

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Jordan's Report about Sustainable Development
To Johannesburg Summit 2002**

Prepared By

The General Corporation for the Environment Protection

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contents

- • Introduction
- • Methodology
- • Jordan's Achievements in the field of sustainable development since Rio
 - ✓ ✓ Social dimension
 - ▪ Poverty
 - ▪ Population
 - ▪ Health
 - ▪ Educations
 - ▪ Housing
 - ✓ ✓ Economical dimension
 - ▪ International Trade
 - ▪ Patterns of Consumptions
 - ▪ Finance
 - ▪ Science and Technology
 - ▪ Industry
 - ▪ Transport and Communication
 - ▪ Tourism
 - ✓ ✓ Natural resources dimension
 - ▪ Agriculture
 - ▪ Atmosphere
 - ▪ Biodivesity
 - ▪ Desertification and Drought
 - ▪ Energy
 - ▪ Water
 - ▪ Forests
 - ▪ Mountains
 - ▪ Coastal areas
 - ▪ Toxic materials
 - ▪ Hazardous waste
- • Constraints that faced Jordan in fulfilling its commitments regarding Rio's decisions in 1992
- • lessons learnt
- • suggestions and recommendations

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Introduction

Jordan participated in the World Summit for Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 where it expressed a true desire to work for achieving sustainable development. This was exemplified in the conclusion of many agreements and conventions discussed in Rio 1992, and the programs and activities that emerged from them. In addition to that, Jordan has prepared the National Agenda 21 (Jordan's agenda for the present century), the Environmental Information Strategy, the Environmental Awareness, Education and Communication Strategy, as well as the conclusion of many agreements and conventions in support of the trends of sustainable development achievement.

Jordan attempted to intensify its efforts to adapt with the latest economic and political developments and circumstances in the region and the world. As a result, it joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), concluded the Agreement of Partnership with the European Union (EU), the Arab Free Trade Agreement, the Free Trade Agreement with the United States and concluded the Peace Treaty with Israel. Jordan has executed a number of economic and political reforms aiming at improving the level of economic performance, increasing the degree of transparency, preparing the appropriate environment for investment, increasing the participation of the private sector in the economic activity, activating the participation of the different political parties and forces in the process of decision-making.

Jordan is aware of the importance of the work for achieving sustainable development for its positive impacts on the development of its social life, economic growth and the conservation of its natural and environmental resources. However, Jordan's dependence on the markets of the neighboring countries and being influenced by the development witnessed by them in addition to the scarcity of its natural resources and its high population growth resulting from forced migrations that reflect the political situation in the region, hindered the implementation of its developmental plans and programs and impeded it from fulfilling its commitments.

In compliance with the recommendations of Rio's Summit, Jordan passed the Law of the Environment Protection No (12) of 1995 by virtue of which the General Corporation was established, independent institution, and the Environment Protection Council was formed and lately GCEP established the Sustainable Development Office.

Jordan works hard to improve its economic performance through active participation of the private sector, expand in the exports, utilize modern technology in the production, minimize the negative impacts for the production process especially in the field of environmental pollution, natural resources depletion, in addition to fostering the active participation of all stakeholders in the process prior making the decision to encourage ownership that ensures building the basis for sustainable development.

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Methodology

The General Corporation for the Environment Protection GCEP assumed the preparation and organization of the national campaign for consultations concerning Jordan's accomplishments in sustainable development with the aim of preparing Jordan's report to the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) / Johannesburg 2002. It included the review and evaluation of Jordan's accomplishments in the three dimensions of development which are, the economic, the social and natural resources with full cooperation and coordination with all sectors where the process was collaborative in which all parties took part in it. As a result, this report has been prepared. The GCEP divided sectors into seven as follows: the public sector, the private sector, non-governmental organizations sector, the academic sector, the media sector, youth sector and woman sector. A workshop for discussion for each sector has been designated to present its contributions in sustainable development achievements. A multi-stakeholder technical team was also delegated to prepare the draft of the accomplishments for each sector where they will be discussed in the specialized workshops.

The national campaign for national consultation started by a workshop to which all sectors were invited to discuss the draft working plan of the GCEP and gets endorsed and to find a common understanding for sustainable development meaning. The commencement of the national campaign was officially declared in the workshop where it was collaborative, participatory and transparent. The GCEP also prepared a matrix for sustainable development with the aim of integrating the method of work and facilitate the production of the final report.

Social Dimension

Poverty

Poverty is one of Jordan's economic major challenges in the present century. This is due to many factors among of which is the big family size, the slow in the economic growth, and the immigration from rural to urban areas. Poverty was deepened with the economic recession Jordan faced in the eighties when the inflation rates reached 26% and the unemployment rate increased remarkably to reach 18% in the year 1989. The situation got worse after the Second Gulf War, which resulted in 300000 returnees in an unexpected and sudden way. The national economy performance then witnessed negative impacts, the unemployment situation become more difficult, more stress practiced on the infrastructure and the natural resources such as water. This has led to the increase in the percentage of population who live under poverty line from 16% in 1987 to 21% in 1993.

This prompted Jordan to apply social adjustment programs as: activate the role of National Aid Fund, establish Work and Development Fund, and launch the Social Security Program and provide several training and rehabilitation programs for workers. Such measures together led to the abatement of poverty proportion to approximately reach 11.7% in the year 1997. Lately the government of Jordan launched the Governorates Development Program with a total cost of 480 Jordanian Dinars for the coming three years.

Population

Jordan has witnessed during the last decades large population growth due to the forced migrations and high natural growth rate which imposed a challenge to achieve balance between resources and population and caused as a result deterioration in living standards. The concentration of 75 % of population in urban areas is due to the gap between rural and urban areas at the socioeconomic aspects. The National Strategy of Population has been prepared and the National Committee for Women has been established. Such measures led to the abatement in population growth from (3.1%) in 1992 to (2.8%) in 2000. The reproduction rate declined from 5.6 infants per woman in 1990 to 3.9 in 2000. As result, the population reaches 5.039 millions at the end of that year.

Health

During the last decade Jordan realized a remarkable progress in the level of health services provided to citizens. As such the individual's life expectancy increased to 68 years old. Crude Mortality rate declined to about 5% per 1000 in the year 2000. Infant mortality declined to 26/1000 infants. Mother's mortality declined to 38/100000 births. As well as the number of doctors increased to reach 25/10000 inhabitants. The number of hospitals reached 86 hospitals.

Drinking water reaches 98% of the kingdom's population through pipes. 55% of population are served by sewerage system while the other depend on cesspools. The

diseases of respiratory and blood systems and accidents are considered to be the main reasons for causing death in Jordan.

Ministry of Health is considered to be the relevant authority in decision making and regulating the exercise of work in this sector by virtue of a number of legislations. Non-governmental organizations contribute to the programs of awareness and training particularly in the programs directed to the mother and child. The private sector plays a distinguished role through providing distinguished services that gained the admiration of a large number of Arab States citizens. As for the academic sector, its contributions were through establishing nursing and medical schools and other programs in subsidiary medical services and medical management in addition to establishing educational hospitals as in the Hospital of the University of Jordan and the Hospital of the University of Sciences and Technology. Data is managed in all relevant sectors through websites and the issuance of brochures and yearly and monthly reports. Statistics point out that Jordan approximately spends on health services 7.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which equals 380 millions during 2000 in comparison with 6.7% in 1992. This was due to Jordan's expansion in establishing hospitals, health centers and specialized medical centers.

Education

The education sector witnessed an improvement during the last decade. The number of schools reached 4588 school in the end of 2000. The number of students reached 1.4 million which means with an increase of 12% compared with 1995. The number of teachers rose to reach 60.000 teachers. There has been an expansion in higher education and vocational education. The number of universities reached 20 governmental and private and the number of schools reached 45 vocational schools. The private sector contributed to the education sector through the investment in creating a competition which contributed to improving the standard of education in its different stages.

The educational sector witnessed an increase and variation in the programs of vocational education. The proportion of joining vocational education rose from 17% and 13% in 1995 to 43% and 23% in 2000 for males and females respectively. The number of vocational education centers and institutes rose to 35 until the end of 2000. The illiteracy rate for age categories of 15 years and above decreased from 22.5% to 11% for the same period. In rehabilitating workers in the educational sector and realizing vocational growth, the proportion of community college holder teachers to total teachers decreased from 69.4% to 46% while the proportion of bachelor teachers increased from 26% to 48.3% during that period.

The number of students who joined higher education institutions reached 60.000 in 1997/1998 in official universities and 32.000 in private universities and 23.000 in community colleges.

Housing

Jordan witnessed a number of forced migrations, the latest of which was the one that followed the Second Gulf War which led to the sudden return of more than 300.000 citizens. In addition to that, the natural population growth rates are considered some

of the highest rates in the world. This contributed to putting an extra pressure on infrastructures and increasing demand on housing units. The crisis was exacerbated due to the concentration of the population growth in a number of cities as in Amman and Zarqa. This was accompanied by a failure in meeting the demand on small-area houses and an increase in the supply of large-area houses. The government adopted a number of measures to provide the appropriate infrastructure and implementing a number of housing projects whether they are apartments or served lands, in addition to encouraging the increase of the participation of the private sector in providing housing services through providing incentives and facilitating measures.

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The economic dimension

Since 1992, Jordan adopted two programs for economic reform in collaboration with International Monetary Fund since the first program which was set out in 1989 stopped due to the breaking out of the Second Gulf War. Reform programs included a vast set of policies, measures and procedures aiming at treating whole and structural imbalances and returning economic stability from all its sides, in addition to preparing the appropriate environment for investment and improving the level of economic performance, developing the legislative environment with the aim of attracting foreign investments and collecting national savings. The governmental policies and measures concentrated on consolidating the pillars of the sustainable development course and growth based on private sector's exploration and expansion in exports. The government has adopted a number of measures aiming at liberating the economic activity and increasing the participation of private sector including but not excluding , the policy of privatization , announcing the Jordanian Dinar a currency which can be transferred for current and financial purposes, connecting the exchange rate of the dinar with the U.S dollar, liberating trade, establishing Qualified Industrial Zones and conducting several bilateral and multilateral agreements.

International trade

Countries and its Jordan realized the importance of economic and commercial cooperation among impact on the national economy. For this reason it passed and amended many economic laws, directed towards privatization, liberation of international trade, and the held of many economic and commercial protocols and conventions with many countries, concluded the US-Arab Free Trade Agreement, joined WTO and partnership with the EU, opened investment for Arab and foreign investors, as well as it established many Qualified Industrial Zones as well as the Aqaba Commission Zone. Jordan has decreased the custom fees to reach in its highest value 35% with exempting the intermediate commodities from these fees. These measures contributed in the drop of tariffs from 17.5% in 1994 to 13.5% in the year 2000.

Patterns of consumptions

The policies of economic reform which were firstly applied in the nineties had distinct impacts since the patterns of consumption witnessed a remarkable change in comparison with the patterns prevailed in the eighties. As such, the total consumption

rate dropped from 106% in the eighties to 95% during the last decade of the GNP due to the governmental policies to lift the subsidization on some commodities, which positively affected natural resources rationalizing.

Finance

As for the financial policy of Jordan, it is based on financing environmental projects that prove their feasibility and have priority with the least possible cost by using finance resources of irrecoverable grants, debt's exchange, facilitated loans and loan's guarantee. With the aim of preserving the same level of consumption and expanding the construction of infrastructures, the government directed towards external and internal finance resources to establish developmental projects that prove their feasibility and have socioeconomic priority. Jordan efforts succeeded in decreasing the national external debt to 81% of the GNP in the year 2000 against 190% in the year 1989.

Science and technology

Jordan concentrated on developing sciences and technology sector through socioeconomic development plans by adopting the policy of scientific research promotion. As such, the proportion of the expenditure on scientific research and development reached 0.6% for the year 2000 in comparison with 0.4% for the year 1992. Jordan seeks to increase this proportion to serve the objective of sustainable development realization.

Currently, the government seeks to introduce information technology into its institutions and had made distinguished progress in the application of the Electronic Government Programs.

Industry

Industry sector in Jordan contributed to 18.7% of GNP in the year 2000, as well as it is considered a key supporter for hard currencies where industrial exports formed in 1998 about 66% of the gross national exports. The number of industrial establishments in Jordan reached 23.000 establishments in 1997; half of them are in the capital governorate. The scarcity of natural resources in Jordan had forced local industries to depend on imported production inputs with the worth of 51.3% of the total import cost of these industries.

Transport and communication

The contribution of transportation sector reached 17% of the GNP for the year 1997; this sector has capacity for 10.5% of the Jordanian labor forces. The II Gulf War influenced this sector and the procedures applied at the borders with the West Bank.

The total of paved roads in the kingdom is 7245 km longitudinal. As for the railways, they include 426 km longitudinal. The realization of sustainable development entails increasing the attention to subsidiary services sectors as transportation sector.

Some of the measures conducted by the government during the past years are: establishing a center for monitoring marine pollution in Aqaba, introducing a number

of improvements on its port, privatizing transportation sector, establishing the Regional Peace Airport of Aqaba, privatizing both the Royal Jordanian and the Aqaba Railway Foundation and encouraging the private sector to exchange small cars through custom's exemptions with the aim of enhancing the service level and minimizing environment pollution.

Tourism

As for tourism, Jordan considers it one of the important economic sectors that support the national economy with hard currencies. Tourism sector grew steadily. Jordan has developed the infrastructures and public utilities in tourist and archeological places. This has led to an increase in the contribution's level of this sector in the GNP to reach 9.2% in the year 2000. This sector encountered a number of problems during the years of the past decade, which led to the slackening of its contribution in the local production. The most important of which is the absence of political stability in the region.

Natural resources dimension

Agriculture

Jordan has limited agricultural resources. The area of its arable lands doesn't exceed 6% of its total area, which amounts to 89.342 sq km. This is accompanied by a large scarcity in water resources; political instability and regional competition circumstances led to slackening in the Jordanian exports growth of agricultural materials and made it an importer of foodstuff. This led to a decline in the contribution of agriculture sector in the GNP, which didn't exceed 3.8% in the year 2000. In spite of all the difficulties this sector is facing, Jordan by its both public and private sectors attempted to apply agricultural technology, expand its agricultural industrialization, the optimal use of the available resources through concentrating on quality and avoid squandering natural resources.

Despite the fact that the agriculture sector contribution in the GNP has witnessed a decline, but it is still, considering its economic and social dimensions, a major sector in the Jordanian economy. Agriculture forms the major income for 15% of the population. Moreover, this sector secures 62000-job opportunity thus 6% of the labor force of the country where women constitutes 6.6% of this percentage. Agriculture sector also contributes 15% of the national export.

Atmosphere

Air quality has been affected due to the augmentation of industrial, agricultural and commercial activities and the increase of transportation activities. The institutions of the public and private sectors dealt with this issue by preparing a strategy for environmental awareness and establishing air-monitoring network. As well as, the government passed and amended legislations pertaining to environment protection and concluded Montreal Protocol and its amendments concerning the conservation of the ozone layer and climate change agreement.

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Biodiversity

Wildlife in Jordan with its fauna and flora types has exposed to over exploitation and hunting which led to the extension of some of its kinds like the Arab Oryx, and some species of animals, birds and local plants. To protect biodiversity in Jordan, the government in cooperation with NGO's expanded in establishing natural reserves and protects the remaining endangered species and breeds. In addition to that, Jordan concluded many international conventions as biodiversity convention, the international convention for the prevention of trade in endangered species, Ramsar convention to protect wetlands, and biodiversity safety protocol. As well as, establishing a center for marine pollution monitoring to protect marine biodiversity. A national report about biodiversity was prepared in 1996, in addition to enhancing awareness programs to introduce the importance of biodiversity. Currently, a biodiversity strategy and a national action plan are being prepared.

Desertification and drought

Jordan is considered to be one of the areas that have low rainfall. Its total area is 89.342 sq km where the amount of rain falling on 90% of its area does not exceed 200 mm annually, a proportion, which is slight. As a result, natural resources have exposed to different pressures as over-grazing, soil erosion, and vegetation cover deterioration, over-pumping of groundwater and urban encroachment over agricultural areas, which led to increase the desert spot. To prevent this, the GCEP prepared, through the national committee for combating desertification which includes governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations, a national plan for combating desertification and improving the quality of life in the areas suffering from drought. The most important piles of which are the expansion in natural and pastoral reserves, which amounted 31 reserves in the end of 2000. In addition to implementing the project of developing Hamad basin which is regarded as integrated project dealing with social dimensions, pastures and water harvest as well as awareness programs of the significance of protecting natural resources and reducing overgrazing.

Jordan also was from the first countries that concluded the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994, which was ratified in 1996. Currently, the government is preparing a national strategy and a working plan to combat desertification.

Energy

Jordan lacks energy resources and imports most of its needs. The amount of imports of oil and its derivatives reached 9% of the GNP in the year 2000; a continuation of the past ten years in which the cost of importing oil ranged between (7%-9%) which contributed to increasing the Balance of Trade Deficiency in addition to environmental impacts resulting from oil uses not to mention the increase of the level of danger resulting from transportation by tankers. For its significance, Jordan took an interest in searching for local energy resources through prospection processes, studying the potential of oil shale utilization as clean and available energy and expanding solar energy exploitations.

On the regional level, there has been a cooperation with the neighboring countries in the field of connecting power networks to each other and studying the potential of laying oil pipeline between Jordan and Iraq. In the field of environment conservation, Jordan had worked on reducing the impacts of the different exploitations of energy on environment through the processes of developing and updating the oil refinery and power generation plants and encouraging the change of old trucks by new ones which cause less contamination to the environment. Energy sector lacks the incentives that promote the private sector to produce energy from natural resources. This sector also lacks fees tariff for oil derivatives and the incapability of storage. Jordan changed Oil Directorate in Natural Resources Authority to a government owned national oil company working on commercial basis. It also changed Jordanian Electricity Authority to a public share-holding company. Petra Drilling Company has been established which assumes the drilling of oil wells in the kingdom. A center for renewable and new energy research was also established and a new electricity law has been issued.

Water

Water resources sector suffers from scarcity. The available resources are not adequate enough to meet the increasing demand. The available resources are unable to meet the increasing demand since rain is the main water resource and it fluctuates from one year to another. Jordan's needs from water were estimated by 1257 MCM in the year 2000, only of which 970 MCM were available, i.e, with a deficiency of 23.6%. This need came as a result of the population growth and the increase of the level of economic activity. As a result, the individual's share of renewable water did not exceed 170 CM per year for all uses.

Realizing the importance of water in the process of sustainable development, Jordan took a special interest in water sector starting from the preparation of the water strategy in which the long term goals have been determined to develop and manage water resources, in addition to setting up legislations and their institutional organization, adopting appropriate techniques to treat wastewater, protecting water resources from pollution and depletion, setting up health standards to protect health and environment, encouraging scientific research and development in reducing evaporation and using saline water in agriculture, making people aware of the importance of water and its participation in managing this sector. As a result of these policies and measures, water has been delivered to 99% of the population and sewerage services have been expanded. As a result, the percentage of people who are served by this sewerage service reached 55%. Nineteen plants for wastewater treatment have been established which produce 60 MCM annually of wastewater to be used in restricted agriculture. As well as it expanded in constructing ground dams, pits and water harvest. Jordan made good progress in pulling Disi water to Amman. On the regional level, Jordan concluded water agreement with Syria and Israel.

Forests

The area of woodland reaches to 1.5 million dunums. The area which is covered by natural forests is estimated by 400.000 dunums. Jordan sought to increase the green

areas but the afforestation activities are still slow due to the shortage of required financing.

Mountains

The area of mountains in Jordan reaches 15000 sq km which is about 17% of the kingdom's area. Such highlands are distinguished by a high agricultural value because they are located in the areas of high rainfall lands and have most of the vegetation cover of forests and pastoral bushes as well as some part of it is distinguished by charming, touristic and mineral value. Highlands in Jordan play an important role in tourism's sector prosperity. In the northern and middle regions, such places are considered the most beautiful places for vacationing and recreation. As for the southern region, it is considered one of the unique configurations in the world and the most important archeological places like Petra and Wadi Rum are located there. The government during the last decades took an interest in them through expanding afforestation processes, conserving vegetation cover and protecting their beauty to be in harmony with the requirements of sustainable developments.

Coastal areas

Jordan has limited coastal areas. This aspect is exclusive to the Gulf of Aqaba and the Dead Sea. Aqaba is Jordan's only access to the sea. Its coastline contains a very highly diverse marine environment including a series of coral reefs. It is also distinguished by a unique biological diversity. The port of Aqaba witnessed during the past decades diverse activities advance and development as industry and tourism and meeting the demands of export and import. This advance was accompanied by threatens for the marine environment. Since Aqaba and its marine environment are important, the government worked in cooperation with private institutions and NGO's for preventing marine and terrestrial pollution by strengthening the possibility of monitoring and establishing a center for pollution monitoring by all its kinds. It also expanded in the field of infrastructures with the aim of developing Aqaba due to its importance in the national economy. In this context, Aqaba has been designated as a special economic zone in order to attract foreign investment and activate the national economy.

As for the Dead Sea whose degree of its water salinity reaches to 280 gm/kg, and has unique geology and topography, it is considered the lowest point on earth. As a result of establishing projects in their operating and constructing stages, the Dead Sea has exposed to a great pressure on its natural components. As well as the decline in the flow of the River of Jordan from several years led to a decline in its sea level. The activities related to the Dead Sea are regarded as an important affluent to the national economy where they contain several kinds of metals, salts and mud which has therapeutic value in addition to touristic potentials, rugged and terrain and unique archeological places. The Dead Sea is inhabited by many people who live in poor settlements with limited resources. During the present decade, the area of the Dead sea witnessed remarkable interest and advance particularly through preparing a thorough plan for the area's development taking into consideration the three dimensions of sustainable development which include maximizing the economic benefit of sea activities, protecting environment and natural resources, developing and improving local communities nearby the sea.

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Toxic materials

The issue of toxic materials in Jordan is considered as one of the important issues which is dealt with by many parties as: the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and Environment, the General Corporation for the Environment Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, and private institutions and NGO's.

A number of policies and measures have been adopted during the past decade by the relevant authorities. Some of these policies and measures are: monitoring the circulation of pesticides, hormones and fertilizers, establishing links with universities, international and local institutions with the aim of drawing up guidebooks of the fertilizers' contents from heavy elements, studying pollution levels in the lands in addition to determining the crops or plants that can be grown by using treated waste water. Jordan also concluded many international agreements in this field as the Fixed Organic Pollutants Agreement. Currently, Jordan is implementing a project to get rid of methyle bromide gas.

Hazardous wastes

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Jordan became aware of the negative impacts of some of the chemical substances on man's life and environment. As a result it managed hazardous wastes, worked on minimizing and disposing them in an environmentally sound method coinciding with sustainable development realization. Since the early 1990's, Jordan has been working on applying a number of policies and measures to realize this. This was exemplified in adopting educational, legislative and regulative measures to dispose off and manage hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound method, setting up comprehensive programs and research regarding their disposal, establishing a specialized landfill to treat them in Swaqa area as well as concluding Basil convention to regulate their movement across border.

As for radioactive wastes, the nuclear uses in Jordan are exclusive to the fields of medicine, research, agriculture and water. Despite the fact that the amounts of radioactive wastes resulting from such uses are limited, they need strict disposal measures. As well as it is possible for any nuclear accident to occur in the area. Therefore, Jordan became interested in managing radioactive wastes whether the local or the neighboring ones. The general objective from this is to safeguard human health and environment. To realize this objective, the government adopted a number of policies and measures as setting up an emergency plan for radioactive and nuclear accidents, establishing monitoring network and early warning plants, setting up legislations appropriate for dealing with radiations, strengthening the capability and potential of the GCEP and Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Recently, the government passed a law for establishing the National Committee for Nuclear Energy.

At the **institutional level**, Jordan sought during the past decade to consolidate the concept of the state of law, institutions and the freedom of speech and to consider and root such concepts. As such, the role of the urban community institutions increased in

the process of decision making which contributed to realizing sustainable development.

As well as the number of non-governmental organizations remarkably increased especially those pertaining to environment, youth and woman in the past decade, where they exceeded twenty. NGOs' implemented different activities, proved themselves and attained local and governmental support and the support of the donor countries which gave their activities and programs the priority due to their relation with the public and their ability to implement such projects effectively. They are also considered an important factor for the national efforts to reinforce sustainable development since they contributed to enhancing understanding and encouraging the participation of the public opinion.

Since Jordan is concerned with woman cases and upgrading her conditions, the National Committee for Woman Affairs has been established in 1992 as a platform for policies pertaining to her with the aim of improving her social status and consolidating the importance of her participation in all aspects.

The Jordanian woman contributes to 11% of the labor forces in Jordan. As well as the percentage of women participating in decision making during the last decade reached 4.1% where they occupied several posts in the three authorities; the executive, legislative and judicial.

Raising the scientific and cultural woman level led to the rise in marriage age and the decrease in the number of births as well as increasing the percentage of her participation in the productive process. This also played an important role in the family and society within the framework of realizing sustainable development.

In the field of information, the National Information Center has been established and all the institutions of public and private sectors have been linked with the center in addition to designating electronic websites governed by the relevant authority which is adopted as focal point. The project of Sustainable Development information Network Program SDNP has been implemented and the environmental information strategy has been prepared.

Constraints that faced Jordan in fulfilling its commitments regarding Rio's decisions in 1992

- - Poverty by all its dimensions.
- - Scarcity of natural resources
- - Indebtedness and its size that depletes the limited financial resources which impedes diverting it to developmental aspects.
- - The regional political instability.
- - The shortage of financial resources .
- - The shortage of the qualified, sufficient and trained human cadre to deal with the issues of sustainable development and its dimensions.

Lessons learnt

- - In spite of the limited resources, Jordan was able to face a variety of economic and social constraints due to the charismatic leadership and the seriousness of economic reforms.
- - The augmentation of the participation of private sector, non-governmental organizations particularly women and youth, as well as their participation in the productive, social and political activities which had fostered commitment and improved performance at all levels.
- - In spite of the fact that economic reform efforts may certain people at the short run due to amendment of subsidy policies, their impact at the intermediate and long term will improve their income.
- - The unstable political conditions in the region formed a constraint in the field of sustainable development due to the uncertain environment which may have lowered the foreign and national investment.

Suggestions and recommendations

Poverty

To adopt appropriate economic policies that support low income, redistribute fortune, income tax, Zakat Funds, the expand in the Social Security Program, enhance the educational, health, and cultural level of poor and build their human capacities, encourage the establishment of small and intermediate projects and increase the civic society institutions roles in facing the poverty issue. Cooperation between the private and public sectors should be increased at the regional and international levels to drag direct and indirect investments. Efforts to support policies to lower population growth rates and distribute the gains of development among the different kingdom regions should be continued.

Indebtedness

Cooperate with the international and donor organizations to establish integrated strategies to manage debts, debt swab for nature, and look for financial sources to fund projects that achieve sustainable development in the least cost.

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Growth and population distribution

The importance of focusing on the quality of population and develop rural areas and increase the awareness in birth control and family planning, improve woman and child conditions in addition to balance development between rural and urban areas to prevent migrations and urge people of rural areas to stick to their land and agriculture.

Education and building capacities and scientific research

link scientific specializations with the market's needs and concentrate on the quality of education and benefit from technology, concentrate on vocational training ,direct curricula towards realizing sustainable development and merge the objectives of sustainable development in academic programs and society awareness programs and

activities, and to coordinate between national research centers and the Arab and world centers and strengthen cooperation between them with respect to information science.

Water and food security :

Concentrate on the economic Arab integration in the fields of food security and benefit from the competitive and comparative advantages and control the food production, expiry dates and storage conditions. In addition to the cooperation in the issue of water at the regional level and limit water contamination and depletion in unfeasible economic projects.

Land degradation and desertification

Combat desertification through the international and regional cooperation and the establishments of strategies and action plans and improve the quality of life in the areas facing droughts.

Technology transfer

Transfer environmentally sound technologies and the technology of cleaner production and develop it.

Globalization

The need to study the impacts of globalization on the economy of developing countries and tend to join the regional gatherings to face its challenges and increase the level of national industry competition.

Good management and partnership in government

Deepen democracy, good administration and partnership and highlight participation, transparency and community involvement.

Trade

Call upon the developed countries to open its markets for the developing countries commodities and services and put limit to the protection policies and provide technical support for the developing countries in the field of upgrading the quality and standards of local production to meet the technical and environmental criteria.

Consumption patterns

Encourage the principle of cleaner production and activate the role of media in changing consumption patterns, the optimal utilization of energy, and to emphasize the tolerant Islamic instructions regarding the conservation of natural resources.

Cultural heritage

Protect tourist, religious, and archeological places.

Finance and sustainable development

The importance of involving the private sector in financing projects in support of sustainable development, increasing the coordination between the public and the private sector, and improve investment environment to promote investment in Jordan and to develop cooperation between the donor countries and Jordan.

Institutional structure of sustainable development

Foster Partnership among the public sector, urban society and non-governmental organizations, develop regional and national strategies in support of sustainable development, and concentrate on establishing a national committee for sustainable development.

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