



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

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Mr. Chairman,

The 13th session of the CSD is intended to move ahead with the implementation of the MDG's and Johannesburg Declaration in three main important areas in water, sanitation and human settlements. I would say; water and sanitation are the basic infrastructure which can be provided for human settlement, nevertheless the importance of water and sanitation as driving force for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan believes in integrated water resources/water demand management as a way out to cope with continuous increasing demand for water especially in semi-arid and arid countries with particular emphasis on environmental needs for water. Most of the water resources have been allocated to meet the increasing demand for drinking water and other uses which resulted in water depletion in most of our resources as well as loss of natural habitat in most of our countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan as well as many countries in the Middle East and North Africa suffer from sever shortage of water to cover the basic needs, and the situation had been aggravated by the abnormal increase of population due to the several influxes of refugees of neighboring countries due to unsettled political situation in the region.

As such Jordan has to accommodate these numbers of refugees and provide them with shelter as well as the basic infrastructure of adequate water supply and sanitation, which put great pressure on our limited water resources, and left a great adverse impact on our environment. Within this context, please allow me to share with you the impact of overexploitation of water on the Dead Sea, Those of you who does not know the Dead Sea, it is the lowest natural point on earth, the highest salinity and the most holy and historical lake on the earth.

During the last century most of the water flowing into the Dead Sea has been exploited and dammed upstream from all sides which resulted in declining the Dead Sea water level by one meter per year, and surface area shrinkage by thousands of square meters. Scientist warn that unless certain measures are taken, the Dead Sea will vanish in 50 years.

This Global environmental disaster needs the cooperation of the international communities to interfere financially and technically to save the Dead Sea to prove that water can be, as we believe, an element of peace rather than a cause of war.

Thank you.