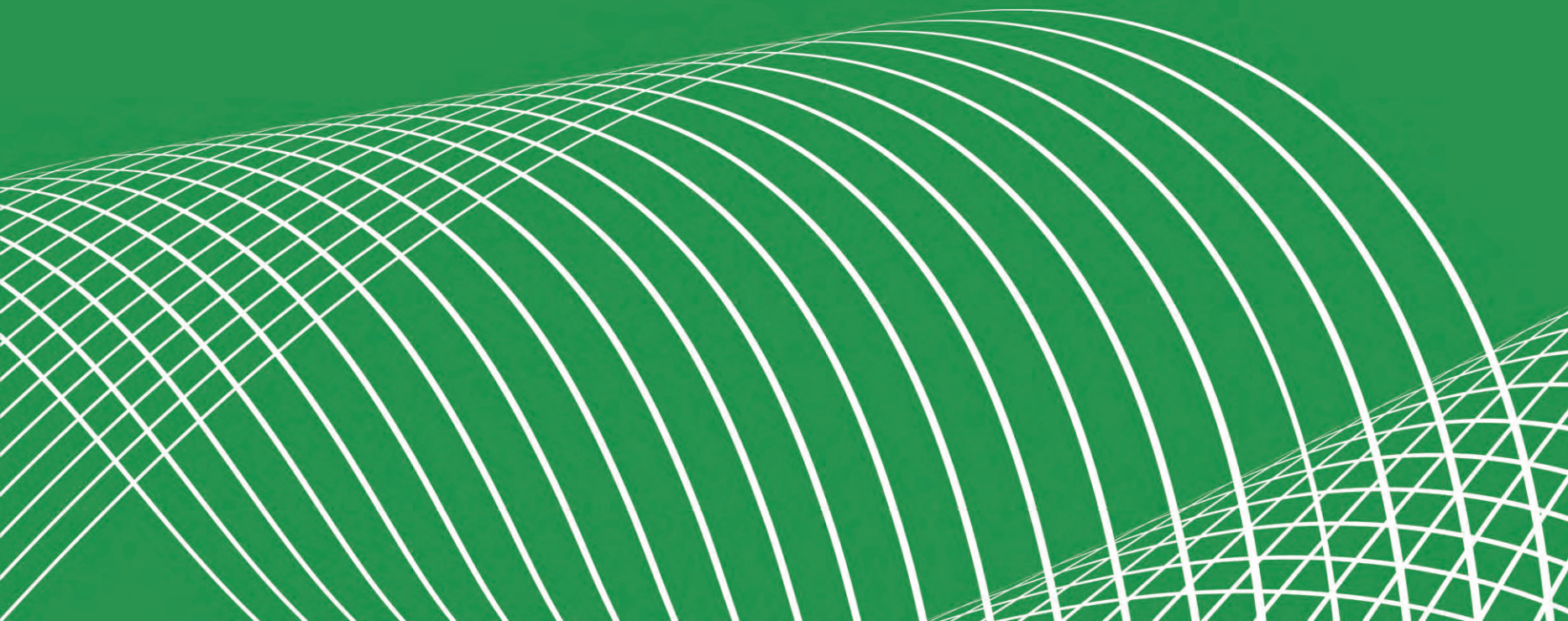
### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To prepare a strategic plan to keep up with advances in the field of telecommunications.
- To set up competitive tariff policies with international standards.
- To develop laws and systems for sustainable development of the telecommunications sector.
- To increase competition in telecommunications services.
- To improve the exchange of information between institutions and with neighboring countries.



# 5

## DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY



# 5.1

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

To create a sound societal atmosphere on the basis of human rights, justice and equality for all members of the society.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To review relevant laws dealing with social justice and develop them further.
- To provide balanced opportunities in all regions for health, education, labor, housing and freedom of movement.
- Fair distribution of services according to the demographic size of communities.
- To preserve Palestinian rural features.
- Importance of alternative education to social justice.
- To prioritize the rights of women and children and protect them.
- To empower young people and encourage development culturally and vocationally.
- To develop a sense of belonging and accountability.



# 5.2

## STANDARDS OF LIVING

To raise the standard of living of individuals both physically and psychologically.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To provide quality education for all and find alternative education programs.
- To provide schools for vocational education and training.
- To review the minimum wage.
- To find new jobs and employ young laborers.
- To develop remote areas and link them in a sustainable manner with nearby communities.
- To find creative methods of teaching in remote areas.
- To develop the agricultural sector that contribute towards reducing poverty and unemployment.

# 5.3

## POPULATION GROWTH

To expand basic services in education and health and to create jobs that match the population growth.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Increase the number of hospitals, public health facilities and educational facilities as identified by studies to match population growth.
- To increase and improve cultural institutions and centers for youth.
- To develop kindergartens and day care centers.
- To empower local and village councils to support the population in remote areas.
- To take into consideration population growth when preparing structural, regional and national plans.
- To achieve a balance between the revenues of the state and population growth.
- To establish plans relating to demographic conflicts with neighboring countries.



# 5.4

## ABNORMAL POPULATION GROWTH

### (MIGRATION AND RETURN OF DISPLACED PERSONS)

Managing the return of displaced and both the internal and the regional migration (West Bank and Gaza) is essential to create a balance in demand on natural and economic resources.

#### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To adopt a policy of demographic redistribution to guide internal migration and its implications.
- To establish local plans and policies to absorb immigrants and returnees spatially.
- To prepare records and a databank for displaced persons.
- To work within different scenarios for the return of displaced persons.
- To increase services in hospitals, schools and housing in the context of the return of displaced persons.
- To avoid social separation of returnees on the basis of their geographical roots, religious beliefs or political affiliations.
- To empower returnees to integrate within the society.
- To achieve economic balance between population growth needs and available resources to ensure sustainability.

# 5.5

## SOCIAL WELFARE

To provide the basis for a decent life for the elderly, people with special needs, people requiring social support and the unemployed.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To implement and amend the law on social welfare.
- To improve public health and medical services.
- To care for people with special needs in all regions via infrastructure and schools, and provide institutions to protect them.
- To establish medical insurance and social welfare funds.
- To improve public health services in government and private hospitals and to improve operational standards in health facilities.
- To establish homes for the elderly and institutions for people with special needs.
- Vocational retraining for the unemployed and people with special needs.
- To allow participation by people with special needs, the elderly and children in social and voluntary work to enhance their role in society.



# 5.6

## HEALTH

To develop a comprehensive and efficient system of quality health care on international standards and available for all citizens without discrimination.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To improve the quality and supply of public and private health services.
- To increase the budget for health and scientific researches.
- To introduce health education programs in schools and universities.
- To improve health services to mothers and children.
- To compel private sector institutions to include employees in the medical insurance system.
- To improve laws and legislation on health insurance to include a broader swathe of society.
- To encourage local councils, municipalities and their employees to provide a healthy environment.
- To address the treatment and management of health solid waste.
- To amend and improve the organizational and administrative structure of health institutions, especially government hospitals.

# 5.7

## SECURITY

To consolidate the concept of participation between the security services and all sectors of society, to ensure social security, and to reduce fight crime through awareness and educational programs.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To encourage the role of local community organizations.
- To combat negative phenomena in society through co-operation with security services and establish programs to combat such phenomena.
- To raise awareness and educate children and young people on all matters related to social security.
- To enhance social and family ties as these play a role in ensuring social security.
- To reinforce the role of voluntary work in society for different age groups to strengthen a sense of belonging and good citizenship.
- To raise awareness of the importance of public space and the sense of belonging to this public space within society.



# 5.8

## EDUCATION

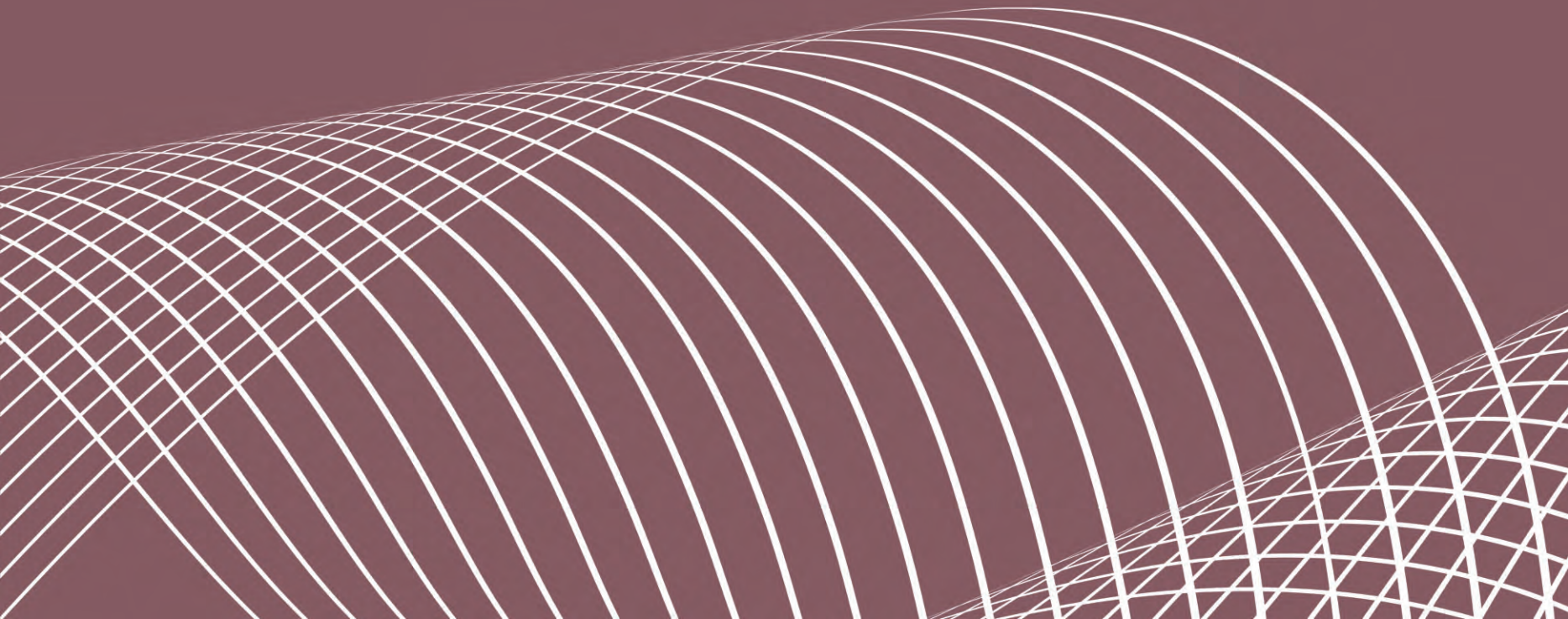
To provide quality education and increase the ratio of financial resources to be spent on scientific research.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To identify links between knowledge and education versus the student's surroundings and lifestyle rather than focusing on theoretical teaching or rote learning.
- To design school buildings appropriate for good quality education.
- To provide appropriate equipment and resources for a good quality education.
- To reconsider the role of teachers in education and assess their role in the education process.
- To link education with labor market needs.
- To increase the financial resources that will be spent on scientific research in universities and establish specialized centers supported by the government.
- To re-examine specializations and curricula in schools and universities.

# 6

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICS





# 6.1

## BORDERS

Full Palestinian sovereignty over the 1967 borders (land, sea and air) and all resources within these borders.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To achieve international recognition of the state of Palestine.
- International troops for security on the borders.
- To form a framework of all Palestinian groups.
- Implement a national, agreed political program.

# 6.2

## SECURITY

Internal and external security are the responsibility of the Palestinian state with the cooperation of the international community and friendly countries.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- State unity and control over all Palestinian territories.
- To sign international security agreements.
- To develop, restructure and organize strong security services that are agreed upon with the international community and compatible with the special circumstances in Palestinian state.
- Raise community awareness of positive interaction with members of the security services.
- To improve the cultural and scientific qualifications of the members of the different security services.



# 6.3

## EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

To reduce dependency on external assistance.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To reduce external assistance through specific mechanisms that support and promote the national economy.
- To have the government supervise financial resources.
- Control and sovereignty over local, natural and economic resources.
- To organize support offered to the state of Palestine for the national project.
- To achieve a balance between independence in some sectors and external support in other sectors.

# 6.4

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Palestinian State is an independent sovereign state.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- Membership in international parliaments and human rights organizations.
- To enhance diplomatic representation, attain full membership in the UN, human rights organizations and in all international organizations.
- To join international agreements that guarantee state independence and sovereignty over local resources.
- To conduct political, security and economic alliances with countries that support the Palestinian national project.



# 6.5

## TOTAL INTEGRATION WITH THE SURROUNDING REGION ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL PEACEFUL RELATIONS AND COMPLETE POLITICAL STABILITY: THE EU AS A MODEL.

Increased risks arise in the absence of planning due to economic and social discrepancies with surroundings, leading to the assimilation of the Palestinian identity and economy within countries with long and medium term plans and visions.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To enhance the culture of collective dialogue.
- To encourage the role of the Arab League.
- To reduce economic subordination.
- To bridge social and economic gaps between the Palestinian state and the countries of the region.

## 6.6

### MAJOR INTERACTION WITH JORDAN AND/OR EGYPT AND GEOGRAPHIC INTEGRATION WITH JORDANIAN INFRASTRUCTURE: THE MODEL OF THE SIXTIES.

Economic challenges can be minimized by reducing the social and economic gap with Jordan, but the political challenge of identity increases.

#### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To sign agreements with Jordan and Egypt that include security cooperation with these two countries.
- To sign economic agreements with these countries.
- To increase trade relations and economic balance with these countries.
- To allow freedom of movement of citizens, whether residents or displaced persons, between these countries.
- To preserve the local identity of Palestinian cities and towns and reduce the social impact resulting from interaction.



# 6.7

## LIMITED INTERACTION WITH ISRAEL: THE MODEL OF THE SEVENTIES.

Greater economic and social dangers and less national danger.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To sign agreements that include Palestinian sovereignty over its borders with Israel.
- To open local markets to Israeli products in return for opening the Israeli labor market to Palestinian laborers.
- Freedom of movements between both sides.
- Mutual recognition of borders.

# 6.8

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL ISOLATION: THE MODEL OF THE EIGHTIES.

To focus on the local dimension in development and the need for self-sufficiency in services (airports, sea ports, agriculture, industry).

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To achieve self-sufficiency following austere economic policies.
- To sign agreements with non-neighboring countries to secure external support.
- To limit the accelerating consumption of local resources.
- To reduce the rate of population growth via awareness campaigns.
- To create competitive advantages for Palestinian products to guarantee imports and exports and procure foreign currency.
- To increase freedoms for parties and individuals to alleviate social pressure resulting from isolation.



# 6.9

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL ISOLATION, ENVISIONING THE INTERNAL SPLIT SCENARIO: THE 2010 MODEL.

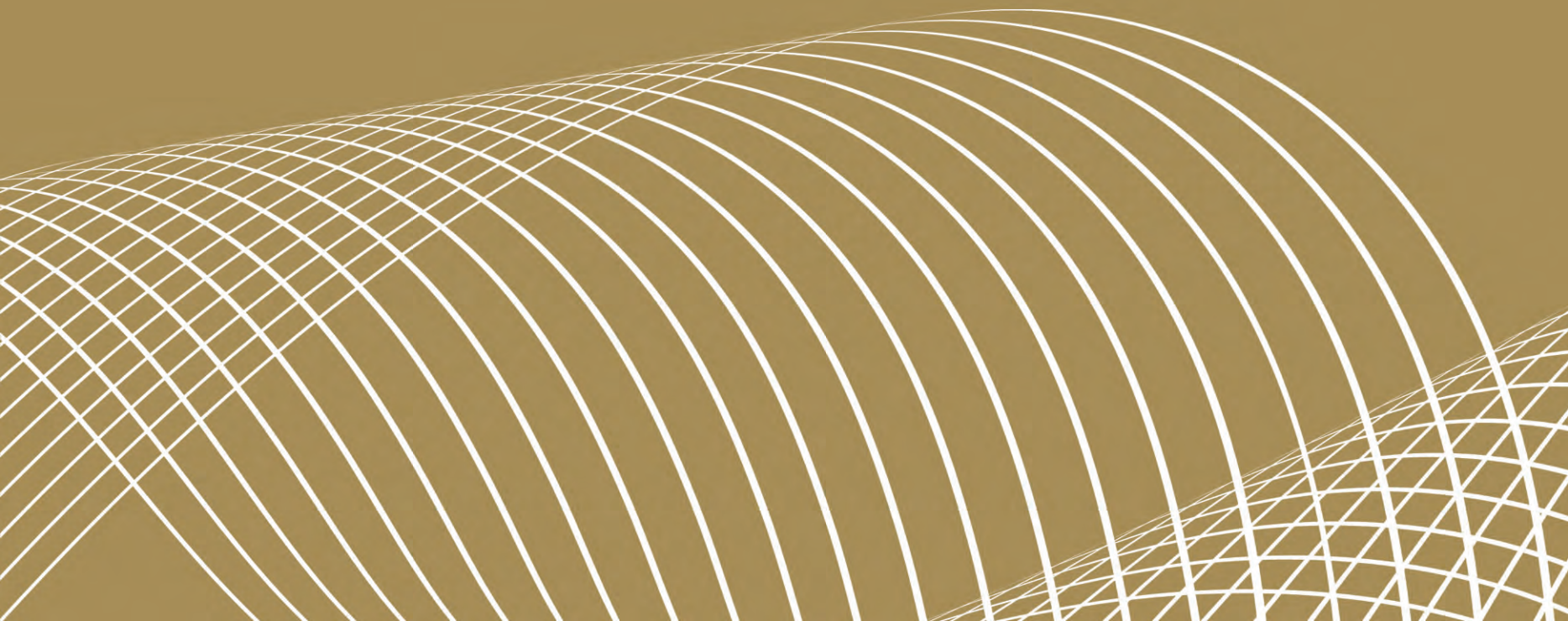
Diminishing the geographic and demographic factors and weak development opportunities in the northern and southern governorates.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- The role of parties to create a political culture and civil society organizations
- To enhance dialogue between the different parties that influence internal decision making.
- To create plans to end bi-partisan rule.
- To secure Palestinian sovereignty over crossings with neighboring countries, such as Jordan in relation to the West Bank, and Egypt in relation to the Gaza Strip.
- To establish an airport in the West Bank to guarantee external contact with the outside world.

7

## SERVICES SECTOR





# 7.1

## TRANSPORTATION

To improve the public transportation network as an integrated service to serve the public and support the Palestinian economy with due consideration for environmental aspects.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To develop and build an internal network of roads connecting Palestinian cities and neighboring villages that link all areas of the homeland.
- To invest in a non-traditional transport network (express trains, light trains, bridges and tunnels) that are environmentally friendly.
- To develop and build a proper infrastructure for air transport (international airports in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip).
- To develop infrastructure for maritime transport.
- To link these networks with neighboring countries (regional and international).
- To prepare the infrastructure for modern transport systems for passengers and goods.

# 7.2

## SMART CITIES

Palestinian cities become technologically smart cities and new cities established with the same specifications.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To develop laws and legislation to establish and manage smart cities in construction and services (health, security, education, electronic controls).
- To develop the infrastructure of telecommunications networks (broadband network) with high quality and sustainability.
- To link these cities with international smart cities that guarantee integrated services regionally and internationally.
- To encourage educational specializations that serve the establishment and management of this type of city.
- To improve planning by individuals and institutions working in this field.
- To provide a system of electronic navigation that serves citizens and tourists to save time and efforts in linking them to emergency stations and services and tour guides.



# 7.3

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

To open up competition in the telecommunications and internet sector to guarantee high quality services at reasonable cost.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To establish an independent body for organization.
- To adopt local and international electronic legislation and laws to open up competition in the telecommunications and internet sector.
- To guarantee the provision of broadband service to link all regions of Palestinian society in line with the latest technological solutions.
- To link the state of Palestine with more than one independent point on the international maritime telecommunications cable.
- To establish ground space stations with local satellites to link the state of Palestine with the international telecommunications network.
- To provide the requirements for telecommunications and internet and the infrastructure needed to activate e-government.
- To upgrade the capacities of telecommunications and internet companies to meet the needs of smart cities and their management.

# 7.5

## PUBLIC HEALTH

To improve the level and quality of health services and raise life expectancy in the state of Palestine.

### **Practical steps to reach the vision :**

- To support and develop preventive services.
- To promote the culture and lifestyle of a healthy life.
- To develop and improve the infrastructure of the health sector and quality of health services.
- To develop a system of health insurance that offers comprehensive health coverage for all citizens.
- To keep up with the latest medical advances, including the introduction of information technology in the diagnosis of medical cases, consultations and treatment.
- Continuous professional development of health sector staff by attracting distinguished medical expertise, especially Palestinians, and by offering scholarships and providing professionals with regular training.
- To create an employment climate that attracts distinguished medical expertise.
- To establish and support scientific research, medical and pharmaceutical centers.
- To establish health twining with other countries for the exchange of expertise and medical discoveries.
- To raise health awareness among citizens.
- To promote a culture of engaging in sports and develop appropriate infrastructure to make sport part of the daily life of Palestinian citizens.



# 7.6

## E-GOVERNMENT

Electronic government to support the Palestinian government, facilitate transactions by citizens and institutions, and support transparency and productivity.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To develop the telecommunications infrastructure.
- To locate a secure information system in terms of programs, equipment and procedures.
- To guarantee easy accessibility to e-government services by all citizens via joint services centers and awareness campaigns.
- To guarantee the integration of Palestinian society in deciding important issues, as in e-voting.
- To train professionals in regulated educational institutions and university specializations to guarantee the independent establishment of e-government.
- Palestinian sovereignty and independence related to an electronic databank for users of e-government applications.

# 7.7

## THE PRIVATE SECTOR

To empower and encourage the role of the private sector in developing and organizing the services sector.

### Practical steps to reach the vision :

- To create an investment climate that attracts private capital.
- To develop laws and legislation that encourage and motivate foreign investment in all sectors in a manner that allows competition and avoids a monopoly.
- To encourage the role of the private sector in offering services and limit the role of the public sector to legislation, supervision, organization and drafting of public policies.
- To increase community participation in private institutions.
- To link the movement of Palestinian internal investment and foreign investment with the requirements and aspirations of the Palestinian state and its developmental visions.
- To encourage and promote diversity of investment by the private sector.



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## CONFERENCE PHOTOS

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## CONFERENCE PHOTOS







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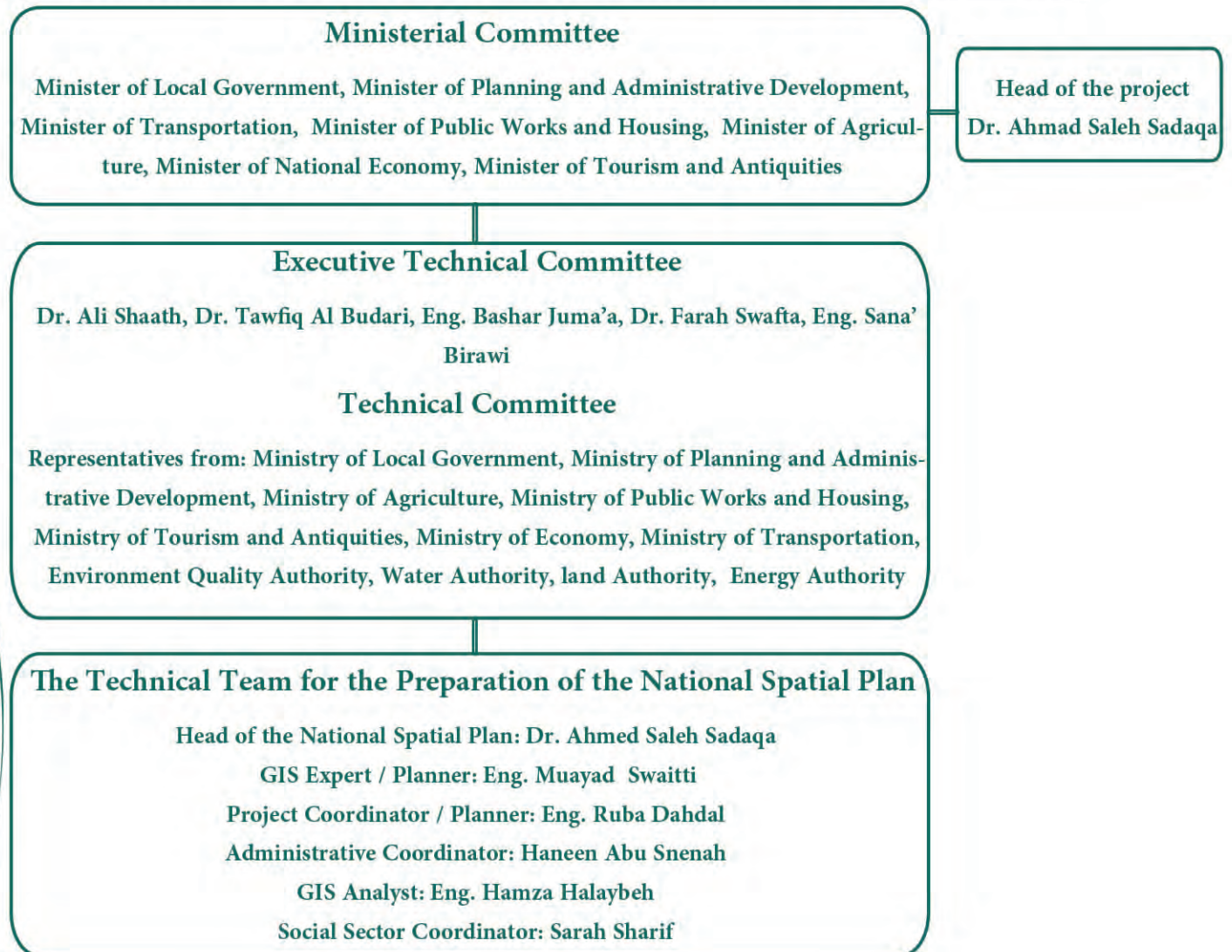
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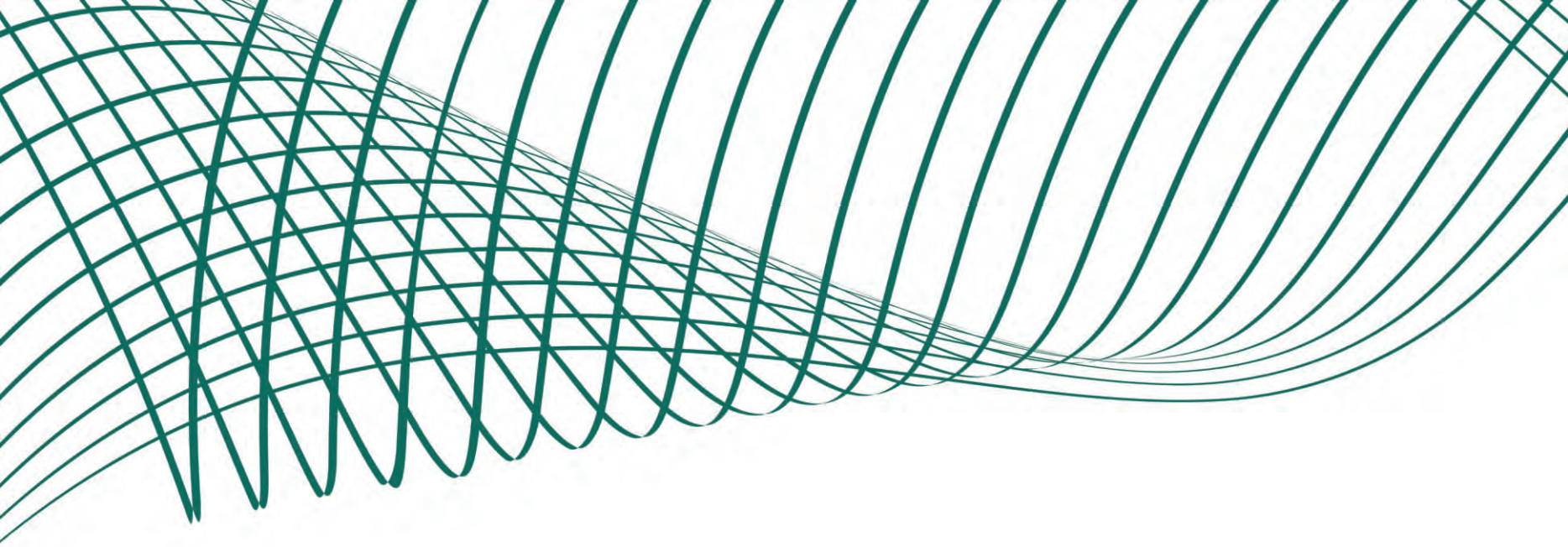
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# The Institutional Structure of the National Spatial Plan







# Palestine 2025 Palestine 2050

الرؤية التخطيطية  
Envisioning Palestine

2015

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