

Dear Journalists,

This is the first UN Conference on Tourism to be conducted in the State of Palestine. Please check on this media advisory from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. H.E President Mahmoud Abbas is expected to address the conference during its inauguration.

**State of Palestine
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities**

“International Conference on Religious Tourism, Bethlehem, State of Palestine, 15-16 June 2015”

Dear Journalists,

The *International Conference on Religious Tourism: Fostering sustainable socio-economic development in host communities* organized jointly by the UNWTO and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, will be held in Bethlehem, Palestine on the 15th and 16th of June 2015 and will host international figures from the tourism world.

The Conference will provide a forum for tourism authorities, representatives of religious communities, the private sector, academia, international and regional development organizations, to exchange views, perspectives and experiences on how to develop and promote religious tourism as a tool for inclusive socio-economic development focusing on partnerships and initiatives that warrant the engagement and empowerment of local communities.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, under the leadership of Her Excellency Rula Ma'ayah, invites you to consider covering the Conference as well as the events organized around the conference such as the thematic tours and the Palestine Exhibition, whose programs will be dispatched to you closer to the date of the event.

We value your presence with us in sharing this historic event in Palestine, the first time that the UNWTO will hold a Conference in the country and the first time that tourism officials, experts, academics and private-sector will come together to think religious tourism and sustainable socio-economic development.

It is primordial for the coverage of this important event and to raising awareness on Palestine's tourism offering that the story of this conference be highlighted in your media.

For further information, please feel free to contact Fadi Kattan at Tel. 02-2770845, Mob. 0592031862 or by email fadi.f.kattan@gmail.com .

In order to establish together the technical requirements for this coverage, please contact us by the 15th of May 2015.

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