

Jordan



PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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BEFORE THE

**FIFTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2004

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Mr. President,

I wish first to warmly congratulate Your Excellency on your election as President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The UNDP's most recent Arab Human Development Report identified the pressing challenges facing the Arab world both at the moment and in the future. Thus, it contributed to triggering a broad debate on the future of reform in the Middle East. Partly in response, the Tunis Arab Summit adopted a document on "The Process of Development, Modernization and Reform in the Arab World" with a view to improving joint Arab action. This platform paper highlighted the need to consolidate the democratic principles and to broaden the base of political participation. It also called for intensifying efforts to improve performance in political, economic, social and educational areas; paying more attention to youth issues, advancement of women, modernization of the social institutions throughout the Arab world; improvement of education; completion of the Arab common market plan; and the laying of a Pan-Arab economic development strategy. Jordan, for its part, supports this vision which is in line with the steps we have already been pursuing within our national reform agenda.

Jordan believes that for reform to be truly meaningful, it has first and foremost to emanate from within the society and to be sensitive to the peculiar parameters and needs of each country. Accordingly, we in Jordan sought to develop an integrated agenda that addresses the primary issues of concern to the common person in the entire country. These include: broader political involvement and personal freedoms, wider roles for women and youth, more efficient judiciary system, educational reform, achieving a steady economic growth with a view to improving the living conditions of all individuals towards the evolution of a more progressive, open and tolerant society.

Within the same framework, the Government of Jordan sought to strengthen the partnership between public and private sectors both inside Jordan and at the larger regional Arab level. The most recent inter-Arab initiative was launched by the Arab private sector and grass root civil organizations, with an active Jordanian participation, in Amman on the margin of the World Economic Forum which convened at the Dead Sea last May. That initiative laid the foundation for the delineation of a vision for the Middle East in the year 2010. A well-developed plan of action will be laid out at the Davos World Economic Forum in 2005. The plan will provide a framework for pooling and analyzing constructive inputs and suggesting answers for the challenges facing Jordan and the region in general.

However, the series of reform measures currently underway in Jordan will remain inadequate without support from the international community. The help we need relates to backing our development projects, direct assistance to the Jordanian economy in addition to foreign debt relief. Of special significance in this regard, is the aid needed and expected from the G-8 industrial powers to Jordan's plans and initiatives, which have been set against promising, realistic and sustainable goals.

Mr. President,

The long-standing status quo in our region has made all serious efforts to forge ahead with the overall Middle East reform exercise virtually impossible. The creation of a favorable climate that helps us accelerate regional development and progress hinges on the termination of the Israeli occupation of Arab land on the basis of international legality with a view to ensuring security and stability in the region.

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Time has indeed come to focus on starting the peace process on the basis of the Road Map and the terms of reference reiterated therein, including the Arab peace initiative and the implementation by both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the respective obligations under the Road Map. In point of fact, the Road Map does provide a well-defined vision of the ultimate solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, namely the vision put forward by President George Bush of the United States of two states living side by side in peace. President Bush reaffirmed that position in a letter he sent last May to His Majesty King Abdullah II. The letter also elaborated the United States firm stand, which rejects any measures that would prejudice the outcome of final status negotiations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The launching of any serious political process requires immediate action on the part of all parties to put an end to violence and to all forms of civilian killing. Let me, if I may, recall here the obligations of both sides under the Road Map which must be carried out as one integrated set. For its part, Israel should fulfill its commitments beginning with ceasing forthwith all forms of settlements building as well as all acts of extra-judicial killings. At the same time, the Palestinian side should complete the security reforms required to control the security situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and to bring violence to an end. In this regard, we welcome the decision to consolidate the Palestinian security apparatus. On the other hand, Israel's announcement of unilateral withdrawal from Gaza must be an integral part of the Road Map and within its terms of reference. The withdrawal must also be coordinated with all parties concerned, especially the Palestinian side, in order to ensure a smooth transfer of power.

It has become abundantly clear now; perhaps more than ever before, that there is a real need to develop an effective monitoring mechanism operated by the Quartet in order to ensure that all parties meet their mutual obligations and to ascertain scrupulous implementation by the two sides of the Road Map towards a successful political process. Here, I wish to pay tribute to the Quartet for its persistent efforts to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

Mr. President,

Once again, I wish to reaffirm Jordan's commitment, like all other Arab states, to the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002 with a view to putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict through the conclusion of a collective peace agreement that provides for the security of all countries in our region and lays the foundation for establishing relations with Israel. The agreement would also create a framework for an agreed solution of the Palestinian refugees problem on the basis of United Nations General Assembly resolution 194, in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian state.

Mr. President,

Jordan underlines the need for the respect and implementation of what has been declared by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its advisory opinion on the separation wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The ICJ's pronouncement is the law and no peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question is to be realized unless based on respect for the rules of international law and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. In this context, the ICJ's opinion was both clear and specific regarding the following points:

1. The West Bank including East Jerusalem, is an occupied territory and, under international law, Israel is an occupying power. Accordingly, the claim that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is a "disputed territory" has been dismissed once and for all.

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2. That the relevant rules of international Humanitarian Law are applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including The Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which, according to the ICJ, is legally applicable to such territory.
3. That the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and that Israel is violating such right in contravention of the peremptory norms of international law.
4. That the Israeli settlements built in the territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, are in breach of the rules of international humanitarian law.
5. That the construction by Israel of the wall in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, is illegal. Furthermore, Israel is under an obligation to cease its violations relating to the construction of the wall by, inter alia, dismantling those portions of it erected in OPT, reinstating the rights to their owners and compensating those who incurred losses as a result of Israel's illegal acts.
6. That the construction of the Wall and its route create a fait accompli on the ground that could become permanent, in which case would be tantamount to an actual annexation of the OPT.
7. The Law makes it incumbent upon us as an international community to refrain from supporting Israel in its violations as well as from recognizing the illegal situation arising from the construction of the Separation Wall.

Accordingly, Jordan welcomes the General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and considers it an important step reflecting the recognition by the international community of the legal conclusions reached by the ICJ and its desire to carry out the content of advisory opinion in a practical manner.

Mr. President,

The Separation Wall threatens the national security of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The wall is not only a barrier to the establishment of a viable independent Palestinian state, it also partitions the West Bank into three isolated sections. Moreover, and in view of the arbitrary Israeli measures of closures and imposition of restrictions on movement, the occupied Palestinian territories will witness an unprecedented level of deterioration in all aspects of political, social, economic, security and humanitarian life. This set of circumstances is bound to have spill-over implications into neighboring countries, especially Jordan. It was against this backdrop that Jordan supported the effort that led to the adoption of the ICJ Advisory Opinion and Assembly resolution ES-10/15. We in Jordan, will continue to support the Palestinian people in the pursuit to establish their independent state over their national territory on the basis of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 1397 and 1515, the principle of land for peace, The Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative. Also, we stand ready to provide any assistance the Palestinian side might seek within the framework of its efforts to reform its administrative and security structures in order to help it enhance its abilities to fulfill its obligations under The Road Map.

Mr. President,

Jordan welcomes the creation of the interim Iraqi government and the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty at the end of last June. In this regard, we wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his personal envoy at the time, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi for their strenuous efforts which culminated in the formation of the interim government despite the enormous odds that beset the entire exercise.

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While Jordan underscores its support for the government of Iraq, it stands ready to lend all possible assistance to Iraq, its people and government in the forthcoming phase in order to enable the country to rebuild itself, manage its own affairs and restore its regional and international status.

The ongoing transition in Iraq and the development of the political and economic processes there require the cooperation of all parties in supporting this approach. This should enable the Iraqi people to determine their political future without external intervention, to control their natural resources and to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity. Despite the overwhelming odds and the current instability, it is our hope that elections of the transitional national assembly and the formation of a transitional government will be completed by the end of January 2005. Jordan calls upon all states to provide every possible assistance towards achieving such goals. The United Nations obviously has a pivotal role to play to ensure a successful outcome. In this context, we welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of his Special Representative to Iraq, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi and express our willingness to fully cooperate with him in order to ensure complete and smooth fulfillment of the United Nations mandate in Iraq as set forth in Security Council resolution 1546.

In the meantime, Jordan strongly condemns violence, killing of civilians and beheadings in Iraq. We remain committed to helping our Iraqi brothers in terms of training Iraqi police and army units in order to enable them to improve their capacity to restore control over the security situation, as well as through the provision of humanitarian assistance. It is indeed regrettable that there is still a tiny minority representing extremist movements and organizations that seek political power by means of terror and brutality under the false pretext of Islamic action. Such groups exploit Islam as a means of achieving political or even personal gains by resorting to violence and terrorism thus, unfortunately, tarnishing the image of Islam, a faith of moderation and tolerance.

We also strongly condemn all acts of terror, including those gruesome and blind acts perpetrated in Madrid and Beslan, which require our firm collective stand in combating them.

Mr. President,

The eleventh of September 2001 events marked a new era of immense challenges to the international community in terms of dealing with the repercussions and implications of such events. Fighting international terrorism entails taking measures that affect international relations and the principles, which have guided States since the creation of the United Nations and the adoption of its Charter. In our view, a meaningful and effective global campaign against this phenomenon requires consensus on the following principles: Respect for the provisions of the Charter and the rules of international law, and non-transgression against the sovereignty of States; striking a balance between the counter-terrorism measures taken by States and the principles of human rights and public freedoms and non-abuse of the state of emergency to justify the counter-terrorism measures; providing a clear and specific legal definition for "terrorism" as well as for the concept of "terrorist groups", which would not allow any justification for the commission of terrorist acts. By the same token, such definitions should not compromise the rights envisioned in the Charter and the international humanitarian law, such as the right to self-determination. In the same vein, combating global terrorism ought not be a tool for discrimination against the followers of any creed or a cover for assault against their religious beliefs. Finally, the "no justification for terror" policy should not translate into disregarding its underlying reasons. Rather, an effective battle against terrorism would require global cooperation in addressing its root causes and the genesis of this plague.

Furthermore, the campaign against terrorism should bolster the efforts to fight the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, namely, aggression, genocide, war crimes and the crimes against humanity. In this regard, I wish to underline our full support for the important role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in preventing and prosecuting such crimes as well as in reinforcing the principles of international law and international humanitarian law. Jordan calls upon

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all States which have not done so to accede to the Rome Statute, to respect its provisions and to cooperate with the ICC so it becomes an effective instrument for fulfilling its purposes and principles and to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

I am pleased to announce that the government of Jordan has welcomed the formation of a high-level panel to examine the modalities for improving the performance of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as its reform in general. We support the exercise undertaken by the panel and look forward to receive its recommendations at the end of the year.

We do share the vision of the Secretary-General in his reports to the General Assembly in that reform is a continuous comprehensive dynamic process that must include all political, economic, administrative and financial activities of the United Nations. We also believe that for reform to succeed, genuine partnership between Member States represented by the regional groups and the Secretariat of the United Nations is required. In this regard, we believe that the thrust of reform should be the upgrading of efficiency and not the reduction in the level of resources available to the organization. Therefore, a set of benchmarks must be developed to assess performance. In the meantime, there should be no room for random setting of agenda priorities while steering away from selectivity in implementing reform areas. Regarding reform of the Security Council, I would be remiss if I failed to commend the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. Jordan supports the principle of increasing membership in both permanent and rotating seats in order to make the Council more representative of the U.N. membership. In this regard, Jordan is of the view that responsibilities of Council members should be reconsidered in order to ensure that all members have the capacity and political will to contribute effectively to the peacekeeping operations by way of meeting their obligations under The Charter. Contribution by Security Council members of human resources in peacekeeping field operations, not just financial and equipment inputs, is an essential requirement for the success of these operations. This is a primary responsibility that must be met by members of the Security Council, especially the permanent ones. In addition, we think that effective operations require the development of a flexible mechanism that allows the adoption of clear resolutions by the Council in close coordination with troop contributing countries who are not members of the Council as well as functioning in a transparent framework.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me once again thank you Sir. I would also like to wish this session of the General Assembly all the success as I pray to Almighty God to guide us to better serve our people and to live up to the responsibilities entrusted upon us.