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**The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and
Democracy
MIFTAH**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GIZ

***Enhancing Gender Equality and promote Women Participation in local
Governance in West Bank including east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip***

(1 November, 2016 – 31 May, 2017)

In line with the strategic goals and approaches of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy “MIFTAH”, which seek to enhance women and youth participation in policy and decision-making within the public sector and local government organizations; through: Empowering potential women and youth political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for national and local government elections, and supporting women and youth to be well prepared to take on political roles and to become involved in political and public spheres, and within MIFTAH's ongoing “Election Support programme”. To advance this end and based on its long experience with GIZ, MIFTAH will continue to enhance the development role of the Local Government Units, and supporting women and youth political and community participation to ensure equity and equality at the local and national level.

MIFTAH's interventions have bridged the gap between women in LGUs, high officials and decision makers through town hall meetings, national gatherings and policy interventions. The expected results of this project will focus on bringing men and women to work together to enhance women participation in the political life and to shed light on the importance of creating an enabling environment for supporting women to actively engage in the public sphere.

Moreover, and building on MIFTAH's continuous advocacy and capacity development efforts in enhancing gender mainstreaming in policy formulation, legal framework and decision making mechanisms in local governance, and to ensure women representation and participation in LGUs and neighbourhood committees, adding to this the latest developments in the local elections that

were planned to take place in October 2016. It was apparent that there is a need to work with men (heads of LGUs, council members, members of Political factions, decision makers...etc.) in order to get a larger support for women participation in any upcoming local elections.

The project seeks to:

Enhancing Gender Equality and promote Women Participation in local Governance in West Bank including east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip through mobilizing gender defenders and amending the Local Elections Law.

Objectives:

1. Mobilizing male "gender defenders" groups in the 5 clusters within the West Bank including east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip (7 local communities in each cluster).
2. Enhance the Policy framework to support women political participation in Local Elections Law.
3. Expand side event experience at UN Habitat III on "Gender-sensitive urban development"

The Project Target group:

The project will target 9 governorates in the West Bank; namely, Tulkarm, Nablus, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jericho and Jordan Valley, Jenin, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tubas, and 2 governorates in Gaza Strip; namely Middle, Rafah, and Khan Yunis.