



Representative Office
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Ramallah



Ministry of Education & Higher Education

Joint Declaration

The Chairman of the Working Party on Academic Equivalence, and Recognition in the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Laender* in the Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf of the institutions represented in the said Working Party as the body responsible for the evaluation of foreign academic credentials and degrees and for recommendations concerning their equivalence and recognition,

and

the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education as the body responsible for the evaluation of foreign academic credentials and degrees and for decisions and recommendations concerning their equivalence and recognition,

after due deliberation and evaluation of relevant information,

declare the following:

1. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education will
 - consider the *Diplom* degree awarded by German universities as equivalent to the Palestinian master's degree;
 - consider Bakkalaureus/bachelor's and Magister/master's degrees awarded by German institutions of higher education under the two-tier degree system introduced in 1998 as equivalent to Palestinian bachelor's and master's degrees respectively.

From now on this procedure will apply to all students graduating or having graduated from German institutions of higher education.
2. The Central Office for Foreign Education in the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Laender* in the Federal Republic of Germany (*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen im Sekretariat der Ständigen Konferenz der*

Kultusminister der Länder - ZaB and the German Rectors' Conference (*Hochschulrektorenkonferenz - HRK*) will advise and recommend to German institutions of higher education that

- they consider the Palestinian bachelor's degree as equivalent to the German *Bakkalaureus*/bachelor's degree and admit holders of such degrees to appropriate master's courses under the same conditions as German students;

- they consider Palestinian holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Palestinian university after 4-5 years of study as eligible for admission to the second stage (*Hauptstudium*) of study programmes leading to a *Diplom* degree and, in the case of 5-year programmes, as eligible for admission directly to the final stage of thesis preparation for the *Diplom* degree.

3. Both sides further declare,

a) that all decisions, recommendations and advice relating to admission to higher education programmes as set forth above are subject to institutional and general regulations on foreign student admissions,

b) that with respect to credentials and qualifications not mentioned in this Joint Declaration they intend to liaise as necessary with a view to obtaining relevant expertise and to make recommendations accordingly concerning their evaluation and assessment, and

c) that they intend to review any problems in applying these procedures as soon as they arise with a view to identifying appropriate solutions.

(Signature)



Mr. Miguel Berger
German Representative to the Palestinian
Authority

For the
Chairman of the
Working Party on Academic Equivalence and
Recognition in the Secretariat of the Standing
Conference of the Ministers of Education and
Cultural Affairs of the *Laender* in the Federal
Republic of Germany

Date: 15.07.2006

(Signature)



Dr. Naim Abu Hommos
Minister of Education & Higher
Education

For the
Palestinian Ministry
of Education and Higher Education

2 - 15 - 2006

Date: