



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Jordan intervention at the drought session

(Wednesday morning, 7 May 2008):

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank the panelists.

Jordan is considered one of the most water stressed countries in the world. It suffers from lack of water resources and consecutive droughts that affect all aspects of life and have negative impacts on the sustainable development programs of the country.

In order to cope with the situation, Jordan has embarked on an ambitious program that covers both supply and demand sides.

On the supply side the development of available traditional and un-traditional water resources by building storage dams and water harvesting programs and the use of brackish water to irrigate salt tolerant crops and desalinated for drinking purposes, and the reuse of treated waste water for un-restricted agriculture.

On the demand side, programs are being implemented to raise the efficiency of water use, rehabilitation of networks, water loss reduction and water demand management programs.

Institutional and legal arrangements are being implemented including the development of a new water law, and the updating of the water sector strategy and policies.

But in spite of all what is being done, the gap is still wide between supply and demand.

Facing the challenges of water scarcity and drought require regional and international cooperation including funding, technical cooperation, exchange of expertise and technology transfer.

Thank you.