



Position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan is pursuing consistent steps to ensure that the sustainable development goals are embedded in its national policies, strategies and programs, and that progress on the national and local levels is tracked through a comprehensive national database.

Jordan also believes that the achievement of sustainable development is directly linked to population dynamics in general and the demographic transition in particular. From our experience, rapid population growth and urbanization over the past decades in Jordan have led to an increase in poverty rates, food insecurity and unemployment, and placed tremendous pressure on infrastructure, environment, natural resources, energy and the availability of adequate housing and social services for people with limited income.

Mr. Chairperson,

Jordan has on the ground policies, strategies and legislation to support sustainable development. "Jordan 2025" charts a path for the future and determine the integrated economic and social framework that will govern the economic and social policies based on providing opportunities for all. The Government also endorsed the National Green Growth Plan (2017–2025).

Jordan has been actively involved in regional and international endeavors and has reiterated its commitment to related international agreements, including the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) and the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Eco-Cities Forum, which was launched by Jordan as a regional initiative for Mediterranean countries.

Achieving national goals and creating sustainable cities has necessitated the adoption of spatial planning policies to control urbanization and secure adequate services and infrastructure to accommodate the increasing population.

Mr. Chairperson,

Jordan is pressing ahead with policies to achieve energy security by diversifying sources and forms of energy and increasing the contribution of renewable energy to the total primary energy mix, thereby significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A comprehensive national plan for energy efficiency and conservation has been adopted to increase energy efficiency to 20% by 2020 compared to 7.1% in 2016.

The Government of Jordan is taking steps to enhance its water resources by improving the management of supply and demand, optimizing domestic, industrial, commercial and agricultural water supply systems, and implementing energy efficient, and renewable energy projects to reduce energy costs to the water sector. With regard to sanitation services, Jordan is on track to increase the percentage of households with access to sanitation services to 70% by 2019.

The transport sector in Jordan has made notable progress in recent years. Nonetheless, challenges remain; the sector needs to elevate the level of public transportation services provided to citizens, finalize its restructuring process, update its legislation, encourage private sector investments in transportation, implement key public railway projects and provide logistics facilities that meet international standards.

Mr. Chairperson,

International migrations and human mobility have taken center stage in the last seventy years or so in Jordan, as waves of migrants have been forced to flee their home countries and come to Jordan as a result of political conflict and wars.

These migrations have affected different aspects of life in Jordan and severely stressed the country's limited natural and man-made resources.

Jordan plays an undeniable humanitarian role by hosting over 1.3 million Syrian refugees over the last seven years despite the scarcity of its resources and international community support falling short of demand. This has significantly increased population growth rates, altered the population structure and delayed the realization of the demographic dividend.

Mr. Chairperson,

The large numbers of Syrians entering the Jordanian labor market, especially in the informal sector, have substantially limited the availability of jobs for Jordanians. On the other hand, the increasing rate of child marriages,

unregistered births and child labor among Syrians in Jordan are leading to negative social and cultural implications. Nonetheless, Jordan is proceeding along the humanitarian track, continuing to serve as a leading regional and global model in dealing with the refugee crisis. The success of this model requires sustained and scaled up support from key partners to maintain the resilience of Jordan and mitigate the impact of unprecedented regional crises.

Mr. Chairperson,

Land use is a common theme of development efforts and so is the need to elevate the standard of living in rural areas. Ignoring rural development often triggers higher and unpredictable waves of internal migration from rural to urban areas and an uneven distribution of population across the country; thus ensure equitable distribution of development gains to minimize internal migration is essential.

Mr. Chairperson,

Jordan is a sending and receiving country of human capital. According to latest estimates, around one million Jordanians live outside Jordan, most of whom are highly trained and educated. On the other hand, 2017 estimates show that Jordan has around 1.7 million foreign nationals working in different professions.

The influx of refugees of different nationalities gave rise to numerous challenges particularly in respect to demographics. With the number of non-Jordanians reaching nearly 2.9 million, population growth rates have substantially increased and the ability to realize the expected demographic dividend has become a challenge.

The results of the 2015 Population and Housing Census indicate an increase of 1.9 percentage points in internal migration compared to 2004, with 714,082 individuals (10.9%) of the Jordanian population taking part internal migration in 2015.

Thank you for listening,