



Jordan

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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

NEW YORK, 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this 62nd General Assembly, and wish you success in leading the Assembly's deliberations. I also wish to extend my thanks to your predecessor, Sheikha Haya Al Khalifah, for her good management of the deliberations of the previous session. I would like also to express my sincere thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, for his unrelenting efforts since he assumed his office to advance the work of the Organization and activate its role in the service of international peace and security.

The Middle East region, of which Jordan is an integral part, continues to face formidable challenges, arising out of failure to make any progress in solving its main regional issues. Jordan, however, does not accept that these challenges become a justification for abandoning its national priorities in political and economic reform and the achievement of the highest degree of openness and participation. It has, therefore, adopted a national strategy, striking a balance between continuing to effect reform and the protection of its national security.

Jordan also continued to deal with regional issues on the basis of its belief that it is necessary to reach just solutions by peaceful means, in such a way that ensures the rights of all concerned and achieves regional stability, based on strong conviction that the use of military force and the imposition of unilateral solutions lead only to the aggravation of problems, increasing the suffering of the people and threatening regional and international stability.

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The Palestine Question, which is the core of the Middle East conflict, is now at a decisive crossroads: either the regional parties and the international community succeed in achieving real and visible progress, reaching a just and lasting solution within a reasonable and agreed-upon time frame, or the whole region will be swept into extremism and anarchy, which will cause a grave threat to world peace and security.

Therefore, the international meeting, scheduled to be held before the end of this year, and which the U.S. has called for its convening, may be the last chance to achieve progress, which makes it imperative to prepare well for it by the United States, and by members of the International Quartet as well as the regional parties to ensure that the real issues – those of the final status between Palestine and Israel - are seriously discussed, leading to real progress on these issues, allowing for reaching a lasting agreement thereon, during a short period of time and implementing it within a time frame agreed to by the two parties.

The situation in the region cannot withhold a continuation of movements that do not allow for any real progress. The holding of international and regional meetings and carrying out negotiations should not be an end in itself. It is rather a means to reaching the end, i.e., reaching a real peace, accepted and preserved by the peoples of the region.

Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have been going on for a long time. The whole world knows that the records of those negotiations contain alternatives that provide solutions for the final-status issues. What is needed now is the political will to reach an agreement, instead of looking for pretext and prolonging the negotiations.

Israel will never enjoy the security which it seeks and the Middle East region will not enjoy stability unless the Palestinian people get their national rights through the establishment of an independent, contiguous and viable Palestinian state in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and unless other Arab occupied territories are returned.

The situation currently experienced by the Palestinian territories is not at all in harmony with a wish to achieve peace. In order to give the impression of honest movement towards peace, settlement activities must stop immediately, as must stop tampering with the status of East Jerusalem, including stopping all excavations in the Jerusalem Holy Mosque area and putting an end to all practices, which contradict with international law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The achievement of the desired progress requires a vast change of the tragic situation experienced by the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. There is an immediate need to revive the Palestinian economy, leading to launching investment, creating viable projects and providing work opportunities. This revival of the economy will not materialize unless the Palestinians enjoy freedom of movement, which requires ending the closures, removing security road blocks and stopping military incursions.

It is also imperative to enable the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas and his legitimate government to rebuild its institutions to succeed in executing its national programme, which deserves financial support from the international community.

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A united and stable Iraq constitutes an essential component of balance and stability in the region. While Jordan welcomes the adoption of resolution 1770 by the Security Council, it supports the United Nations assumption of a central role to ensure reconciliation and stability in that country.

The preservation of any achievements made on security will only be accomplished within an appropriate political environment; and this necessitates a real national reconciliation that guarantees the participation of all components of the Iraqi people in a political process that is based on reviving Iraqi nationalism, far from sectarianism and ethnicity; and founded on the unity of the state and its right to maintain security and ban militias from encroaching on this exclusive right. This preservation of achievements made on security must also be based on prohibiting any interference in Iraq's internal affairs, in addition to implementing what has been agreed-upon including the review of the constitution and a number of laws, and building the security and government institutions on a national basis.

The fact that huge numbers of Iraqis have been forced to leave their country puts tremendous burdens on neighboring countries, including Jordan, which continues to offer all that it can to host hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, with all the pressures that this imposes on its economy, resources and infrastructure, with little help from the international community.

While we call on the international community to stand by us in confronting this huge burden, we believe that the lasting solution to this problem is by restoring stability to Iraq, so that its citizens can return to their country and contribute to its reconstruction.

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Jordan and the Arab Group condemned the assassinations which took place in Lebanon, the latest of which being the assassination of the Member of Parliament, Antoine Ghanem, a few days ago. These assassinations show how dangerous the situation in that country is and highlights the need for the international community to take a firm stand, in order to put an end to these grave violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to take all measures to stop any foreign interference in its affairs. This will ensure that the Lebanese people will find appropriate solutions through their constitutional institutions and ensure its internal legitimacy, including holding presidential elections in accordance with the constitution and within the time frame provided therein.

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Jordan is working today within the G11, which was launched at the initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, to establish economic cooperation and support the development process of lower-middle income countries. We look forward to working with other states and groups of states, including particularly the G8 in order to establish cooperation that would enable G11 members to preserve what they have achieved and make a break-through, leading to their success in achieving sustainable development.

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Confronting extremism and terrorism requires more effective international cooperation and dictates activating channels of cultural and religious dialogue, especially within the United Nations system. At the same time, there is an urgent need to refrain from Islamophobia and from causing animosity to this tolerant religion.

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Today's world requires a more effective United Nations role in addressing international challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, international crime, poverty, hunger, infectious diseases; and increasing factional, sectarian and ethnic conflicts.

In this context, we emphasize the importance of building upon what has been achieved and call for building on the achievements and efforts to reform the United Nations and its organizations, in order to enable them to enhance their performance. We view the reform process as vital and of high priority. Jordan will continue to play an influential role in this direction and offer reasonable and applicable visions, particularly in Security Council reforms.

Finally, I assure you that Jordan will keep its commitments to the achievement of international peace and security. The size of Jordanian forces participating in peace-keeping operations and their geographically wide deployment reflect the actual role of Jordan in the United Nations System and reflect also its political will to achieve international peace and security. We take this commitment very seriously and place the resources, professionalism and discipline of our armed forces at the service of international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.