



Jordan

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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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FIRST SECRETRAY

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**AGENDA ITEM 20
“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the various reports that are before the Committee under this agenda item. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of the Arab Group.

Notwithstanding the efforts to incorporate sustainable development into policy agendas by recognizing, understanding and acting on interconnections between the economy, society and the natural environment, the international community still encounters multiple challenges of uneven development, extreme poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, financial and economic crises, climate change, energy insecurity and more frequent and devastating disasters, which not only hinder the achievement of development goals, but actually reverse development. Consequently, it is even more pressing that serious actions are taken to address those challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio+20 outcome document reaffirmed that sustainable development is the only viable path for development through the promotion of an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable future for the planet for present and

future generations. In advancing sustainable development, development co-operation does have a vital and catalytic role to play, in this regard, a re-commitment to new and additional financial resources for sustainable development as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, and, on favorable terms, is critical in assisting developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change is a serious environmental challenge that could undermine the drive for sustainable development. Failure to act on climate change already costs the world economy 1.6 per cent of global GDP amounting to \$1.2 trillion in forgone prosperity a year, moreover, rapidly escalating temperatures and carbon-related pollution will double costs to 3.2 per cent of world GDP by 2030.

As a country characterized with semi-arid climate, high dependence on rainfall and scarcity of water resources and desertification. Jordan is one of the countries that face climate change challenges since the ecosystem productivity and water resources are highly dependent on the hydrological cycle.

Also since climate protection is strongly linked with other areas of development cooperation, access to clean and renewable energy is considered as a key for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development.

In this context we look forward to a fruitful outcome at the COP 18/ CMP8, which will take place from 26 November to 7 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. The conference will set the volume of carbon emitted between now and 2020 and give shape to the new global treaty, which will be agreed in 2015. The full implementation of the delicate package endorsed in COP17/CMP7 in Durban, in

all its aspects, including the conclusion of a credible legally binding second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, in addition to the successful conclusion of the work of the AWG-LCA as well as addressing in a balanced and effective manner the issues of adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building to form a sound basis for the future work under the newly established AWG-DP are of vital importance.

Mr. Chairman,

The response to the impacts of climate change and disasters should include the strengthening of the Hugo Framework for Action for disaster risk reduction and supporting efforts for the implementation of plans and strategies for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development. The ecological problems caused by human economic activity are worsening and taking on global dimensions. With climate change pushing the world towards more frequent extreme weather, the situation is likely to get worse. The International Strategy for Natural Disaster Reduction estimates that the global cost of natural disasters is anticipated to exceed 300 billion annually by the year 2050, if the likely impact of climate change is not countered with effective disaster reduction measures.

Mr. Chairman,

Biodiversity conservation contributes to environmental sustainability, a critical Millennium Development Goal (MDG). In Jordan, the global importance of the ecology lies within the geographical location, climatological and geological

formations which provide for a tremendous diversity of habitats, including some of the unusual distribution of species, communities and coral reefs. Comprehensive steps to ensure the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity have been undertaken that include the continuation of the establishment of the national protected areas network, the enhancement of strict monitoring on wildlife components and promoting the application of strategic environmental assessments as means to promote sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio+20 Conference has provided a historic momentum for the future we want and as we approach the MDG countdown and the initiations of the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda in the midst of a changing global landscape, a more inclusive approach to poverty eradication and a better integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the policy framework, can substantially stimulate development worldwide to the benefit of all.

I thank you.