

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

UNRWA-EU Scholarship Award Ceremony

UNRWA LFO – 14 June 2013

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Distinguished guests,
UNRWA friends,
Dear students,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today amongst the students who have joined universities in Lebanon with the support of the UNRWA-EU Scholarship Fund.

I would like to begin by extending my warmest congratulations to all of you, the new 25 grantees, for your truly remarkable efforts, your dedication and ambition, qualities for which you are being rewarded today. I would like to commend you for your perseverance and determination to excel. And I would also like to congratulate your families, teachers and others who have supported you in this.

Having been granted this scholarship, you are today joining a group of more than 400 young Palestinians who have already had the opportunity to acquire highly valuable skills in different academic fields through the

UNRWA-EU scholarship Fund. It is a great opportunity. As well as a great responsibility.

You have started your first academic year here in Lebanon. Certainly, the knowledge you will gain during these years at University will be very important and useful for you. Your creativity and adaptability are critical for your future success. Equally important and useful I believe will be the contacts you build and the options that will be given to you in the academic environment. The access to knowledge and education and the opportunity to meet people that inspire you will allow you to pursue also your own personal development and be better prepared for the future ahead.

We are very aware of the challenges you will encounter in your academic and professional journey after your studies.

I encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity. It is up to you to make it a success. Each achievement will reward you with the immense satisfaction of knowing that you have achieved a key milestone of your dream. Learning means life long learning, a journey without end.

After this experience, you will have a gift to give to others. You will be prepared to make a meaningful and positive contribution to your *own*

community, to the *people of Palestine* and to the *State of Palestine*, which the European Union strongly supports.

Congratulations once again.

Thank you.