

Delegation from

Represented by

*Jordan
ESSEC*

Position Paper for the United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

The issues before the United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) are: Enhancing Sustainable Urban Mobility; improving Drinking Water Availability and Sanitation Infrastructure in Slums; and implementing Social Inclusion and Environmental Justice on the Agenda of Sustainable City Development.

I. Enhancing Sustainable Urban Mobility

The Jordanian Government is concerned by the necessity to encourage, implement and improve sustainable development in the urban context, so that transportation and mobility may be developed properly. Thus, The Jordanian government is strongly determined to achieve the goals of Sustainable Urban Mobility (SUM)¹ by creating an effective system for the transport of passengers that is also integrated, secure, reliable, friendly to the environment and capable of keeping abreast of changes and meeting the demands of all segments of the Jordanian society. We reckon the UN'HABITAT responsibility to implement the principles of the Brundland Report² for a *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

Taking these measures will help alleviate the problems that many cities of Jordan are facing, notably traffic congestion and pollution which are major problems for the cities of Amman and Irbid. As the growth of cities occurs at a rapid rate (79% of total population and 1,6% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)) without enjoying the same economic growth, rising living standard, equal distribution, it becomes all the more important to develop an urban planning that aims at enhancing both low-cost and eco-friendly means of transports in order to face the widespread phenomenon of the increase in the number of taxis. Additionally, Jordan's public transport needs political and financial support to have a professional and qualified activity.

The Jordanian delegation proposes to enhance knowledge and experience sharing as mentioned in the Principle 9 of the Declaration of Rio on Environment and Development *"states should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledges."* and to strengthen international solidarity by creating a fund for sustainable urban mobility. The Jordanian Delegation advocates helping shift mentalities towards the non-motorized modes of transportation (such as bicycling or walking) that would be tailored to the Jordanian lifestyle. Additionally, our delegation values the impact of local sustainable city planning and management in order to set an integrated planning as well as an integrated budget.

II. Improving Drinking Water Availability and Sanitation Infrastructure in Slums

Drinking water availability and sanitation infrastructure are fundamental to insure not only human health but also economic and social development. Jordan is today facing a huge environmental challenge which is the scarcity of water. Recently, this situation has been worsened by the massive arrival of refugees from neighboring countries, especially from Syria. Additionally Jordan is sharing its water resources with neighboring countries, such as Israel, which deprives Jordan from taking its own decisions about the management of water resources.

In parallel slums have grown by 4.3 percent per year in the past few years in Jordan and especially in urban areas where 2% of the population has no access to sanitation facilities (3% in rural areas). This situation causes sanitary

and health problems since the lack of sanitation infrastructures leads to open defecation in slums and incites people to drink polluted water.

Thus, the Jordanian government strongly believes in the Human Right to Water, that has been decided by the Human Rights Council³ with the 2/104 decision in 2006, and is in favor of the Millenium Development Goal⁴, goal 7 target 10, that wants to reduce by half by 2015 the population number that has no access to drinking water and sanitation.

In order to meet these goals The Jordanian authorities have been taking decisions to protect its water resources. In 2007 they created the Millenium Challenge Account Unit consistent with the international goals. This unit creates water and wastewater projects to provide water to everyone and reduce water loss.

At a larger scale Jordan is thus supporting the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund under the influence of UN Water⁵, whose aim is to help countries achieve the Millenium Development Goal and provide decent sanitary conditions to the population.

Jordan would like to encourage the other member countries to support this trust fund in order to meet the Millenium Development Goals and to improve drinking water availability and sanitation infrastructures in slums.

III. Implementing Social Inclusion and Environmental Justice on the Agenda of Sustainable City Development

In the wake of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted by the General Assembly, the Jordanian Government is willing to further implement the principles of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact The Jordanian Government has already taken measures in order to face the problem of social inclusion. The latter is the exclusion of people relating to economic, political or social reasons having consequences such as unequal distribution of economic or social advantages. Besides another problem that Jordanian cities have to address is the persistent inequalities among the population that stem from the huge diversity of people coming from different backgrounds, especially from the immigration movements.

Thus, in the line of the UN General Assembly resolution to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all, the Jordanian authorities intend to build a sustainable city for one million people. In fact the Jordanian government is interested in building its own version of Masdar ten times the size of the original and is looking for investments and funds.

Overall, in order to improve social inclusion, the Jordanian delegation recommends a further implementation of the UN-HABITAT City Consultation Methodology, which aims to create campaign involving stakeholders from local authorities and government in urban areas in order to improve local urban planning strategies⁶ and invites other members to share best practices and experience when it comes to achieving the complex environmental, social and economical balance.

¹ United Nations Human Settlement Programme, Sustainable Cities Programm

² A report issued by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987

³ United Nations Human Rights Council, (November 27, 2006), *Decision 2/104 Human Rights and Access to Water*.

⁴ United Nations, (2012), *Millennium Development Goals*.

⁵ WHO and UNICEF, (2012), *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2012*

⁶ United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UMP – A Proposed Approach, 2003, 2