

# PRESS RELEASE

**United Nations Development Programme  
Damascus, Syria**

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## “ART GOLD” Project Signature

**28 October 2009** – Under the auspices of the Ministry of Local Administration and the State Planning Commission UNDP Syria signed the, signed a three-year project titled “Articulating Governance and Local Development: ART GOLD SYRIA”. The signature ceremony was held under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Local Administration, Eng. Tamer Al Hejeh, and signatory parties included H.E. Dr. Tayseer Riddawi, Head of the State Planning Commission and Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Syria. This project is in direct collaboration with ART Initiative, a global, multilateral effort to enhance governance, with start-up funding support provided by the Spanish Government.

The project is part of the ART GOLD Initiative, an abbreviation of “Articulating Governance and Local Development” and works to build a broad-based international cooperation network or framework to develop community participation, local developments and decentralization policies that will widen the base of participation in national planning in order to achieve development goals. ART GOLD Syria (AGS) will provide specialized assistance to support identified national policies and local practice in prioritized sectors of community development.

As part of project activities, AGS will develop activities at the international, through multilateral collaboration with the ART Initiative, as well as national and local level in order to support the planning and administrative framework of local development management in Syria. AGS will work within the Governorate of Raqqa as the pilot phase and be expanded to other Governorates. The ART GOLD SYRIA project will run for a period of three years with a total budget of 2.5 million USD. ART GOLD employs a multi-donor strategy, with initial start-up funds being provided from the AEI, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

The project address national priorities indicated in the Tenth Five-Year Plan on local governance and decentralization and will be executed by the Syrian government in collaboration with UNDP and ART GOLD Initiative in Geneva.

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For more information and media attendance, please contact:  
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