



Position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable
development

54th Session of the United Nations Population and
Development Committee

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Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by extending congratulations to your Excellency on your appointment as president of the 54th session for the United Nations Commission on Population and Development. We here appreciate your efforts and the efforts of the esteemed members of the Council for the support you extend to population and development concerns.

Mr. President,

Jordan adheres to international recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDD) programme of work, and to the goals of sustainable development 2030, particularly the second goal (ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture) which Jordan strives to achieve by 2030.

Jordan continues to work on fulfilling policies and programs to promote food security and eliminate hunger and malnutrition in accordance with international recommendations. However, Jordan still suffers from the strains of a multiple of malnutrition problems and non-communicable diseases associated with diet. The rate of anaemia among women is 30%, and 17% among children; the rate of overweight and obesity among adults is 60%, and this percentage goes up among women to 40% and to 24% among men. This heightens the need to accelerate the establishment of sustainable and resilient food systems, mechanisms and tools to advance action towards healthy food systems, especially in light of the urgent repercussions caused by the new COVID-19 pandemic. Achieving these goals is a national and international demand in the all-inclusive sense of food provision, access and safety through the implementation of national strategies and policies related to the promotion of food security, among which is the upgrading of the National Food Security Strategy. Despite these achievements, Jordan still faces a range of challenges in promoting food security and nutrition for its population as a result of the increasing demand on food due to high population growth rates coupled with unsustainable consumption patterns, pressure on environmental and ecosystems, as well as water scarcity, where the annual water per capita does not exceed 96 c³ cubic meters besides climate change. Also, Jordan ranks 64th on the 2019 World Food Security Index.

Mr. President,

Like many other countries in the world, Jordan has suffered from the repercussions of the New COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected all social groups, particularly the fragile and the vulnerable, and many economic sectors since early 2020, and the ensuing economic effects which have intensified the severity of poverty and unemployment and a decline in food security in all perspectives and its impact on social protection programmes which have constituted a challenge in continuing to the path to combat and eliminate hunger by 2030

In support of low-income sections of society, Jordan has launched a number of initiatives in this regard, among which is 'Himmat Watan' initiative; funds in this initiative were allocated to support poor and needy families, stemming from Jordan's keenness to assist the poor and the vulnerable throughout this pandemic. The Ministry of Social Development took on the responsibility of offering cash and in-kind support to the beneficiaries; this has contributed in alleviating the suffering of poor families resulting from the closures. The private sector, with all its varied components and sections, also contributed in provisions to support the Fund. As for health, the Jordanian Government has also taken all necessary measures to protect individuals from this pandemic, along with the needed procedures to protect the social fabric, reduce the economic consequences affecting individuals as a result of the outbreak of this pandemic, and all the while taking into account the flow and continuity of social and economic life and the sustainability of the food supply chains, securing a sufficient stock of grains, food and fodder where the amount of grain and fodder reached a record level to increase the national stock.

Mr. President,

In order to reduce unemployment during this pandemic which affected the workforce, particularly in the non-formal sectors, the government issued a number of defense orders related to employment in the private sector stating that the dismissal of any worker because of the economic conditions Jordan was experiencing, was by decree of these orders prohibited. These measures have contributed in reducing the negative effects of the economy on the livelihood of families under these conditions. Yet, and despite all efforts exerted, unemployment rate rose from 19.3% at the beginning of 2020 to

24.7% in the fourth quarter of the same year, which will reflect on the ability of families to provide food and means of support and livelihood.

Mr. President,

Jordan is a food-importing country, mainly due to its dependence on imports in providing food to its population of more than 10.8 million and is expected to reach about (12) million by 2030. Jordan also bears the responsibility of providing food to about 31% of non-Jordanians living on its land. This has, and continues to put pressure on food security. Jordan imports more than 57% of its food commodities. The pandemic has revealed the importance of directing the country's efforts on food control enhancing productivity and self-sufficiency in face of crisis and emergencies rather than relying on long-term import.

Mr. President,

Jordanian women play a key role in promoting food security; some women contribute in income-generating activities by making and preparing food at home. However, women's economic participation is still low, along with their limited ownership of agricultural lands, which does not exceed 6% of the Kingdom's total agricultural holdings, and at an economic participation rate of 5.6% in the agricultural sector. Also, a high proportion of women work in the non-formal sector; another reason for women's poor participation in economy is inability of women to obtain official funding compared to men, as well as marketing complications. The special measures to contain the Corona pandemic have highlighted the challenges Jordanian women face pertaining to their roles in maintaining food security for their families; the loss of some of them to their jobs is another challenge, as well as the additional burden of house chores on women and the additional care needs of the family. Here, the need arises to design social protection measures that take into account gender differences, identify the most vulnerable, invest in women's leadership and involve them in the design and implementation of responsive interventions that take into account the needs of all.

Mr. President,

Climate change, water scarcity and drought are among the main challenges facing the enhancement of food security. Within this context, Jordan has taken urgent actions to combat climate change and its effects through adopting a national climate change policy that reflects priorities in environmental and development sectors, highlights the response to the negative impacts of climate change and proposes sustainable options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. President,

The Corona pandemic has intensified the government's work to strengthen the relationship between the population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development; the government demonstrated the importance of adopting different strategies to promote inclusive development at all national and international levels by creating databases that contribute to comprehensive development, manage food security plans, strengthen the role of the private sector, establish digital information and early warning systems, promote research and development with the aim of promoting productivity and food safety, shift to more responsible production and consumption patterns, apply targeted social protection programmes and support farmers, take measures to respond to climate change, fluctuating rainfall, drought and rising temperatures; preserve biodiversity, protect the environment and strengthen international cooperation in this area, in addition to the need for the international community to support Jordan's efforts in hosting the refugees so that Jordan can meet the needs resulting from the crisis of this migration to maintain food supply, reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

We, from this podium and in light of the repercussions of COVID-19, emphasize the importance of rebuilding the global system towards a more comprehensive economic recovery through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships that form a global safety net to alleviate poverty and unemployment, enhance food security and protect ecosystems.

We look forward to the outcome of the summit on food systems to be held before the end of this year.

Thank you for your kind attention.