



Jordan

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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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SECOND SECRETARY

**BEFORE THE 44TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA ITEM 4 "GENERAL DEBATE ON NATIONAL
EXPERIENCE IN POPULATION MATTERS, FERTILITY,
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT"**

NEW YORK, 11 APRIL 2011

Agenda item 4

“General Debate on national experience in population matters, fertility, reproductive health and development”

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the bureau members on your election to the 44th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

There is no doubt that population trends have impact on economic, social and environmental development and while the linkage between demographic and economic dynamics is undeniably complex and has often been disputed, there is growing evidence in many developing countries that high population growth rate requires attaining economic growth rates that are higher than the population growth rate in order to maintain decent standards of living and provide jobs for the growing numbers of job seekers. In addition, the relationship between human resources and development is not limited to the availability of human resources but also to the quality of those resources in terms of their educational qualifications, professional competence and skills.

The Secretary-General's reports on those themes clearly illustrate the impacts of these changing demographics on societies and the need to incorporate key demographic trends into the international development agenda and national development strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to share with you some of our national experiences regarding population and development.

Jordan is giving great attention to new developments and enhancements of its human resources, especially when it comes to demographic changes that present a “Demographic window of opportunity”. The opportunity is usually accompanied

by various social and economic changes, which can take the form of challenges in case they are not employed appropriately. Therefore, prior preparation, planning and monitoring of these changes can create useful opportunities, which can occur in conjunction with the continued decline in fertility rates. It is evident that the human element represents the aim and ultimate purpose for development.

In order to determine the timing and duration of the demographic opportunity, a methodology for comparison between three scenarios has been presented at the national level, the first scenario assumes the continuation of the current demographic situation, the second scenario is consistent with the objectives of the national agenda and aims to reach a total fertility rate of 2.5 by 2017 which will continue to decline until it levels with the replacement rate (2.1 births per woman) in 2030, the third scenario expects the fertility rate to reach the replacement rate in 2040.

Mr. Chairman,

The “Demographic Opportunity” proposes policies to achieve and maximize the benefits through increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of reproductive health/ family planning programs, raising awareness and promoting healthy behaviors among youth and adolescents, while taking into account religious teachings, customs and tradition’s considerations at the national level, in addition to advancing educational methods, research and development activities as well as improving the economic and social situation of women by increasing their participation in the labor market.

Preparing for post demographic opportunity requires moving towards optimal economic and social preparation. Consequently addressing policies for supporting efforts to develop new insurances and providing support to expand the insurance categories and services while noting that the expansion of the policies for the post opportunity phase will be developed with a proposal for monitoring mechanisms for the currently implemented national strategies and action plans.

I thank you.