



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DEL TURISMO
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ТУРИСТСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
المنظمة العالمية للسياحة

The Secretary-General a.i.

DSG/44/2009

Madrid, 23 de abril de 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The UNWTO is pleased to extend its support and endorsement to the *Abraham Path* or *Masar Ibrahim al Khalil* - a route of cultural tourism which follows the footsteps of Abraham (Ibrahim) through the Middle East.

The *Abraham Path / Masar Ibrahim al Khalil* provides a place of meeting and connection for people of all faiths and cultures inviting us to remember our common origins, to respect our cultural differences, and to recognize our shared humanity. The *Masar* also provides a catalyst for sustainable tourism and economic development; a platform for the energy and idealism of young people; and a focus for positive media coverage highlighting the rich heritage and hospitable people of the Middle East.

The UNWTO shares the vision of cultural tourism as a force which can contribute towards increased respect and understanding between peoples, and which can be an important factor in the sustainable economic development of societies. The UNWTO is delighted, therefore, to lend its endorsement to this project and to join the worldwide network of friends and supporters who are working to help promote and develop the *Abraham Path / Mascar Ibrahim al Khalil*.

Taleb Rifai

The Abraham Path / Masar Ibrahim al Khalil belongs to the communities and countries along the way and depends upon the leadership of host families, community leaders, local and national governments, universities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and other civil society partners in the Middle East. The project is served by the Abraham Path Initiative - an international non-governmental organization with offices in Ankara, Amman, Beirut, Bethlehem, Boulder, Cambridge, Jerusalem and Sao Paulo. Founded at Harvard University, the

Abraham Path Initiative is a non-profit organization which has no political or religious alignments of any kind and which honors all faiths and cultures.