

Position paper for the General Assembly Fourth Committee

The issues set before the General Assembly are as follows: Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territory and assistance to Palestinian refugees; Promoting the peaceful use of outer space and preventing an arms race; The United Nations and 21st century information governance. The delegation of Jordan would like to express its gratitude for being able to discuss such key topics in front of all present delegations.

I. Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territory and assistance to Palestinian refugees

After the creation of Israel in 1948, Israel and Jordan were in very bad terms. Israel and Jordan have had official diplomatic relations ever since 1994, date of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty. The Kingdom of Jordan was the second Arab country to normalize its relations with Israel. His Majesty King Abdullah sees Israel as a very important ally in the Middle East.

However, Jordan keeps a very high pressure on the Israeli government in order to ease the Palestinian situation and to encourage the peace process. King Abdullah stresses the absolute necessity to resume direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

As regards to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan condemns the decision of Israel to establish settlement in Palestinian territories. For example, in March 2012, Jordanian foreign minister Nasser Judeh denounced the Israeli decision to legalize three settler outposts in the West Bank (Bruchin, Sansana, Rachalim). He criticizes "Israeli settlement activities as well as unilateral measures". Jordan emphasizes that such settlements slow down the peace process between Palestine and Israel.

As for the assistance to Palestine, Jordan welcomes numerous refugees on its borders. Nowadays, 1 951 603 Palestinian refugees are located in Jordan, of whom 338 000 are still living in refugee camps. After Jordan's annexation and occupation of the West Bank, that is to say at the end of the nineteen sixties, most Palestinian refugees were granted Jordanian citizenship. In Jordan, Palestinian refugees are allowed access to public services and healthcare, resulting in the development of very poor suburbs in addition to the refugee camps. This Palestinian flow overwhelmed Jordan and drastic measures were taken. For instance, they are given a special yellow ID-card in order to distinguish them. The Jordan citizenship is now harder to obtain as our country wishes to limit its Palestinian majority: first to prevent Israel from emptying the Palestinian territories of their inhabitants; secondly to limit the development of extremely poor areas in the places where the refugees are concentrated. Palestinians pose a demographic threat to Jordan; thus hundreds of thousands of them living in Jordan will lose their status as Jordanian citizens. Jordan does not want to become the "New Palestine", as this could result in a threat for the Jordanian identity and national sovereignty.

This position of Jordan has remained unchanged regarding Palestinian refugees. Last April, over a thousand Palestinians fleeing violence in Syria were maintained by Jordan at the border with Syria. They were put under protection by the Jordanian army, but not welcomed on Jordanian territory for an undetermined time. Our country is worried that a few hundred of Palestinians allowed on the territory would create a precedent and pave the way for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in Syria to

run away to Jordan. The position of Jordan concerning refugees is very close to that of other Arab nations like Iraq, Egypt and Libya.

II. Promoting the peaceful use of outer space and preventing an arms race

Jordan also grants a strong importance to the promotion of a peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of an arms race. The delegation of Jordan considers that Jordan is one of the first countries concerned by this question, as it is located in a high-tensed region: the Middle-East.

Jordan is a peaceful country and wants to promote peace and pacifism all around the world. Jordan is a country with a Muslim majority, but the Jordan's Government signed a peaceful treaty with Israel in 1994. So what Jordan wants first is the stability of the region in order to enable an economic and social development. The delegation of Jordan thinks that the outer space arms race goes against these aims.

The delegation of Jordan calls for a binding agreement on this issue, and wants the other countries to contribute actively to a peaceful and intelligent use of outer space and to the prevention of an outer space arms race. By intelligent, the delegation of Jordan means an economic and scientific use of the outer space, and not a military one.

Concerning the arms race, the delegation of Jordan also thinks measures must be taken about this issue. The growth of an insecurity feeling because of an increase of military investment in an economic or historic rival leads to an increase of military investment in all the involved countries : we want to fight against this vicious circle and by this way to fight for the good of society and economy.

III. The United Nations and 21st century information governance

Keeping in mind that the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector generates 10% of Jordan's GDP, the delegation feels the subject of information governance to be highly important. Ever since His Majesty King Abdullah was crowned in 1999, it has been one of his most important decisions: to make Jordan a leader in this field. Understanding that only through modern ways of information can a country manage growth, Jordan has implemented the first full-scale liberal telecommunication market in the Arab world.

The laws set up by the Jordanian Parliament to protect intellectual property are considered as a model for both its structure and its compliance across the developing world. A good regulation of the information has allowed Jordan to attract numerous foreign direct investments. Over 75% of the telecommunication companies are owned by either regional or international investors. Therefore, the delegation of Jordan strongly believes that it is now necessary for the United Nations to take a stand on the governance of information.

Jordan has always been very supportive of the different committees put in place by the United Nations concerning this subject, be they the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and its subgroup the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, or the Internet Governance Forum. However, these structures are not considered concrete; they still do not meet the needs of the members in terms of information governance. Considering the overwhelming innovations that take place in the information sector and the consequences they have on the populations, the economy and even on countries and their government, Jordan stresses the need for regulation at an international level.