

**WSSD Declaration of  
The Arab Journalists and Media  
Amman, 8 May 2002**

**We**, the Arab Journalists and Media Specialists have gathered in Amman to join efforts towards the preparation of an Arab stand pertaining to WSSD to be held in Johannesburg in August-September 2002. Based on our review of the Cairo Declaration issued by the Arab Ministers of Environment (October 2001), the Tunis Declaration issued by the Arab NGOs and Civil Society (March 2002) and the Amman Earth Declaration:

**Firmly believe that people are the target of sustainable development (SD).**

*We further realize the:*

- Importance of our role in addressing, advocating and guiding the opinion of the Arab people on issues relevant to Sustainable Development; and
- The urgency to adopt a comprehensive approach towards Sustainable Development integrating social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects at all levels and perspectives.

*We the Arab Media:*

- Firmly affirm that the absence of security and peace in the region is a main challenge to sustainable development;
- Stress that Arab-Israeli conflict and the Israeli sanctions and practices prevented the participation of the Palestinian Media representatives, and
- Confirm our support to the Palestinian people and their right to freedom and sustainable development.

*We call upon* all parties, countries, and agencies participating in WSSD to act instantly to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and work towards the achievement and attainment of sustainable development in the region.

**We**, the Arab Media, *confirm our commitment to act as a responsible party* to join efforts towards the realization of sustainable development goals in the Arab region. In order to mobilize our efforts, *we call upon our* national countries to *enhance the role and promote partnership with the Media through:*

- Particularly via efforts to empower and build the capacity of media personnel to enable them actively promote SD concepts and issues;
- Take concrete steps towards the modernization and development of media laws to better serve the media personnel and the people in terms of a more transparent, open, and accountable participation;
- Stronger compliances with the laws yet, with a clearer regulatory and monitoring systems to avoid misinterpretation and enforcement;
- Put an end to the practices of ad-hoc arrestment of media personnel for reasons related to the profession;

- Effectively pursue reforms and operationalize and activate copy and intellectual rights and ownerships and develop them to meet the challenges and trends of globalization; and
- Promote and facilitate cooperation among Arab Media channels and personnel through bridging, integration, and establishing regional media agencies and network to pool efforts drawing on scientific and technological advice of experts, networks and best available IT knowledge.

*We invite* governments to promote a better understanding of the concept, links and balance between the three pillars (economic, social, and environment) of sustainable development; and thereby, better appreciation of their implication and implementations at all national levels. **To achieve that we:**

- ***Demand*** the establishment of a monitoring mechanisms to assess targets, implications and impacts on Arab societies; and
- ***Promote*** dialogue and provide forums for multi-stakeholders dialogue to join efforts and be more effective.

*We, thus call upon* Arab governments to:

1. ***Pursue efforts*** to raise awareness among the media representatives and personnel to focus on emerging issues pertaining to SD;
2. ***Take concrete steps*** to address media personnel as a key partner in development and an actor in all preparatory processes for SD and other world summits;
3. ***Demand*** the establishment of a media agency under the respective ministries to follow up and monitor SD initiatives and build its capacity to take any rectifying action to better serve SD goals and the Arab people; and
4. ***Encourage*** the adoption of SD issues in educational curriculum to introduce SD and promote it as a style of life to improve adverse impacts of existing consumption patterns.

*We announce* the formation of Arab Regional Media SD Network: adopting stronger regional coordination and linking national, regional, and global concerns and processes. *We commit* ourselves to pursue efforts immediately to legalize and regulate the status and work as the nucleus of the network. ***We call upon:***

- The support of UNDP/Capacity 21 for the technical and financial assistance required to that respect; and
- National governments endorsements and accreditation of their respective representatives; and
- Pursue efforts to link the network to, or work under the umbrella of the Arab League.

***We finally,***

Express our appreciation for HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal for her patronage to this forum and acknowledge her remarkable efforts as a Champion for SD. To the Government of Jordan for its generous hosting of this meeting.

We further, express our appreciation and gratitude for UNDP/Capacity 21 and UNDP Amman Country Office for the provision of assistance towards hosting this forum and fostering the involvement of the Arab Media as a partner in development.