

Delegation from
Jordan

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Position Paper for the International Atomic and Energy Agency

As part of the Middle-East, Jordan is highly concerned by the international atomic and energy issues. The political and geopolitical stability of our region, and more generally of the world, is what matters to us.

Our position is clear: we have shown our will to cooperate on the international scale in order to develop the atomic energy, from a civil point of view. Jordan endorses the position of the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation, which aims at reducing nuclear proliferation and promoting the nuclear power in a safer way. We want energetic independence, but we will not compromise about security, which is according to us the most important thing to preserve. In this view, Jordan is also linked with many countries thanks to bilateral agreements: the United States of America, the European Union, Argentina, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Japan, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada and France are our partners for a safer world.

The Nuclear Situation in North Korea

The nuclear energy is a symbol of our modernity. Representing our human intelligence and our technological control, it can also be a great danger for mankind. Jordan will thus challenge any attempt to develop nuclear energy, whether it is civil or not, in a country presenting risks for the regional and global equilibrium. We will challenge any attempt to develop clandestine nuclear program. Therefore, Jordan condemns the behaviour of North Korea since it has deliberately shown its refusal to cooperate with the United Nations. Acting like this means refusing the peace. Acting like this means being opposed to the international community, including the Kingdom of Jordan. This position is all the more likely to be reinforced since the successive tries of North Korea were a complete denial of the action of the United Nations to preserve the global peace. In this affair, the Kingdom of Jordan will follow the path of reason and peace and give its support to the United States of America.

In 2013, the stability of our world, and especially of our region of the globe, is threatened by the nuclear weapon. What we can see in Asia with North Korea is also present in Middle East with Iran. Its recent behaviour has shown that it does not want to cooperate. As we cannot be sure that Iran will not divert the technology towards a military program, the Kingdom of Jordan wants to condemn a behaviour that violates the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that threatens the stability of Middle East. We believe that energetic independence should be promoted and we will defend it. But we will act so until it does not threaten the geopolitical equilibrium, until the country concerned does not aim at possessing the nuclear weapon, until the program launched only deals with civil matters.

In this view, the Kingdom of Jordan wants to be clear about its own nuclear program. The energetic demand will rise in our country of at least 50% during the next two decades.

We want to reduce our dependence towards oil and implementing a nuclear energy that will produce 30% of our total needs by the year 2030. To prove our integrity and our will to ensure a safer world, the Kingdom of Jordan wants to recall that it has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, the guarantees agreement and the additional protocol of 1998. To prove that we do not elaborate a clandestine program, we want to recall that the International Atomic and Energy Agency has worked with our country on technical aspects.

Improving Global Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Crisis Situations

We call upon all other countries to consider this question of cooperation in the view of preventing nuclear crisis. But we also have to be prepared to a possible weakness. As it can be seen in Japan with Fukushima, the nature of the territory upon which the nuclear installation is built must be taken into account in order to begin the program. Moreover, Jordan proposes that in an area of 600 miles around nuclear installations, each big city shall have sufficient antinuclear shelters to protect its own population and the one of the suburbs. The Kingdom of Jordan also wants to launch research programs in order to find a solution to contain radioactive leaks. Each nuclear installation should have its system of production of non-nuclear energy to answer the population needs in case of failures or accidents.

Strengthening IAEA Safeguards and the International Nuclear Security Framework

We lastly propose to reinforce safety norms and safety controls by an independent organism. This should be done regularly, during the construction and the life of nuclear installations. We shall also test the ability of the components to resist major accidents. The role of the IAEA is here crucial. In this view, international cooperation should absolutely gather momentum.

Our position could be seen as tough. We firmly answer that it is. Our world, our unstable world, needs it. It needs a reduction of uncertainty. Providing a safer future to our children forces us to act so.