

Position Paper for the CEIRPP

I.) Supporting Palestinian Women as Political Leaders

The Kingdom of Jordan considers the question of an ever-greater integration of women in all the fields of its own society as a major social issue. As a consequence, Jordan fully supports "the rights of free speech and freedom of association" expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the right to be part of the Kingdom's politics for every citizen, irrespective of gender. Jordanian women enjoy legal equality on every societal issue, and the Kingdom's recognition of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) enabled the creation in 2003 of a gender-based quota system in the Jordan House of Parliament, a system that has been extended to political councils in 2007.

The Kingdom of Jordan will thus back every Palestinian step toward a greater integration of women in the private and public spheres of the Palestinian Authority, both being inseparable. In accordance with that commitment, Jordan wants to welcome the steady progress accomplished by the Palestinian Authority over the past decade. In ten years, the number of women in the Government Cabinet increased, the half of university students in Palestinian universities are female, and 2012 saw the election a woman as a mayor of Bethlehem. Nonetheless, the role of women in the Palestinian Authority remains relatively marginal. That is the reason why the Kingdom of Jordan supports initiatives such as the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC), created with the help of the UNESCO to develop "women's right and activate the roles of Palestinian women in the economic, political and cultural domain". Jordan also encourages the Palestinian Authority to join United Nations' common projects such as the "Beijing Platform" on female participation in the political field.

The Kingdom of Jordan is proud to affirm that the respect of cultural traditions and the empowerment of women within the decision-making bodies are not incompatible. In this respect, the progress that have been made so far by the Palestinian Authority should be enshrined in the Palestinian Basic Law, in order to thwart any attempt of backward step that could harm Palestinian women's legitimate aspirations.

II.) The Reconciliation of Stateless Palestinian Refugees in Neighboring Countries

As a direct neighbor of the State of Israel, the Kingdom of Jordan feels deeply concerned with the issue of the Palestinian refugees, i.e. persons "whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict"(a definition of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East that Jordan fully supports), and their descendants.

Offering access and safe refuge to more than 1,900,000 Palestinians, the Kingdom of Jordan represents the most important host countries of the region.

The vast majority of Palestinian refugees are given the Jordanian citizenship, they are allowed access to Jordanian healthcare, public services, and have access to employment on an equal footing with the rest of the Jordanian population. West Bank Palestinians with family in Jordan are granted all the rights of a Jordan citizen, and the Kingdom of Jordan does all it can to facilitate travel from West Bank to Jordan.

The Kingdom of Jordan wants to express its commitment to the article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, repeated by the UN General Assembly, stating in the Resolution 194 that "the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return". As a consequence, Jordan backs Palestinian refugees' right to self-determination and right to return as inalienable human rights, and opposes any attempt of any nation in the region to expel the Palestinian people from its homeland. It is with reference to these fundamental rights that the Kingdom of Jordan considers Palestinian refugees on an equal footing with the rest of its citizens.

Nonetheless, the Kingdom of Jordan wishes to recall that the finality of the process guaranteeing the protection of the refugees' political and civil rights it has undertaken since the beginning of the conflict remains the peaceful return of the Palestinian refugees in their own land. The Kingdom of Jordan wishes both a greater protection mandate from the UNHCR and the UNRWA for the Palestinian refugees, and encourages the international community to support the Palestinian people's right to return.

III.) The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem

The Kingdom of Jordan regards the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank as a major stumbling block in the Israeli-Palestinian relationships, seriously hampering efforts done by the United Nations and the CEIRPP to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. This settlement activity not only reduces the chances of a two-State solution and weakens Palestinian fledgling economy-thus fueling radicalism, but it also gravely infringes on the Palestinian people's fundamental rights to free movements, and to the "territorial unity, contiguity, and integrity" of their land, as stated in the resolution for *Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine* (A/RES/67/23) of the CEIRPP.

The Kingdom of Jordan wants to express its deepest concerns upon the highly increasing number of checkpoints that bother the Palestinians' everyday's life in the West Bank, and the expansion of the settlements and security fence that disrupt Palestinian agriculture and fragment the West Bank. The Kingdom of Jordan notes that these measures violate international laws, and are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention, often forcing the displacement of Palestinians deprived of their rights. More than 300,000 Israeli settlers live in areas across the pre-1967 border, and in East Jerusalem. These areas, named areas C, are totally controlled by the State of Israel and represent more than 60% of the West Bank. In these areas, the State of Israel imposes its fiscal policy to the Palestinian Authority, making it even more dependent economically. The Kingdom of Jordan regrets Israel's unproductive settlement policy, which came with a strong increase in construction permits in Gilo, in Ariel, in Gush Etzion, and in many other settlements.

The Kingdom of Jordan is convinced that it is in the highest interest of State of Israel to stop its settlements policy as soon as possible, and hopes that all the member States of the General Assembly will aim at finding a solution to that issue.