

Minutes of meeting in Bethlehem

Today in Bethlehem,

the **Italian Association of Municipalities**, regional branch of Tuscany (hereinafter called “**ANCI Toscana**”), represented by the President Matteo Biffoni, Mayor of Prato, and

The **Bethlehem** urban area, represented by:

Eng. Issam Juha, Deputy Mayor of Bethlehem,

Dr. Nael Salman, Deputy Mayor of Beit Jala,

Mr. George Ghattas, Deputy Mayor of Beit Sahour,

Mr. Akram Bader, Mayor of Battir;

Sharing

- that a strong cooperation between cities of the north and south shores of the Mediterranean is crucial in order to develop common responses to the challenges listed in the 2030 Agenda;
- that one of the main challenges for Mediterranean cities and territories today lies in finding ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change while, at the same time, satisfy the needs of the growing urban population;

Considering that:

- A specific Memorandum of Understanding was signed by ANCI Toscana and REGIONE TOSCANA in order to reinforce the linkages among Tuscan Municipalities interested in cooperating with Bethlehem Districts Local Authorities;
- The Memorandum of Understanding highlights the importance of strengthening the linkages with Palestinian Municipalities in order to promote territorial development activities;
- In continuation with the Tuscany Region tradition of international cooperation, ANCI Toscana and other strategic actors within the territory, (such as University, etc) has already expressed the will to support dialogue and development activities, on the above mentioned territories;
- Is keenly recognized the importance of working under the umbrella designed by the 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals;

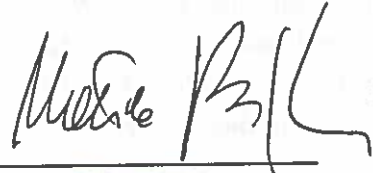
The above mentioned signatories will:

- Strengthen twinning and agreement among Tuscan municipalities and Bethlehem urban area municipalities;
- Promote joint participation to development, innovation, and poverty reduction programs funded by the EU and other International Organization;
- Set-up a working group composed by representatives of the whole actors involved in the projects design and project development activity;

- Promote common projects following the Agenda 2030 goals, with special attention to the opportunity of common interest.

Bethlehem, 16th of July 2016

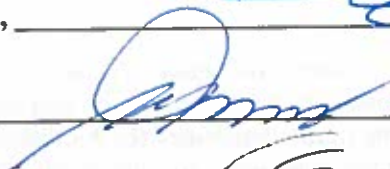
Matteo Biffoni, President of ANCI Toscana, Mayor of Prato



Eng. Issam Juha, Deputy Mayor of Bethlehem,



Dr. Nael Salman, Deputy Mayor of Beit Jala,



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