



Jordan

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

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STATEMENT

**BY
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**BEFORE THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SIXTIETH SESSION**

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In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you warmly on your election to the Presidency of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. I would also like to express my confidence that your well-known wisdom and competence will contribute to enriching and focusing the deliberations of the Assembly. I would also like to express my gratitude to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, for the strenuous efforts he made during the past session. I would like also to convey my appreciation to Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his efforts in advancing the reform process in the United Nations.

From this rostrum, I convey my country's solidarity with the people and government of the United States of America for the tragedy, which was inflicted on certain regions and cities by the hurricane Katrina, and to extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and our

Mr. President,

Tackling the reform of the United Nations requires a recognition that the Organization has, since its establishment in 1945, achieved a large measure of success in the realization of the purposes and principles of its Charter. Objectivity further requires the admission that substantive and concrete changes have affected the content of the international order and the network of international relations; this made it imperative to review the role of the United Nations as a matter of urgent international necessity. This review should focus on a comprehensive revitalization of this role, to enable the organization to respond to such challenges affecting the international system.

Mr. President,

The Charter of the United Nations is a document capable of encompassing international developments, provided that member states have the political will to introduce the necessary reforms into the work of the main organs of the Organization. Those reforms should ensure that such organs are able to fulfill the ambitions of its members and provide an environment and mechanism to guarantee a faithful application of the Charter provisions and the implementation of the resolutions adopted, particularly Security Council resolutions without discrimination.

In this context, we welcome the results of this year's World Summit and the adoption of the outcome document, although more could have been achieved in this document, particularly in relation to the renewal of the international community's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, we hope that the document will be a starting point to development and reform, which we all wish to achieve, so that the United Nations remain as the corner stone of the system of international relations.

Mr. President,

While emphasizing the principles of non-use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, we believe that the Charter provisions, if comprehensively applied, would respond to the new and unconventional challenges, which constitute a possible threat to international peace and security. The Security Council can deal with such challenges appropriately and in a timely manner, if there was a will to do so without exceeding its powers, provided that serious consideration is given to revitalize the Council's mechanisms of operation to make them more

democratic, transparent and representative. This, in turn, requires an expansion of membership of the Council, both permanent and non-permanent, in such a way that reflects the current international situation and the significant increase in United Nations membership.

Mr. President,

In the context of reform, it is imperative to strengthen the General Assembly and enhance its role that complements the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. The role of the General Assembly is central, being the organ in which all United Nations member states are represented. It is, therefore, capable of dealing effectively with the requirements of multilateral international cooperation and the development of the policies needed for that purpose.

We support the development of the work of the Economic and Social Council to cope with the emerging economic, social and development challenges. We also emphasize on the Council's leading role in coordinating and guiding the international development process and promoting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which the member states were committed to fulfill by 2015.

It is important to seriously consider the current coordination mechanisms with other '___' and world trade. It is also imperative to consider reduction of developing countries, indebtedness, in accordance with a methodology that helps to achieve sustainable development and bridge the widening gap between developed and developing countries.

This development methodology ought to parallel with commitments by states, towards certain key issues; those include promotion of good governance, respect for human rights and basic freedoms and combating corruption. This reform process should take into consideration the particular cultural situation of each state.

Mr. President,

In confronting the existing challenges and settling conflicts, we should emphasize the necessity to respect the rule of law and human rights. Combating international terrorism is a priority that requires our close cooperation on the basis of the above principles. The same can be said when responding to acts of aggression against the other, which ought to be in accordance with the existing commitments under the Charter, international law and Security Council resolutions. To safeguard human rights, it is crucial to revitalize their mechanisms, develop their work and establish new mechanisms including the establishment of a Human Rights Council. In the same context, respect for the rule of law requires us to confront the more serious crimes against international community, which brings to the forefront the significant role of the International Criminal Court in combating war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. To promote the rule of law, it is imperative to resort to the International Court of Justice to settle disputes between states, and to respect its decisions and advisory opinions.

Mr. President,

My country is committed to reform and development. We believe that the ideal paradigm for reform is one that comes from within and aims at enhancing the protection of human rights and basic freedoms and expanding grass root participation in national decision-making. Jordan is in the process of launching a national agenda aiming at formulating a comprehensive reform methodology in the political, economic and social areas for the coming 10 years. It also aims at promoting grass root participation in political decision-making on the basis of solid democratic option. It promotes intellectual and political pluralism, safeguards public freedoms, and develops the judicial system while respecting its independence. On the economic and social level, the national agenda intends to increase economic growth, improve the living standards of citizens, consolidate the principle of equal

opportunities, and support women's role in public life. The agenda includes clear and specific evaluation standards. It shall bind future Jordanian governments in order to guarantee the sustainability and stability of the reform process.

Mr. President,

Any genuine reform and development process taking place in a state is influenced by the political realities of the region where the states exist. The pattern of reform in Jordan and the Middle East will be more sustainable and progressive if the political settlement, which is based on the international terms of reference of the peace process, the road map and the Arab peace initiative, reaches its goal of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Jordan welcomes Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and certain settlements in northern West Bank. We stress that this withdrawal is not an alternative to the Road Map, but must be part of it; that both Israeli and Palestinian sides ought to carry out their respective obligations under the Road Map and the recent Sharm el-Sheikh understandings. In this regard, we call upon Israel to withdraw its military forces from the Palestinian towns, which it has re-occupied in September 2000, and to cease all settlement activities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem so all upon Israel to cease the construction of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to demolish the parts which have already been built in those territories, return the properties that have been seized and pay compensation for the damage incurred. The construction of this wall, in its current route, constitutes a clear and continuous violation of peremptory norms of international law, including the right to self-determination, human rights principles and rules of international humanitarian law. This was emphasized by the International Court of Justice in the landmark advisory opinion it issued on the subject.

We also urge support for the Palestinian National Authority in its genuine efforts to preserve the truce and to deal firmly with any violations of this truce and of the cease-fire. We call upon the international community and the Quartet, in particular, to provide every possible assistance to the Palestinian National Authority. We emphasize here that the most important outcome of the Road Map is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which is geographically contiguous, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and its borders are based on those existing before 5 June 1967. Favorable conditions should be created for the peace process as a whole, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, on the basis of full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, and to reach an agreed solution on the issue of the Palestinian refugees, based on General Assembly resolution 194. Once this has been achieved, it should lead to the establishment of normal relations between the Arab states and Israel in accordance with the Arab peace initiative and the international terms of reference for the peace process.

Mr. President,

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan rejects all forms and manifestations of terrorism, regardless of their justifications. We stand together on the front lines, in word and deed, to eradicate this scourge, which has afflicted the whole international community and left nobody in this world unscathed. My country equally rejects all unjust and suspicious attempts to tie this crime to a specific religion, culture or geographical region, and stand firm against any such attempts towards the Islamic religion. Islam, in substance and practice, is based on moderation, middle course and facilitation. It was a pioneer in promoting the protection of human rights and safeguarding the life, dignity and property of the human being, even during war time. In this context, the Amman Message aims at emphasizing that this divine religion is beyond any suspicion, linking it to the incitement to harm the innocent human life.

Jordan welcomes the adoption of the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and supports the efforts aiming at the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention to Combat Terrorism. We further endorse the proposal made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish an international centre to combat terrorism; the proposal being adopted by the International Conference to Combat Terrorism, held in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this year.

Mr. President,

Jordan will continue to support Iraq in overcoming its current crisis and consolidating its security. We condemn all aspects and practices of terrorism and extremism in the country, which kills scores of innocent lives every day. Jordan calls on all groups and sectors of the Iraqi people to reach consensus on the basic principles and elements to preserve the unity of Iraq, the inviolability of its territory and its belonging to the Arab world. We also call for the respect of religious, ethnic and sectarian diversity in the framework of a free democratic choice and without prejudice to the rights of its minorities. We confirm our support for the political process in Iraq and call upon the international community to help provide appropriate conditions for its success and for the United Nations to continue performing its important role.

Mr. President,

Among the important subjects for Jordan is the drying out of the Dead Sea and how to preempt the ensuing environmental crisis through the implementation of the Red Sea — Dead Sea Canal Project. Recently, an agreement has been reached among the relevant parties and beneficiaries of the project, namely Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, on a feasibility study for the construction of the canal. The study will be finalized by the World Bank within the next two years, with international financing. We look forward to continued international support for this project and the implementation of all its phases in accordance with the above agreement.

Mr. President,

The future of the Middle East is subject to the creation of strong civil societies, enjoying decent life and deriving their orientations from their strong belief in their heritage. We endeavor to achieve this end at the national level through effective reform projects, the dividends of which, we have started to harvest in Jordan. Stability, security and peace, however, are essential to create the suitable environment for such societies. Putting an end to Israeli occupation of Arab territories and reaching a just and comprehensive solution will contribute to the achievement of a future that we look forward to.