



**Statement by Robert H. Serry,
United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
following today's announcement by Quartet Representative, Tony Blair**

For immediate release

Jerusalem, 13th May 2008 - Following today's announcement by Quartet Representative Tony Blair of an initial package of measures to improve the social and economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry said during a meeting of the Local Development Forum in Ramallah:

"I welcome the initial set of measures announced today by Tony Blair, in particular its focus on improving movement and access and opening up trade routes. I hope this marks the beginning of improved mobility, economic growth, security and confidence. The UN will work to support Tony Blair and the parties to ensure the swift and full implementation of these measures, and to build on them with further steps, which will be required. Further action to implement Phase One Road Map obligations is also vitally important, as stressed by the Quartet when it met in London. The UN is also giving strong support to the current efforts to achieve a Gaza ceasefire and a reopening of the crossings. Movement forward now is vital in itself, and to sustain the political process at a critical phase."

Richard Miron
Chief Public Information Officer
UNSCO
0545627825
mironr@un.org