



# The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

## POSITION PAPER

on

Commission on Population and Development, 52nd session  
United Nations, New York

New York, 1-5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development. We appreciate your efforts and those of the Council for the generous support for population and development issues.

Jordan has affirmed its commitment to the international conferences on population and development and adopted their outcomes, including the implementation of the ICPD's Program of Action of the 1994 Cairo conference.

Jordan has taken into account the priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals and developed a Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda. **Jordan's 2025 Vision** encapsulates a holistic approach that aims to achieve a prosperous and inclusive economy, deepening reforms, integrating the SDGs into national and local planning frameworks, budgets, statistical systems, and monitoring frameworks to achieve those goals.

**These achievements are a result of** the adoption of an integrated approach based on investment in individual capacities, dignity, and human rights as a basis for sustainable development; availing education for all, access to and quality of health services, a strategy for poverty eradication, comprehensive social protection, the promotion of political and economic empowerment of women and youth, and a participatory approach that encourages public-private partnership and civil society organizations.

Mr. President,

**Despite these achievements, there are still many challenges.** Regional crises continue to have negative effects on Jordan's path towards sustainable development; meanwhile non-Jordanians constitute about 3 million, or 31% of the population, including more than 1.3 million Syrians.

**The effects of these crises have resulted in** high rates of population growth, an increase in the need for basic services, security and military pressures, budget deficits, high levels of unemployment and poverty, slowing economic growth, and increasing public debt, among others.

To maintain development gains, Jordan has developed a plan to respond to the Syrian crisis and to strengthen close cooperation between States to protect the rights of refugees and the resilience of host communities.

**Mr. President,**

Jordan's population exceeded 10 million, 61% in the 15-64 age group. This shift in the age structure of the population may make it possible to achieve the demographic dividend in the coming decades.

**However, this projection will only become a reality if** the demographic changes are matched by targeted investments in education including enhancing the link between educational outputs and market-relevant skills, and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health services throughout the life cycle, especially for adolescents and young people, in women's empowerment, in economic and social development of youth and offering employment opportunities for them.

**Mr. President,**

**Jordan has** integrated sexual and reproductive health services into a human rights-based approach and has invested in the provision of comprehensive, high-quality services, particularly for marginalized groups. **As a result,** maternal and child health improved and life expectancy increased.

**However, there is still a need for** careful targeting of the most vulnerable and for reducing the disparities in the quality and access to health care provided to achieve universality and justice, especially in rural areas.

**Mr. President,**

There is strong political will at the highest level to support women's empowerment, but despite the high level of education for women, women's participation in the economy and decision-making positions remains low, adversely affecting opportunities for their empowerment and control over resources.

There is also an upward trend in underage marriage of up to 18.1 percent of all marriages, with 44 percent of these occurring among Syrian refugees. This violates the legitimate rights of children, including the right to education and capacity development.

Promoting women's empowerment and equality, reviewing legislations, improving the policy environment and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence will positively reflect on ensuring better results for young women's reproductive health and access to universal and equitable rights.

**Mr. President,**

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda represents a golden opportunity for countries to meet their commitments to international development frameworks for population and development by creating an enabling environment for systematic action towards achieving the goals and monitoring their implementation.

We emphasize the importance of the interdependence of the political, economic, social, and environmental aspects of development, because they enhance the resilience of systems and institutions which is vital to the achievement of the SDGs and the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We thank you for all the support for these endeavors.