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24 November 2008

United Nations and Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs organize Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East

- WHAT:** International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East “Israeli-Palestinian Peace and the Role of the International Community” organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria,
- WHEN:** Tuesday, 2 December 2008, from 09:00 to 17:30 hours
Wednesday, 3 December 2008, from 09:30 to 13:00 hours
- WHERE:** Hofburg Palace, Large Redoutenhall (Redoutensäle), Josefsplatz, 1010 Vienna
- WHO:** Among high-level participants and guests are:
H.E. Mr. **Riyad Maliki**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Information, Palestinian Authority; H.E. Madame **Ursula Plassnik**, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria; **Eli Dayan**, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, H.E. Mr. **Riyad Mansour**, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN, New York; Mr. **Benny Vaknin**, Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Tel Aviv; initiator of joint projects with the city of Gaza; Mr. **Robert H. Serry**, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to PLO and the Palestinian Authority (keynote speaker); Mr. **Kiyotaka Akasaka**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Department of Public Information (DPI); Mr. **Antonio Maria Costa**, Director General United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) and Executive Director United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC).
- WHY:** The Seminar offers significant opportunities to take stock of partial results achieved in the complex peace process in the Middle East and to identify areas where action at the international level is necessary to make further inroads in this critical and challenging endeavor.

Media Arrangements:

Media representatives are encouraged to participate in the event and/or cover it for their respective outlets. An introductory press release will be issued prior to the event followed by a summary report after the Seminar. United Nations staff will facilitate requests for exclusive media interviews to the extent possible with senior officials attending the Seminar.

For further details, registration and interview appointments please contact:

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