



***Jordan***

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF  
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**BEFORE THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION**

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## **Mr. President**

I would like to congratulate you for your election as the President of this 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly. I wish you success in guiding it towards strengthening the role of the United Nations in advancing international relations in the spirit of its charter, which is the most important pillar of the rule of the law in international relations.

I would also like to thank your predecessor, His Excellency Srgjan Kerim for the good efforts he made to make the last session successful. Also, I would like to commend the Secretary General Mr. Ban-Ki Moon for his efforts to reform this organization in order to carry out an effective role in addressing the emerging global challenges.

## **Mr. President**

You included in your introductory statement on the day you assumed the presidency of this assembly, 16 September 2008, many issues in the political, humanitarian and spiritual areas. For example, among other things, you mentioned the necessity of development the United Nations bodies in such a way that enable it to adapt to the major changes on the international arenas over the past 63 years of its establishment, following of the end of World War II. You also mentioned that it should be improved in such a way to be able to tackle the volatile changes whose consequences started to manifest over the past two decades, since the end of the Cold War and polarization.

In this context, Jordan believes that it is essential to revitalize the role of the General Assembly as envisaged in the charter. That is the international decision-making process to be conducted in a democratic way. Jordan supports the trend of rebalancing the relationship between General Assembly and the Security Council.

A week ago, the Secretary-General submitted his report on the work of the Organization. He made his assessment of the world situation. It was clear that we face challenges encompass the human activities as a whole. These challenges go beyond any individual country or individual region. Hence, this requires us to examine its dangers, based on convictions and drives, to find proper solutions and guarantee moving forward collectively. Among the challenges mentioned by the Secretary General; were the failure of making the progress in negotiations on international world trade, the high price of energy, food and commodities and climate change. I second what the Secretary General said in his assessment. I would like to add to that the

challenges, which have imposed upon us by the continuation of the military occupation and denying people the right to their self-determination and the right to free expression of its identity, and the growing crisis of conflict between cultures, as well as the scourge of international terrorism and extremism.

The most important work being carried out by the United Nations for our region, the Middle East, is that it was and still is the custodian of the international law. It governs the international relations and it is the standard by which we measure progress made in our international community on one hand, and forms the objective approach of maintaining international peace and security, on the other hand.

Having believed in the role of the United Nations, we still see the Organization as the basic forum to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, ending the occupation of Arab land and redress injustice and suffering of the Palestinian people.

For decades, the Arab states, have taken many initiatives and made many proposals based on international legitimacy. These aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict, so the Palestinians can be liberated from the Israeli occupation and to be able to live in dignity and become the masters of their natural resources, and lastly to be free to enjoy their cultural and human heritage.

In this context, in 2003 the Arab States collectively submitted a comprehensive peace initiative with a view to ending the conflict situation, which has been going on for 60 years. In addition, it aimed at putting an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab land-Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. These lands have been occupied by Israel since 1967. This was in exchange for comprehensive peace that would include the mutual recognition between Israel and the Arab states, including the state of Palestine, and establishing normal relations among them. The peace Arab initiative was and still is a clear invitation to Israel to become part of our region without conditions or limitations. While the Arab peace initiative was widely welcomed by the nations of the world and adopted by 57 states, the members of Organization of the Islamic Conference, Israel on its part ignored this initiative, embarked on building the separation wall in defiance to the advisory opinion of the ICJ, and intensified its settlements activities, which threatens the chances for establishing the Palestinian independent and viable state.

Then, we had the efforts of the Quartet, which are indispensable to move forward the political process towards reaching a peaceful solution, ending the Israeli occupation, dismantling the settlements in the Palestinian occupied territory. Also, the Quartet is necessary to fulfill the ambitions and hopes of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international legitimacy by ending the occupation and establishing its own national state on its national territory, including East Jerusalem, and the return of the refugees to their homes, cities and villages, which they were forced to leave them in 1948.

From this platform Jordan, supports the re-negotiations originated in Annapolis and cherish the peace choice, the strategic peace that was reaffirmed by the Arab peace initiative and the two-state solution. At the same time, while we are approaching the first anniversary of Annapolis, we believe that the challenges face these negotiations compel the international community to demand the parties of the negotiations to fulfill the pledges they made. Moreover, it should request clearly and explicitly the members of the international Quartet to make further efforts to achieve the desired results in the final status negotiations and the obligation of the roadmap.

The last months of this year will be critical in the journey of these negotiations. Therefore, it is imperative to have the political will in Israel to solve this ongoing conflict for more than six decades. In addition, the Palestinian people should be supported in their land and strengthen the Palestinian Authority to continue fulfilling its obligations and improving the conditions of the Palestinians in all occupied Palestinian territories and building the state institutions. This will require mending the rift in Palestine against the backdrop of the Arab peace initiative and to promote the position of the Palestinian Authority in negotiation and strengthen it on the international arena.

While all parties strive to reach a final solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel continues its illegal practices of seizure of Arab land and effect changes in the occupied territories, such as building settlements, building the separation wall and changing the status of Jerusalem. All of which constitute nothing less than flagrant violations of the norms of international law the principles of international legitimacy, including provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention. Israeli settlement, and recently at an accelerated pace, threatens to wipe out all of the progress has been made in the whole peace process.

We reject all Israeli unilateral measures aimed at creating a new reality on the Palestinian land, in general, and in Jerusalem in particular, including the threats it may constitute to the Islamic and Arabic character of the holy city. We reaffirm that the Israeli violations in the Holy City and specifically at Bab Al-Maghriba contradict the norms of international law, the fourth Geneva Convention and Conventions and the 1954 Hague as well as the decision of World Heritage Committee of July 2008.

As Jordan has a historic role in maintaining and looking after the Islamic Holy Places in Jerusalem, we call upon Israel to comply with its pledged obligations and put an end to its illegal practices.

Unless justice is given to the Palestine people, our region will witness destabilization for a long time. However, it will not be the only affected region by this destabilization, because the feeling of great injustice, disappointment and acrimony by the Palestinians will increase with the continued stalemate in the peace process. This will fuel extremism in all its kinds and forms. Further, it will be used as pretext by those who promote destabilization in any country within the region and beyond.

I would like to congratulate the brotherly people of Lebanon on reaching a national reconciliation, which resulted in the election of the President and forming a new national unity government. Also, I congratulate the Lebanese people for embarking on an extensive national dialogue aiming at strengthening the Lebanese state institutions and seeking ways to ensure defending their territory and protecting its sovereignty from external threats.

Concerning Iraq, we welcome the remarkable progress made in general in that brotherly country and look for the continued improvement of the situation at all levels. Recently, Jordan has reopened its embassy in Baghdad and was adequately staffed. His Majesty King Abdullah II Recently had visited the brotherly country, Iraq. This visit met was widely welcomed at the Arab and world level. While we encourage the channels of communication in the political and economic sphere between Iraq and its Arab brothers, we encourage the Iraqi government to continue its approach of building channels of national reconciliation, in order to build upon the progress made in political and security areas. This progress encourages the return of Iraqis, who sought refuge in the neighboring countries, and participation in the political process, which aims at establishing a society based on political pluralism free from sectarianism and factionalism and expanding the scope of its participants.

## Mr. President

Making the Middle East, a zone free from weapons of mass destruction is a prerequisite to ensure peace and stability in the region. Because of our belief in the high preventive goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and for the sake of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in our region, like all the countries of the region, with the exception of Israel, we acceded to this Treaty, which has been in force since 1970. On this basis, we call upon the international community and the influential states in the world to ensure the accession of all the countries of the region to this International Treaty. It is also important to strengthen the international monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the Middle East is a zone free from nuclear weapons and in order not to give a pretext to the states have not yet acceded to continue on its nuclear military programmes.

Concerning the Iranian nuclear issue, we believe that every nation should exercise its right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We in Jordan, strongly call for a peaceful solution to this issue.

In this regard, Jordan attaches importance to promoting Security and stability in the Arab Gulf area, in accordance with principles of international legitimacy, good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. We welcome any effective contribution by the Arab States in any endeavour would maintain undiminished security and the stability of the Arab region

Jordan, like the whole area, suffered from the scourge of terrorism. This has made us more vigilant and more determined to combat terrorism effectively in order to eradicate it. Jordan upholds international counter-terrorism conventions and values the international cooperation in this area. In addition, it takes the necessary measures at the national level, including, legislative measures to combat this scourge effectively to support the international efforts in the area of combating terrorism.

Often, Manifestations of extremism in the region is based on politicized pretexts to serve narrow-focused interests of certain groups. Those groups misrepresent the noble Islamic religion and use it as a cover for their misdeeds, thereby threatening the forces of moderation and projecting incorrect image of Islam. In this regard, it is worth mentioning here the initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah II on Amman Message, which was unanimously adopted by scholars of the Muslim Nations. The Message

highlighted the real rosy image of Islam, sought to curb its victimization and to protect it against attacks.

As we are about to celebrate the first decade of the auspicious reign of His Majesty King Abdullah II, we are very proud of the great deal of achievements made during his happy reign, and look for more achievements in the days ahead. During this decade, the Jordanian participation in the peacekeeping operations expanded to reach an accumulative number of participants from Jordanian armed forces and police of sixty thousand men and women who served in 20 military missions spread over four continents. This contribution reflects the serious and full commitment of Jordan to commitment to enhancing International peace and security.

By the end of this year, our economy will double in this decade. The per capita income grew 65%. Our exports grew three- fold, our foreign investment grew at the same level and our external debt decreased from 84.5% to 28.5%. Jordan implemented ambitious reform plans towards liberalization of foreign trade and enhance the environment for fair competition in business, strengthened the programmes and the institutions of good governance, political development, enhance the role of women, combat corruption, protection of human rights, a major breakthrough in the area of health and education and promoting consistent trend in economy. The government also carries out ambitious programmes towards political, economic and social reforms in accordance with the national agenda, which is a reform plan over ten years with specific outputs and performance benchmarks.

Jordan believes that, by developing the potential of youth to the full and channeling this potential towards supporting the development process will create better opportunities in the region to ensure their future. Youth in the Middle East represents more than 60 per cent of the total population. They are fastest growing segment today. Being aware of the important role of young people, we have focused on strengthening their role and their development and participation in various aspects of rebuilding of the national economy and consolidating their contribution to the economic growth process.

Despite vigorous and fruitful efforts and successes made in platform of development and reform, the continual crises in our region pose major challenges to our development march. These challenges exacerbated by world economic crises of this year, high cost of food and oil to significant

levels. These factors increased inflation by 15 per cent. Hence, I stress the need for including the voice of States similar to Jordan in terms of per capita income, to benefit from the international effort in addressing these challenges of the world economic crisis, as well as the energy and food crises linked to it. The programmes and mechanism for addressing these challenges should take into consideration the particular situations of those states.

Thank you Mr. President