

**Speech of Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon**

Launch of Photo Exhibition "The view from the ground"

Metro al Medina Theatre, Hamra
Wednesday 7 November 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

His Excellency Mr. Ashraf Dabbour, Ambassador of Palestine to Lebanon,
Mr. Khaldoun al Sharif, Head of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue
Committee,

Ms. Ann Dismorr, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon,
Representatives of the Palestine refugee community,

All children and adolescents who participated in this initiative and are here
with us today,

I am pleased to launch with you this evening this photo exhibition, which illustrates how Palestinian children and adolescents see their own environment. The approach promoted by UNRWA and its partners through this European Union-funded initiative gives you, Palestinian children and adolescents the training and tools allowing you to be our eyes into the camps: it enables us to witness the situation in the camps, to better understand how you see your living conditions but also how you perceive our support in alleviating the challenges you face everyday.

European Union has focused its support to Palestine refugees in Lebanon in recent years on the provision of adequate shelter to the most vulnerable families as well as education opportunities for the younger generations. This is reflected in the photos and in the drawings which give a vision of hope.

The European Union is currently providing more than €67 million to support Palestine refugees in Lebanon. Of course, our support does not cover all the needs of the refugee population, but it is a significant contribution. Indeed our financial support is vast, and our partnership with UNRWA very deep, yet we fully realise much more needs to be done to improve living conditions and work more forcefully on resolving the question of Palestine. Whilst there have been few tangible results over the past period in terms of reviving the Peace Process, we wish to underline our full commitment to the right of the Palestinian people to live in their own state.

Thank you children and adolescents for these wonderful photos and drawings, which are a testimony of real feelings and hopes. We hope that your and our hopes will come true in a foreseeable future.

Thank you.