



***Jordan***

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

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT**

**BY  
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**AT  
THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF  
THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE  
THE GENERAL DEBATE  
63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2008**

Firstly, Mr. Chairman I would like to start by congratulating you on your election as chairperson and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to extend my delegation's appreciation to your predecessor for having successfully conducted our work during the sixty-second session.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to thank the High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament along with his team in the Office of Disarmament (ODA) for the effort and work exerted during the last session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The First Committee provides us with an important forum for deliberating on how to best address challenges and concerns in the area of international peace and security with regard to disarmament, non-proliferation and the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. It also provides an opportunity to take stock of the progress done in implementation of our agreements in this regard. My delegation therefore believes that we as Member States should ensure that the Committee fulfils its role, and we will therefore do all we can to ensure this from our part.

In face of the continued challenges to peace and security, progress in our work in the other fora of disarmament and its machinery is also just as important. This however requires political will and flexibility on the part of all member States participating in these different processes if we are to surmount the deadlock facing our work in the field of disarmament and push its agenda forwards.

The work undertaken by Conference on Disarmament (CD), the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament is therefore of extreme importance. It is vital that the CD agrees on a balanced and comprehensive program of work so that it may commence its serious substantive work as soon as possible.

The United Nations Commission on Disarmament the sole specialized deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery also continues to be of pivotal importance. The fact that the UNDC was unable to reach an agreement on recommendations on its two agenda items during the its last 3-year cycle should not constrain us in our preparation for a new cycle or from an agreement on a 2009 UNDC agenda.

The convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-4) again remains important for progress in our work in disarmament, Jordan therefore hopes that consensus will be reached on its objectives and agenda, and that a preparatory committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Session would be established.

With respect to nuclear disarmament, Jordan reiterates that for the international regime on non-proliferation to deliver on its objectives, both the universal adherence to the Non proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) are required. Therefore, Jordan urges states that have not signed, ratified or acceded to these treaties to do so. Moreover, pending the total elimination of such weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon-States should be pursued as a matter of priority.

Jordan welcomes the agreements and results of the first and second Preparatory Committee meetings for the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and hopes that the third preparatory committee meeting will build on the work of the previous two. Ensuring success of the NPT Review Conference in 2010 is of utmost importance. For this, it is necessary that we build on the outcomes of the previous Review Conferences, particularly those of 1995 and 2000 and honour our obligations under the (NPT). Moreover, the review conference should establish subsidiary bodies to the relevant main committees of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted in the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and to consider security assurances.

Jordan stresses the importance of the universality of the NPT as well as the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) for maintaining the international non-proliferation regime, and consolidating international peace and security. This can be no truer or more needed than in the Middle East, where a zone free from weapons of mass destruction is a prerequisite to ensure regional peace and stability. This fact has been acknowledged by the international community through the many relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and the (NPT) review conference outcomes on the issue. To date these resolutions and outcomes however remain to be implemented. Jordan therefore reiterates its position, namely, that Israel accedes to the NPT without delay and that it places its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

The adoption and extension of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) has made it possible to start addressing the threat posed by the possibility that terrorists and non-State actors NSA acquire weapons of mass destruction. Complete and effective implementation of these resolutions, as everyone is aware, requires constant cooperation and coordination among Member States, including through the exchange of information and by providing technical and technological support. This said however, it is important to note that the best way to prevent terrorists and non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction would be through their total elimination and destruction.

Jordan welcomes the outcome of the April 2008 Second Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the progress done to date in its implementation. The importance of the (CWC) as both an instrument for disarmament and cooperation for purposes not prohibited under it cannot be underestimated. Jordan reiterates the need to comply with its obligations including by meeting destruction deadlines.

Like the (CWC) the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is also important for peace and security and therefore needs to be fully and comprehensively implemented. Jordan underlines the importance of strengthening the convention and welcomes the work done in the inter-sessional process as agreed to in the Final Document of the 2006 (BWC) Review Conference.

Jordan stresses the importance of the universality of both CWC and the BWC and calls on states that have not signed ratified or acceded to it to do so.

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (POA) is the framework for our collective response to the problem posed by the illicit trade of these weapons. Jordan reiterates its commitment to the (POA), and welcomes the outcome of the third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-3) which provided an opportunity to consider progress in the implementation of this program. In this regard, Jordan stresses the importance of providing technical, technological and financial assistance to states requesting it in order to strengthen the full implementation of the PoA.

As a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Jordan has taken effective steps to comply with the Convention's provisions. Having completely destroyed all its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines in 2003, Jordan hopes that it will be able to satisfy its treaty obligations by May 2009, without having to ask for an extension. Jordan attaches great importance to the attainment of the universality of the (MBC) and is active in trying to bring about its universality specifically at the regional level.

Last November, Jordan had the honour of hosting the eighth Meeting of the States parties to the Mine Ban Convention at the Dead Sea. This November, the coming 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. Jordan looks forward to a successful outcome of this meeting.

This session, Jordan, as President of the coming Review Conference will present and table the annual MBC draft resolution on behalf of Australia and Switzerland the Presidents of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Meetings of States parties respectively. It is the hope of Jordan that the resolution, as in previous years would receive the support of member States.

Finally Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to once again reiterate its full support of your efforts and hopes for the successful conclusion of our work for this 63<sup>rd</sup> session.