

**Statement delivered on behalf of
His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

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Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor to join you today on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the people of Jordan. My country appreciates the tremendous work of the organizers of Rio-Plus-20. On behalf of our delegation, allow me also to thank the Government and the people of Brazil for their warm hospitality. There is no better place to look with confidence to the future than Brazil, which has been an inspiring model for growth and development.

Two short decades have passed since the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development met here in Rio de Janeiro. Perhaps for the first time in history the world understands the critical nexus between human development, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. Each gain we have made has reinforced other advances; each crisis has reminded us how interdependent our challenges are, and how important cooperation is to move forward.

If we were to stand for a minute and think of the tools that are available today to this generation, we would see much to justify a high level of confidence. New Information and Communication Technologies have eroded the barriers against

knowledge-sharing and brought people together in new alliances. Remarkable advances in renewable energy; new capabilities in health services, infrastructure, and education; and not least, the emergence of powerful and rising economies in the South: these and other realities are now the global engines for growth.

Distinguished delegates,

Our world now faces complex problems in the areas most basic to human life and welfare: water, energy, and food. We need cooperative, integrated solutions, as we cope with much less to meet much greater needs.

We in Jordan have first-hand knowledge of these urgent global challenges. Our people's per-capita share of fresh water is three times lower than the global water-poverty line. Ninety-six percent of our energy needs are imported, draining almost 20 percent of GDP. Our population grew ten-fold over the past six decades; and per capita, our country hosts the highest number of refugees and displaced persons in the world.

Addressing the water-energy-population nexus is a priority for the Kingdom. We seek to create a model path of sustainable development, one that will meet the

full range of national needs: inclusive growth, enhanced opportunity, improved standards of living, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.

To meet these goals, Jordan designed a pioneering green-economy scoping study, the first in our region. It identifies six sectors with high potential for transition to green economy: energy, water, transport, agriculture, tourism and waste management. Priorities for the next decade include innovative and sustainable options like renewable energy, water treatment and desalination projects, and new, energy-efficient practices in cities and transportation systems.

A green economy is a youth economy. We know that economic growth is not just about the numbers, and it is not an end in itself. Real growth is inclusive and sustainable growth, which can build a future for everyone, men and women, and, especially, young people, who are 70 percent of our population. A central concern is job creation. Meeting that challenge requires an enhanced trade environment, deepened trade arrangements, and improved opportunities for education, training and SME development.

A green economy is also a pro-poor economy. Allowing growth to reach the marginalized and least advantaged in the society is a key condition for political

stability and sustainable growth policies. For Jordan, political and economic reform are ultimately inseparable. Participation builds stake holding in a stable, thriving future. This is vital for the consensual, evolutionary reform path to which Jordan has committed.

Finally, a green economy is an integrated economy, one that sustains the environment and protects natural capital. Jordan therefore supports work done to include Natural Capital Accounting as a measure for use alongside income measures such as GDP. This should be part and parcel of efforts to develop a new sustainable development index and Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished delegates,

For all our countries, green pathways will require considerable support and financing. Moreover, today's global challenges for the environment, water, and energy can be expected to worsen with climate change. It is imperative that all financial, technological and capacity-development initiatives are able to channel appropriate resources to developing countries.

There is a need for a dynamic and enabling international development model that can enhance cooperation in areas such as finance, technology-transfer, debt

relief, and trade. This must include full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making. Such a model will help the private sector and finance ministers operationalise policies and targets for developing countries, by mobilising financial resources that are getting more scarce due to current economic crises and global austerity measures.

Innovative financial and technical resources are needed to help implement national green development plans and develop green industry. Such 'green finance' can set the right value, incentives and revenues in various key sectors in addition to directing debt-swap arrangements for integrated green-growth programs in energy, water and environment.

Green growth is also a multi-stakeholder effort. This requires an effective partnership with the private sector and regional as well as international investors. In this regard, we welcome and encourage the role of the international financial institutions and regional funds in support of the partnerships undertaken with the private sector.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Arab Spring has opened a new chapter in my region's long and rich history. 'Dignity, Opportunity, Democracy and Peace' are the benchmarks by which our people will consider their future and judge our ability to meet their legitimate aspirations and lead them forward. Green growth is key to success.

Sustainable development, however, also requires sustainable peace. At a time when the Arab region is undergoing major transformations, regional crises cannot be ignored or forgotten. No country in the region has been affected by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as much as Jordan. But our entire world has an interest in ending this conflict with a just peace: a two-state solution, with a sovereign, viable and independent Palestine, on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital – collective peace and security guarantees for Israel -- and a final settlement, in accordance with U.N. resolutions, and the agreed resolution of all final status issues.

Distinguished Delegates,

Twenty years ago our countries came together to set a new pathway towards sustainable development. Today we are still facing challenges; some old, some new. These challenges will have to be addressed in politics and policies, in social life, in environmental practices, in cultural values and in economic life. We know

we have the tools; now let us build the platforms that enable our people and our economies to reach new heights.

Thank you.

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