



MC.DEL/49/12
7 December 2012

ENGLISH only

Address by:

H.E. Ambassador Makram M. Queisi

**Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom
of Jordan to the OSCE**

**19th OSCE Ministerial Council
Dublin, 6-7 December 2012**

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,

Allow me on behalf of my delegation to extend our appreciation to the Government and people of Ireland for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this meeting. I am sure that under the Irish chairmanship, more foundation blocks were added to our partnership.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mongolia for the accession as the 57th participating state.

Mr. Chairman

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Jordan attaches great importance to its partnership with the OSCE. We also attend and actively participate in activities and events that the OSCE conducts, especially in the context of the OSCE-Mediterranean partnership. Jordan hosted two OSCE seminars as well as the 2008 OSCE-Mediterranean Conference. Recently Jordan hosted The Participatory Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region. It was attended by 50 participants, including representatives from 4 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, 5 OSCE participating States, NGOs, numerous international experts as well as representatives from the OSCE Secretariat, including the OSCE Secretary General.

During four days, which included a field-trip to environmental hotspots, participants identified a number of environmental issues that may impact security and were able to map them in an easily understandable format, thus allowing the formulation of a number of concrete recommendations.

We remain committed to continue expanding this cooperation and to intensify our cooperation with the OSCE on political and security matters. We also welcome dialogue on common concerns at the regional, sub-regional or bilateral levels.

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

While realizing that this organization mandate does not entail or imply by any means any funding role at the international level, the OSCE, however, provides a platform for exchange of views over matters that could be considered as security threat especially for all of us, the Mediterranean Partners and Participating states alike. This reaffirms the well established concept of comprehensive, co-operative, and indivisible security.

Last year I have stressed the pressing need for a sincere reform process to address all the intractable challenges and problems that have overwhelmed the region and to face these challenges with a fresh thinking and firm determination in a manner that fully respects the will and choice of the peoples of the region. Much emphasis has been placed on the political aspect of the Arab Spring. While this dimension is undoubtedly of utmost importance, we should be mindful that these uprisings have also brought the economic, financial and social dimensions, yet again to the forefront. Indeed, these dimensions had a fundamental role in triggering the desire for change across the region and will play a determinant role in the sustainability of this New Arab Order. While Reform is a developing continuous process, it is also indivisible. We believe that political and economic reforms are mutually inclusive.

Allow me to stress here the importance of stable social and economic environment as a catalyst for the full realization of real political reform. Regime change is not an end by itself, the improvement of people's welfare and responding to their aspirations to live in dignity is of a paramount importance.

Change in some Arab Countries was revolutionary as we witnessed. However, the process in Jordan was evolutionary in nature. We have seized the emanating opportunity of the Arab Spring to accelerate our path towards comprehensive, consensus-based reform. We are building the political-party system which will be the backbone of parliamentary governments. A new parliament will be elected by the beginning of next year under the supervision of an independent elections commission as stipulated from the newly introduced constitutional amendments, and the next government will stem from the emerging parliament.

The reform process did not start in Jordan as a reaction to what is happening in the region. On the contrary, His Majesty the King's reform vision started ten years ago. His Majesty the King has made it clear that progress toward democracy, pluralism, economic prosperity and freedom of expression, speech and thought in Jordan is an irreversible process. His Majesty consistently emphasized that developing the political life in Jordan necessitates the existence of national parties that must adopt a national agenda based on their commitment to the nation's causes.

Dear Excellencies and Colleagues,

Jordan's economy is among the smallest in the Middle East, with scarce supplies of natural resources. Furthermore, Jordan is among the poorest countries of the world in water resources with 155 cubic meters per capita compared to 4000 global average and 500 cubic meters as the global poverty line. Jordan is also a net energy importer, amounting to more than (96%) of its energy needs. Other economic challenges for the country include poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a large budget deficit. Since assuming the throne, His Majesty King ABDALLAH Ibn AlHussein has implemented significant economic reforms, such as opening the trade regime, privatizing state-owned companies, and eliminating some fuel subsidies, which in the last decade spurred economic growth by attracting foreign investment and creating jobs. However, success, in the implementation of these ambitious economic policies, was suppressed by uncertainty, conflict, and fragile political situation in the region.

Last month, the government of Jordan was forced to take necessary measures to insure fiscal stability of the budget. We had to choose between funding our current expenditure through extra debt or to rely on real budget incomes by lifting subsidies. Austerity measures implemented by many countries have instigated public protests and general discontent among people in some developed European countries with robust economies. Although controversial and harsh, they insure that governments rationalize spending and preserve the fiscal situation of the country.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, as enshrined in the OSCE fundamental documents cannot be realized unless the OSCE makes a stronger expression of political will to confront security challenges beyond the region from Vancouver to Vladivostok, for it has been often asserted in the OSCE literature that security in Europe has a global character, and therefore, enhancing the security and stability of this region has become integral to promoting those of the OSCE countries.

Given the magnitude of security threats in the Middle East, which is undoubtedly affecting security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Eurasian regions, cooperation in Security affairs between the OSCE and its Mediterranean partners appears to be insufficient. Restoring trust and confidence, one of the pillars of the Corfu Process, is much needed in the region. These should be the first step in attempts to overcome existing tensions, to be followed by concrete work towards developing confidence into cooperation.

After 40 years, the Helsinki Final Act remains very relevant as a defining document on how countries can through equality, partnership co-operation, inclusiveness, transparency and collective effort fully realize and establish the “security community”. We very much welcome the new Helsinki + 40 Framework process and we believe that ways to engage Partners for Cooperation more directly in discussions affecting partnerships should be further envisaged.

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

Jordan’s main priority is to achieve peace, security and stability in the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the core issue in the Middle East, has consumed immense energies and rendered development and reform efforts secondary to the efforts of settling the conflict and stabilizing the region. In this regard, progress towards a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should remain a priority for the international community and the current political instability in many Arab countries should not overshadow the urgency of the situation in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

In the same vein, broadening the Mediterranean partnership, namely; granting the Palestinian National Authority a Mediterranean partner status at the OSCE, constitutes an important confidence building measure in the region. Such a decision would enable the OSCE to play a greater and much needed role in the region, as it is going through complex and dramatic events.

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

We all face the same challenges and threats. Terrorism, transnational organized crime, intolerance, migration, global warming and energy security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; represent a priority to all of us and pose the same threat on the Participating States and Mediterranean Partners alike.

Terrorism and the various terror groups and organizations pose a serious threat to global security. Jordan, its citizens, officials and interests, has been a target of terrorism due to its principled position and efforts in rejection and combating all forms of terrorism.

Jordan has declared its categorical condemnation of terrorism and stressed its support for the international efforts against this scourge. In the same vein, Jordan believes that terrorism is a global phenomenon without nationality and expressed its resolve to safeguard the sanctity of the Islamic faith from any abuse or distortion caused by terrorism or terrorists, insisting that terrorists must be deprived of any opportunity to hijack religion and misuse it to serve their purposes or advance their agenda. In particular, terrorists must be barred from provoking a confrontation between Islam and the rest of the world. In this regard, On November 9th ' 2004, His Majesty King Abdullah II launched the Amman Message which seeks to reveal a message of tolerance and humanity; it opposes extremism, exaggeration, and intransigence.

Jordan stresses the need to confront all ill-motivated attempts aiming at connecting Islam, or any other religion, with terrorism.

The Amman Message emphasize that Islam's principles provide common ground among different faiths and peoples. The origin of divine religions is one, and Muslims believe in all messengers of God; denying the message of any of them is a deviation from Islam. The Amman Message reiterates the fact that Islam remains a religion of moderation and tolerance that does not condone assaulting civilians or causing damage in its name.

In order to promote mutual understanding and reaffirm the values of diversity, and as a concrete step in enhancing interfaith dialogue, which lasts beyond that of the related seminars and conferences, Jordan has proposed “A Scholar Exchange Programme” with the OSCE Participating States within the framework of the Human Dimension. This programme will offer scholars an opportunity to study at The World Islamic Sciences and Education University, a prestigious higher education institution, through scholarships offered by the Government of Jordan, and giving them therefore an opportunity to be introduced to Islamic culture, traditions, doctrines, and ways of life. The other side of this programme will have a number of Religious scholars from Jordan placed in relevant institutions in Participating States; in order to grant them also a chance of exposure to the societies and values of other states.

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been posing a real threat to the stability of our region for a long period of time. Therefore, Jordan calls for the establishment of a WMD free Zone in the Middle East. We believe that all countries in our region without exception should commit to the objective of rendering the Middle East a WMD free zone. The acquisition of WMD weather nuclear, biological or chemical by any country in the region will trigger an arms race that in turn could lead to the use of such weapons. The International Community has to exert every effort it has to help solve this issue, and to rid our region of these weapons.

On the other hand, the rights of states to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be respected according to the International doctrines and safeguards of the IAEA. Countries that respect the IAEA safeguards should be assisted in seeking alternative energy resources such as nuclear energy.

Finally Mr. Chairman, let me reaffirm Jordan’s commitment to its partnership with the OSCE and its readiness to intensify cooperation with the organization.

Thank you.