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PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 30 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee for the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and wish you every success in discharging the task with which you have been entrusted. We have every confidence in your ability to fulfill your responsibilities. I would like also to thank the Permanent Representative of Hungary for his distinguished efforts as Chairman of the First Committee during the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The terrorist attacks on the United States a year ago caused immense tragedy and destruction. These acts by targeting innocent civilians and civilian structures, not only challenged our sense of security, but also outraged our conscience. These acts make the work of the United Nations for peace, disarmament, non-proliferation and security more important than ever. They should lead us to renew our adherence to the body of disarmament and arms control agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Committee meets this year with remarkable achievements as well as serious challenges in the field of international security and disarmament. On one side of the balance sheet:

1. The ratification by 82 state parties of the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Anti-personnel Landmines and on their destruction.
2. The continued work of the BTWC Ad Hoc Group aiming at establishing a verification and compliance regime for the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention.
3. The signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention by 165 states, 146 of which have deposited ratifications.
4. The ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by 93 countries.

On the other side of the balance:

1. We continue to see the on going reluctance by the only state in the Middle East with considerable nuclear weapon capabilities, Israel to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place all its nuclear installations and facilities under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
2. The continued reluctance by the Nuclear-Weapons states to meet their obligations in compliance with Article VI of the NPT by pursuing negotiation in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament.
3. The lack of full agreement to the Protocol of the Biological Weapons Convention is another set back for the international cooperation.
4. The absence of real genuine intentions to convene the 4<sup>th</sup> special General Assembly Session devoted to disarmament (SSODIV).
5. The failure so far to take practical steps towards broadening the UN Conventional Arms Register to encompass military holdings and procurement through national production as well as stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction in particular nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The growing gap between the rich and poor is fueling inequality. A continuation of the unjust status quo will inevitably continue fueling conflicts in several regions. Small arms are the weapons of choice for today's combatants because of the ease-of-use and availability. The supply of limitless quantities of small arms and light weapons through areas of high tension has fuelled numerous civil wars and caused the death of victims who are mostly

civilians. This is why the United Nations conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light weapons in all its aspects achieved important progress in July 2001. The conference attracted widespread attention, with the world's media reporting extensively on the cost and carnage caused by these weapons. Civil society groups from across the globe were deeply and creatively involved. After tense and difficult negotiations, member states forged a consensus among diverse views and interests and adopted a comprehensive Programme of Action, which we call for its full implementation promptly and as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan has always been committed to the cause of international peace and security. We have over the years advocated a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Middle East. A settlement that could lead to just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region. We realized, as many others within and outside the region did, that for durable peace to be achieved, positive steps towards confidence-building between the parties have to be taken. On top of such steps is freeing the region of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Jordan has adhered to the Chemical Weapons Convention, ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, ratified the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personal Landmines, and signed with the IAEA an additional protocol for safeguards. By so doing, Jordan has completed its adherence to all international instruments providing for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction including chemical and biological weapons. It is noteworthy in this context that the General Assembly has, over the last two decades, called upon all states in the Middle East who had not yet done so, particularly the only state in the region operating nuclear-weapon capabilities to adhere without delay to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. All the states in the Middle East, except Israel, are now parties to the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 1974, the General Assembly has called for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, and that resolution has since 1980 gained more momentum by being adopted by consensus.

Furthermore, in its resolution on the Middle East, the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference as well as the 2000 NPT Review Conference called upon all states in the region to, I quote, "take practical steps in appropriate fora, aimed at making progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective" unquote.

Paragraph 6 of the same resolution, called upon all states party to the NPT and, in particular, the nuclear-weapon states, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the achievement of that goal. Unfortunately, after more than seven years of the historical 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and after more than two years of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, no indication of such efforts has so far been felt in the region.

As far as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is concerned, we are encouraged by the fact that so far 165 states have signed the treaty, 93 states have ratified and 31 have deposited instruments of ratification. We join other member states who called on all countries who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty, particularly those 44 states whose ratification is needed for the treaty to come into force.

We are also encouraged by the fact that negotiations which aim at the conclusion of a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. Jordan has, on many occasions, reiterated the importance of a

Fissile material Cut-off Treaty as a significant step towards the achievement of both nuclear non-proliferation as well as nuclear disarmament. On the other hand we regret that the conference on disarmament failed to agree on its program of work for the last six years as well as its failure to start constructive negotiations on the FMCT among other things.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan has been a staunch supporter of the UN Conventional Arms Register. We regard the Register as an indispensable mechanism for achieving transparency in armaments which leads to confidence-building, especially in conflict-prone regions as the Middle East. However, we believe that the Register may not be effective unless its scope is enlarged to include military holdings and procurement through national production as well as weapons of mass destruction in particular nuclear weapons. We, therefore, regret the fact that the Panel of Governmental Experts failed to deal with this problem.

As I outlined earlier, Jordan has ratified the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines. This step has come to reaffirm our commitment to help eliminate this most excessively injurious and inhumane weapon which has indiscriminate effects especially on children and other innocent civilians. Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, in her capacity as patron of the Landmine Survivor's Network, is leading and contributing to the world-wide campaign to rid the world of APLs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me share with you a quotation by his late Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, "Real victories are those that protect human life, not those that result from its destruction or emerge from its ashes".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.