

Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee

The issues for the General Assembly First Committee are: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; regulating information and telecommunication technology in the context of security; combatting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would prefer to discuss first women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, then the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and finally regulating information and telecommunication technology in the context of security.

I. Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

The rights of women concern the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as shown by the efforts made during the past decade. Legally, the new law of November 2010 has redefined the social status of women. In a more practical way, the policy of quotas has proved efficiency, for instance in Parliament and in municipal elections.

The Kingdom is beneficiating from a privileged position in the Middle East when it comes to women rights. For example, 99% of young women (15-24yrs) are alphabetised, and 83% of women are participating in secondary scholarship. The Hashemite Kingdom believes in the program initiated by the United Nations in order to train women in the information technologies sector. Today, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has realized this project by implementing a technical training in universities designed for women.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has always played a major role in the efforts developed to insure security and stability in the region. It has claimed that the region should be nuclear weapons free.

Indeed, regarding the non-proliferation issue, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan feels deeply concerned. It has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and it has collaborated with the AIEA on projects of technical cooperation. Since the discovery of 65000 tonnes of uranium in the deserts near Amman in 2007, the King Abdullah II has made it clear that the nuclear civil program that is developed in Jordan answers peaceful purposes.

As regards the arms control, the Kingdom wishes to limit as most as possible the arm flows in the region. Arm flows are increasing the instability of the region, as they convey violence and are often used by Islamists – who are endangering the stability of countries like Jordan -. The King Abdullah II has officially declared in September 2012 that there would be no delivery of arms to the rebels in Syria. Indeed, he believes that these weapons would have fallen into the hands of the Islamists – like it happened in Libya - and would then be used against the Kingdom of Jordan.

Plus, contrary to the other countries of Middle East (excepted Israel), The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is clearly communicating to the UN its imports of arms.

Within its territory, the Kingdom has forbidden the carry and ownership of weapons in the special economic zone of Aqaba (ASEZ) and in the city of Aqaba.

II. Regulating information and telecommunication technology in the context of security

The 1995 law about telecommunications (13th) has made it possible for all communication services to be part of the private sector. The Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC) has been implemented in order to regulate the sector, to control the activities of the companies and the interconnections. Plus, the commission is entitled to attribute the new licenses.

Regulation is thus one of the cornerstones of the development of telecommunication technologies in the country.

The sector is flourishing in Jordan: the Jordanian market of mobile phoning is one of the most competitive in Middle East. The Kingdom is counting on keeping doing efforts in order to develop and spread this sector in the country, by encouraging investments with fiscal policies, incubating new enterprises, creating poles of development.

In a context of expenditure of telecommunication and information technologies, the Kingdom wishes to implement measures in order to increase security, for instance about cyber attacks, networks of terrorism or other websites that would endanger the integrity of the country. It has already established security devices and means in cybercafés for example.

III. Combatting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

As regards the control of the arm flows, the position of the Kingdom is clearly stated. The country is situated next to countries that are creating arm flows - such as Syria, Qatar or others petro-monarchies – and who are pressuring the Kingdom in order to open its frontiers. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has declared that there would be no illicit trade of arms to Syria, and does not want to be part of the conflict. Hence, the Kingdom has refused to let refugees' camps becoming channels to illicit trade in weapons and has implemented control in this matter.

Regulating the arm flows in the region is thus a burning issue to address for the Kingdom of Jordan. In order to reinforce the security at its borders with Syria, Jordan has sent troops and military defence.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has ratified treaties in order to promote security and to prevent illicit trade of weapons from transiting. For instance, it has come to an agreement with Israel in 1994 in order to promote security at the frontiers of both countries, security in the transactions, and security within both of the territories. Thus, the Kingdom would and will not participate to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and cannot let its territory become a channel for trade and flows of arms