



Jordan

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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
DURING THE 58TH SESSION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee for the 58th 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 Uganda for his distinguished efforts as Chairman of the First Committee during the 57th session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The growing gap between the rich and poor throughout the world continues to fuel inequalities and as the world spent \$839 billion in 2001 on defense, millions of people across the globe are struggling to survive while below the poverty line. A continuation of these circumstances will inevitably fuel conflicts throughout the globe. 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 in areas of high tension has contributed to the prosecution of numerous civil wars and caused the death of countless victims most of whom are civilians. Moreover small arms has helped fuel 46 of the 49 largest conflicts of the last decade, and in 2001 were estimated to be responsible for 1000 deaths a day, more than 80% of whom were women and children. Also, only 18 million of the 550 million small arms and light weapons in circulation today are used by Government, military, or police forces. Illicit trade accounts for almost 20% of the total small arms trade and generates more than \$1 billion a year. This is why my country has stressed on many occasions the importance of both the United Nations conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light weapons, in all its aspects, as well as the first biennial meeting which achieved important progress. We welcome the adoption by consensus of the report of the United Nations First Biennial meeting of states to consider the implementation of the program of action to prevent combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects held in New York from 7 – 11 July 2003.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan supports the continuation of all international and regional efforts to promote multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation and urges the adoption of measures and procedures to remove prohibited weapons from circulation and dispose of them, and to concentrate on economic development and promote peace under the auspices of the United Nations. Jordan also affirms that a political will and a sincere commitment by all parties involved are necessary in order to achieve peace and stability in the world, as a guarantee of lasting and comprehensive peace.

The instability resulting from conflicts in the region of the Middle East calls for intensive cooperation and the adoption of transparent and comprehensive regional and international measures among all States there. 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.

In recent decades, Jordan has adopted clear policies that have defined its position with respect to disarmament, thereby underlining its support for all initiatives and efforts in that field in the various national, regional and international forums. Jordan considers that the question of disarmament cannot be addressed as an isolated issue or as one to be handled by individual States; the situation will become increasingly dangerous unless it is addressed through serious and effective regional and international efforts to achieve disarmament and strengthen the concept of multilateralism.

In the field of strengthening multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation, Jordan has ratified all the international conventions and treaties related to weapons of mass destruction, the most important of which are as follows:

- (a) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);
- (b) Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- (c) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (PWC);
- (d) Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);
- (e) Additional Protocol of IAEA
- (f) The Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines
- (g) Jordan supports all initiatives aimed at the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

In that context, Jordan is making diligent efforts to make the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction through its effective participation in the technical committee endorsed by the Arab ministers for foreign affairs at their one hundred and first session to prepare a project to make the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Jordan's ratification of the conventions and treaties on weapons of mass destruction and its active and positive role in the organizations established for that purpose are clear evidence of Jordan's concern for and commitment to international instruments to strengthen security, peace and stability throughout the world.

Jordan's position with respect to the attainment of that objective can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Encouraging the elimination of the nuclear threat from the Middle East region and commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to making the region free of all weapons of mass destruction;
- (b) Proposing practical measures to reduce tension, build confidence and control the arms race in the region in all its forms under the auspices of the United Nations;
- (c) Accession by all States of the region to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and placing all nuclear installations in the region under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

- (d) Strengthening intelligence cooperation and confidence-building measures between the States of the Middle East region and the arms-exporting States of the world;
- (e) Refraining from any action involving violations of treaties or conventions, or of State sovereignty.

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, been 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 for a, aimed at making progress towards, interalia, 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 utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the achievement of that goal. Unfortunately, after more than eight years of the historical 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and after more than three 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 168 states have signed the treaty, 93 states have ratified and 31 have deposited instruments of ratification. We join other member states who call 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. The fissile material cut-off treaty should be the next logical step in nuclear disarmament since it is important to prevent fissile material and nuclear waste from falling into the hands of terrorists or other criminals. This is why the conference on disarmament has to agree on the program of work of the fissile material cut-off treaty and to start constructive negotiations on the FMCT among other things.

Jordan has ratified the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines, and this year destroyed its entire stockpile. 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.

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 in the future enlarged to include military holdings and procurement through national production as well as weapons of mass destruction in particular nuclear weapons. We, therefore, urge the Panel of Government Experts to deal with this issue.

Finally, Mr. Chairman allow me to quote from a statement made by the Holy See in 1976 here at the United Nations “the arms race can kill, though the weapons themselves may never be used. By their cost alone, armaments kill the poor by causing them to starve”.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.