

**THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON THE HABITAT
IN COOPERATION WITH UN PROGRAM FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT
SEPT., 2014**

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- Indicators

KEY INDICATORS OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN (2013)

- **Geographical area:** The geographical area of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is (89,318) Km².
- **Population:**
 - Population: (6.53) million "excluding Syrians and Syrian refugees".
 - Population density: (73.5) individual/ Km².
 - Population growth rate: (2.2%).
 - The percentage of population in urban areas: (82.6%).
 - Number of families: (1,199) million.
 - Average family size: (5.4) persons.
 - Percentage of population under fifteen years old: (37.3%).
 - Percentage of population age group (15-65): (59.5%).
 - Percentage of population (65) years old and above: (3.2%).
- **Climate:** Jordan's climate is hot and dry during the summer, moist and moderate during winter.
- **Regime:** Jordan's regime is a monarchy, where the King is the head of state, the head of the executive authority, and the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian armed forces. His majesty practices his executive power through the prime minister and the council of ministers (the government). The government is responsible before the elected parliament, which constitutes the legislative authority of the government alongside the senate. The judiciary branch, however, operates in full autonomy.
- **The administrative system:** The kingdom consists of (12) governorates; distributed as follows:

Northern governorate: (Irbid, Mafraq, Jarash, and Ajloun).
Central governorates: (Amman, Zarqa, Balqa', and Madaba).
Southern governorate: (Aqaba, Karak, Tafeleh, and Ma'an).
- **Economy:**
 - Jordan's GDP in constant rates is approximately (23,851.60) Billion Dinars, with a growth rate of (2.8%). The GDP per capita totals (3653) JODs.
 - The inflation rate: (5.6%).
 - Poverty rate: (14.4%).
 - The extreme poverty line: (per capita/annually): (814).
 - Unemployment rate: (12.6%).
- **Basic urban services (infrastructure):**
 - The percentage of housing units connected to the water network: (96.7%).
 - The percentage of housing units connected to the electricity network: (99.9%).
 - The percentage of housing units connected to the sanitary network: (59.7%).

THEME I

THE URBAN DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Management of the rapid urban growth:

Amongst the many factors impacting the Jordanian society, urbanization is utterly the most influential factor in bringing about change and modernization and a clear contributor in the numerous transformations that struck the Jordanian society and the attitudes and ambitions of its members; being a paramount drive to which establishing additional institutions is attributed. Such institutions are mainly targeted to address the ever increasing demands of the individuals which come as a natural result of the population growth, the voluntary and coercive migrations, as well as the phenomenal influx of migrant workers from neighboring Arab countries and Southeast Asia which often geared towards urban areas.

Statistical data suggest that Jordan population have multiplied six folds during the period 1952 – 1995. Population growth remains on the rise; growing from 4,756 million in 1998 to around 6,530 million in 2013 (Such figure does not include Syrian refugees). At this pace, the population of the Kingdom is expected to reach 8,456 million by 2025. At present, Jordan is also witnessing a demographic transformation as it heads towards a drop in its young population under the age of 15 and an increase in the age group ranging from 15 – 69. Despite the continuous change in the age composition of the population, the Jordanian society remains predominantly young; whereas 37.3% of the population is under 15 years of age, 59.5% fall within the age group (15 – 69), and 3.2% are 65 and beyond. Furthermore, Jordan has also seen an increase in the urban community; increasing from (78.7%) in 1995 to (82.6%) in 2013. Such racing urbanization and development has given rise to many foreseeable adverse outcomes, such as the increasing percentages of poverty and unemployment, the issue of providing decent housing for the lower income category, providing infrastructure and social service, in addition to the environmental disturbance. To this end, urban management and planning processes came to existence with a view to work towards developing such policies and programs compatible with the development and rebound of the socio-economic situation of urban communities, and to find the solutions appropriate for the issues facing urban areas to enable the later perform its vested function.

It is the encumbering responsibility of local and municipal governments to manage urban areas and realize a decent standard of living for the citizens. As early as the twenties of the bygone century since the foundation of the Jordanian principedom, Jordan started focusing on local autonomy. This tendency had, however, been encountered by many difficulties such as establishing the municipal and rural councils, mainstreaming such councils to the different part of the kingdom as a mean of civil engagement in the local autonomy, as well as issuing the laws and regulations necessary to govern the operations of such councils.

The concept of development management starts off with an effective and comprehensive development process, which can be achieved by developing elaborately studies strategies. With that said, the presence of departments that adhere to and endorse the urban development approach in Jordan was imperative. Indeed, this was manifested in establishing the ministry of municipal affairs, municipalities, Amman greater municipality, Aqaba regional authority, Petra regional authority, and the development zones commission. Such departments were mandated to implement the plans, programs, and development projects within their districts. Based on that, the ministry of municipal authority is undertaking the provision of various facilities for the

municipalities to enable them fulfill their mandates and enhance the developmental role thereof. Further, the ministry is responsible for developing the regional construction schemes and the elaborated structural plans for all of the kingdom's municipalities, participating in supporting and developing population clusters in which municipal councils lack, and manage financial remittances.

Due to the broad geographical area, the topographical nature, and the large and constantly growing population of Amman, Amman greater municipality was divided into twenty seven administrative districts; which provide all of the municipal services as stipulated under the municipalities' law and amendments thereof. Amman greater municipality provides distinctive municipal services with a view to further develop the city of Amman.

In the context of his Majesty's King Abdullah II son of Al-Hussein endeavor to bring about a paradigm shift in the path towards sustainable development in Jordan, a number of development and duty-free zones were launched in different areas of the Kingdom in 2008. Such new approach was aimed at realizing social equality through the distribution of the development outcomes to all governorates and regions, in addition to creating job opportunities, reduce poverty, and achieve economic growth, in addition to the establishment of Aqaba special economic zone (ASEZA) in 2001 to manage and regulate the Aqaba special economic zone. Furthermore, Petra development tourism regional authority was established in 2009 with the goal to develop the region economic, social, cultural, and touristic aspects, as well as contributing into developing the local community. The authority is managed and supervised by a council called "the council of Commissioners".

Nevertheless, over decades the Kingdom along with the government were compelled to scuffle with many consequences and limitations which came head to head with the successive governments' ambitions to implement most of the strategies drawn to develop urban centers. Despite this situation which for a few bygone decades and currently still overshadows this region, and the consecutive compulsory migrations coming to the Kingdom, especially during the last three years (Syrian refugees; where the total population of non-Jordanian residents have reach an astounding 2,236 million in 2014 – 1.4 million of which are Syrians – according to the Higher Population Council); which had driven the enormous growth of population and encumbered the Kingdom's infrastructure and limited natural resources, the different governments were able to realize the largest portion of such ambitions on the national level. However, the consequences and limitations as such had disrupted the implementation of such strategies or even called some of them off.

2. The relationship between the urban and rural development:

Despite its scarce natural resources, Jordan remains keen to achieve development as a priority in its strategy and financial plans on the national, regional, and international level. In this context, Jordan had sought to adopt development as the spinal cord for developing the Jordanian society, and that no comprehensive development may be achieved without addressing the development of the rural sector and reducing the dichotomies between the countryside and the city, or what is called the integrated development which begins from the countryside towards the city and vice versa, the common denominator in the process of development, the land and its uses, improving the standards of living for peasants to become comparable to that of urbans. This based on the fact that prioritizing urban development at the expense of rural development often leads to marginalization of the rural importance and attraction to food production activities; which drives the peasants to migrate to urban areas at large proportions; thus compromising the relationship

between the man and his urban environment. This would indeed give rise to many urban issues such as the shortfall of housing and public services, as well as stifling traffic jams.

Jordan is also known for its unbalanced population distribution throughout its geography. This is evident in the governorate of Amman and Irbid, which constitute about 15.67% of the Kingdom's total area while cramming with 74.4% of the total population. This situation stresses the importance of balanced development; which drove Jordan's quest over the previous decades to adopt diverse strategies to shore up the inclusive development at the national, regional, and international arenas. Luckily, the successive governments were able to subdue the various political, popular, and economic dynamics. Notwithstanding the imbalances and the political implications, the kingdom was successful in realizing a relatively balanced rural and urban development, and establishing rural and urban centers of sustainable developments through carrying out internationally competitive projects in areas of Potash production, Phosphate, and cement, along with infrastructural projects.

For the purposes of overall development, the kingdom was divided into 12 governorates, distributed as follows:

1. The northern governorates, (Irbid, Mafraq, Ajloun, Jerash), of which the population for 2013 have reached (1.8153 million), at (27.8%) of the total population of the Kingdom, and a total geographical area of (28.943) km², constituting 32.6% of the total geographical area of Kingdom.
2. The central governorates, (The capital, Balqa, Zarqa, Madaba), of which the population have reached (4.1022 million), at a (62.8%) of the total population of the Kingdom, and a total geographical area of (14 399) km², constituting (16.2%) of the total geographical area of Kingdom.
3. The southern governorates, (Karak, Ma'an, Tafileh, Aqaba), of which the population have reached (612 500), at a (9.4%) of the total population of the Kingdom, and a total geographical area of (45.436) km², constituting (51.2%) of the total geographical area of Kingdom.

Each governorate has its own distinguishing characteristics in terms of topography, climate, environment, population, natural resources, and its economic pillar. This division came within the government strategy to improve and develop urban centers scattered in all governorates as a prelude to realize the developmental, environmental and urban balance among them. One of the most important goals set by the Jordanian government was to adopt certain strategies for urban development and improvement thereof according to the variables. Such strategies manifest in supporting the economy of the state through establishing productive economic projects within the existing or future urban centers. Additionally, it is imperative to enhance the standard of living through utilizing developmental projects into providing employment opportunities, upgrade the infrastructure of urban centers according to pre-set executive programs. Other strategies include improving the services provided in the areas of education, health, culture, tourism and social services, ensuring sustainable development of urban centers and rural areas alike, subdue desertification, developing the countryside and Badia. Another important element is represented in the preservation of agricultural land and the environment, and realizing environmental, popular, and economic balance and among all governorates of the Kingdom, developing and adopting appropriate standards in the management of natural and human resources in a comprehensive manner.

Despite the presence of some obstacles hindering the programs, Jordan was however able to overcome most of these obstacles and achieve huge success in the development of urban centers. This is evident in the establishment of industrial cities, predicating basic education in schools, the establishment of maternity and childhood centers. Furthermore, cultural community centers, libraries, popular markets, sports clubs, cultural and health centers were established along with public and private hospitals. The government had also adopted the National Project on greening the municipalities and implemented the social security package program to allocate the pockets of poverty and overpopulation in urban centers. However, it is to further development of these strategies is essential, as well as to improve the management and budgeting processes of municipalities and other entities related to the implementation of the provisions of these strategies. This can only be achieved through a realistic analysis and future outlook of the reality of urban and rural development in Jordan.

3. The needs of youth in urban areas:

The Human Development report of 2000 in Jordan defines the term "Youth" in general as the people aged between 15 to 29 years old. For the purposes of the Jordan National Strategy for Youth, it was determined that the proper age group ranges between 12 to 30 years old, whether males or females in all regions of the Kingdom, and of different education levels and living conditions. The number of youth in the age group 12-30 years in Jordan have reached (2,553,085) approximately of young men and women in 2013, representing (39.1%) of the total population. This estimate suggests that the Jordanian society is youthful. In order to insert the youth issues on the ladder of national priorities, the National Youth Strategy 2005-2010 was developed. As prepared by the Higher Youth Council; in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the strategy comes as a national program to build a participatory and an interactive national strategy for youth in Jordan. The key objective of the strategy is to ensure the participation of youth as real actors in various stages of the project, and considering their capabilities as a key criterion for their participation in the development of the nation.

Due to the lack of natural resources, Jordan has relied on the human capital in order to maintain the competitiveness. This situation and approach have shifted its political leadership attention to education and developing the appropriate and effective strategies to improve the quality thereof. The state's interest in providing educational opportunities for all in different parts of the Kingdom is reflected in Jordan's educational path. In this context, the government started focusing on the school-aged children dropping-out to join the labor market. Therefore, the government had signed several anti-children labor agreements, such as the ILO Convention number (138), signed by Jordan in 1997, and ILO Convention #(182) signed by Jordan in 2000. In regards to illiteracy in Jordan, it has declined from 88% in 1952 to (6.8%) in 2013.

To learn about the youth aptitudes and involvement in community work, whether socially, politically or developmentally, it's imperative to understand and address the needs and fundamental problems of youth and to take them into account in the formulation of plans and programs. Unemployment and violence are the most important problems facing the youth in Jordan, where the Jordanian labor market on the other hand still suffers from high rates of unemployment in spite of efforts to curb this rise. The results of the employment and unemployment survey conducted by the Department of Statistics in 2013 showed that unemployment rate was (12.6%). Therefore, the government is focusing its attention on extracurricular activities and initiatives offered by youth organizations; particularly by the Higher Council for Youth; in providing job opportunities for youth to reduce unemployment

through the creation of many objective national venture, such as Eradah (Will) & Enjaz (Accomplishment). Additionally, the National Council for Vocational Training was established in order to rehabilitate and train thousands of young Jordanians in preparation for the entering the labor market. The Studies prepared by the higher Council for Youth have shown that third of the youth population have unutilized free time, where around (43%) of youth spend such times watching TV, while (1.4%) of whom attend clubs and youth centers. This is mainly due to the lack of quantitative and qualitative sports facilities and other means of objective entertainment for youth ob both genders (cinema, theaters, parks, youth camps, etc...), in addition to the youth need of basic psychiatric and mental care, which will realize a balanced maturity and educate the youth on public health concerns. The youth participation in political life remains dissatisfactory; with limited voting rights in municipal and parliamentary elections.

4. Needs of the elderly:

"Any civilization should rely on the principles of solidarity and thrive by dent of the wisdom and efforts of ancestors, who have left us a legacy of values that attest to their statesmanship and ingenuity. This is how the torch of civilization remained ablaze from one generation to the other" the speech of HRH Princess Basma Bent Talal at the launching ceremony of the National Initiative (seniors without borders) 2014.

National statistics indicate that the number of the population in Jordan as of 2013 in the age group from age (65) years and older amounted to (210790), representing a percentage of (3.2%) of the total population. The statistics also indicated that there is a decrease in mortality rates, high life expectancy at birth, which have reached (72.7) years for males; (76.7) years for females. This indicates an increasing proportion of the elderly in Jordan which will reach a rate of (4.9%) in the year 2020 due to improvement in health care and lower rates of fertility and mortality.

Pursuant to the heed of His Majesty King Abdullah II and Queen Rania Al Abdullah over the elderly and their Majesties' initiatives in this matter, and to ensure the provision of better health and social care, and improve the services offered to them, the National Council for Family Affairs has; following a participatory methodology; prepared the Jordanian National Strategy for the elderly of 2008. This effort was in collaboration with Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Jordanian Nursing Council, the World Health Organization (WHO), and specialists from the Jordanian universities and non-governmental institutions. Such strategy was aimed at contributing in drafting the policies related to seniors. It is worth to mention that Jordan had initiated an endeavor to provide social and health services for the elderly such as: the civil health insurance for seniors, aging pensions for the insured who completed sixty years of age for males and fifty years of age for females, as stipulated under the Social Security Act.

In this context, a special section for the elderly was designated at the Ministry of Social Development, which is the official body responsible for licensing nursing homes and day clubs, overseeing the services provided for the elderly, in addition to maintaining the dignity of seniors in need of inpatient social services. The number of nursing homes designated for the elderly as registered with the Ministry of Social Development, whether subsidiary of the voluntary or private sectors; have reached nine nursing homes as of 2013, while the number of day clubs from both the voluntary and private sectors has reached six clubs. A total population of (62) and (88) elderly female and males respectively were accommodated at the expense of the Ministry of social Development of those who have no income and need shelter care, or those whose families cannot afford to care for them due to their poor economic, social or health status.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health provides preventive, curative, regulatory, and rehabilitative services for nursing homes. Also, a special division was established under Amman Greater Municipality designated for the elderly segment; offering its services through the creation of a special section for the elderly in the social centers subsidiary of Amman Greater Municipality. Various training, rehabilitative, recreational, and sports programs as well as a number of activities are held regularly in these centers, taking into account the needs and aspirations of this age group, in addition to free medical checkups. The Ministry of Health is one of the primary providers of services to the elderly in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of social Development, as it provides preventive, curative, regulatory, and rehabilitative services for nursing homes.

5. Integrating gender in urban development plans:

Many obstacles seem to be associated with the social reality of women which incapacitate her to benefit from development and actively participate therein. Indeed, the gender difference results in a difference in the concerns and priorities of both women and men. This fact necessitate that the needs of women and men alike should be taking into account in planning, and the active participation of both broods in identifying their own needs and decision-making by the same percentage of their presence in the community; especially since the percentage of females in Jordan constitutes (49.5%) of the total population. It is therefore imperative to enhance women's participation in urban development plans and to enhance the decision-makers and individuals' awareness on the issue of women participation and needs in the urban environment; as women are better able to identify their needs in urban spaces.

With that being said, the political leadership of Jordan had paid a special attention to women's issues and sought to improve her status in order to integrate her into the various development projects. This was evident in the national agenda, "We All Jordan" document, and the National Committee of Jordanian Women's Affairs, which was created on 3/12/1992; in an expression of Jordan response to its international obligations regarding creating a national mechanism that seeks to enhance women and their economic, social, and political participation and to maintain their gains. The National Committee of Jordanian Women's Affairs is keen to strengthen the partnerships with ministries, official institutions, civil society organizations, women's organizations, and donor organizations concerned with women's issues and support them to building effective networks; such as the knowledge network for female members of municipal councils (Nashmyat), which was founded in October 2008 in collaboration with the municipal development programs and promotion of popular participation and the woman committees rally. Such networks are mainly aimed to enable female members of municipal councils to focus on policies, mechanisms, processes and procedures that could reduce the gender gap. The network of Arab women in local government is another example of such networks, which aims to enhance the active contribution of women in local governance. The National Committee of Jordanian Women's Affairs is also keen to support national efforts towards institutionalizing on women and gender issues in the ministries and government institutions. Such efforts manifested in the establishment of the gender section in the Ministry of planning and International Cooperation, the Gender Statistics section in the Department of Statistics, and the women's employment directorate under the Ministry of Labor.

At the level of legislation and regulation for Integration of women in development, the Family Affairs Committee was formed under the Senate in 2008, of which the main concern is to discuss and study the policies and decisions relating to women to ensure her full development and advancement, and to cooperate and communicate with civil society organizations to

convene special meetings for reviewing the legislations pertaining to women. Furthermore, the women's affairs committee was established in the Senate in 2012 as a permanent committee. Over the past few years, Jordan has seen many positive improvements in terms of the overall development. Such improvements were reflected positively on the status of women in Jordan. The effects can be clearly observed in the reduction of illiteracy rate among women, which has dropped to (10.1%) in 2013, as well as the improvement of women's health status according to the international indicators.

Despite the increase in the participation rates of women in political life and economic activities, it is still relatively low compared with males. Statistics show that women make up a percentage of (13%) of the total members of the Senate, (12%) of the House of Representatives, and (12.3 %) of the total number of ministers, (22%) and (7.4%) of the members of trade and labor unions respectively, and (24.2%) in the municipal councils who were able to enter through the quota. However, the role of women in municipal councils is still not as active, as they are often marginalized by the chairs of councils and their fellow male members, their lack of knowing about the functions of a municipal council member, as well as the lack of financial resources that prevent their participation in the popular events. This also due to the fact that female members are often mainly interested in social and environmental activities, as well as public services; such as sanitary, illumination , pavement of roads, while only a few members of them were interest in women political issues. Statistical data suggest that women's economic participation is an important developmental requirement in the inclusive development process, where the data indicate that the percentage of women's participation in the labor force during 2013 amounted to (13.2%). In view of the economic activities in which Jordanian women operate, it was noted that more than half workers are concentrated in education, health and social work activity. As such, the low participation of women in economic activities is due to several reasons, including the structural reasons such as the community culture which considered women's work and income secondary, the lack of work environment that is helpful and supportive of women's participation in development; and other matters such the provision of transportation and children day care facilities of suitable quality and cost, in addition to horizontal and vertical gender pay gap which women suffer from, or working in jobs that do not require the level of education and other factors.

6. Challenges and lessons learned:

6.1 Management of the rapid urban growth:

Despite the achievements made at the level of urban development, centralization poses a significant challenge that hinders municipalities to carry out their functions as specified under the respective law. Other challenges manifest in the absence of the planning function in councils, as it depends immediate reactionary remediation of the issues of the necessary services for the population, and the financial shortfalls at the municipality which incapacitate implementation of the mandated services. Imbalances between Expenditures and revenues which hampers the executive plans and programs, and the random and haphazard expansion of an organization and areas, which incur financial and human burden encumbering the municipality to deliver services to areas of expansion; are also some of the challenges to name a few.

The most important achievements are:

- Comprehensive development plans for municipalities: The project aims at concluding a comprehensive development plan for each municipality, which would assist the equal distribution of economic and social activities to all districts within the municipality.
- The approval of the Municipalities Act of 2011, by which the municipal elections were carried out.
- Increasing the women quota in local councils to (25%).
- The emergency services project and social resilience of municipalities hosting Syrian refugees/ 2013: - The project aims to help the Jordanian municipalities and communities hosting Syrians refugees, which provide direct services to refugees.
- The Housing and Urban Development Corporation: - The main cupola of the Jordanian housing sector. The corporation has already constructed (185) housing projects for low-income households in all parts of the Kingdom, which attracted urban growth to those areas.

6.2 The relationship between urban and rural development:

With a view to prop up the inclusive development at the national, regional and local levels, the Kingdom has taken various approaches. Nevertheless, the multiplicity of actors working on the implementation of the recommendations, and the different capabilities and executive programs thereof, the lack of financial resources, and the overlapping powers pertaining to the services between municipalities and government institutions has postponed the implementation of some of the development-oriented strategies. The achievements, however, include: -

- The cities development strategy (CDS) Project: - The proposed project is programmed to lay out strategies for cities outside the capital, Amman.
- Land use Project: - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has developed a comprehensive national plan for land use to serve as a guide to forecast the development and population expansions trends.
- The project on Promoting local economic development in Jordan (PLEDJ): - This project aimed at supporting Jordanian municipalities in determining the leadership role in promoting local development. The project duration is from 2011 to 2015.
- Central Region Planning Project: Greater Amman Municipality has undertaken a developmental study of the Central Region, which includes within its borders the capital (Amman), in order to study the impact of the regional dimension of the capital Amman on urban and rural centers prevailing in the region.

6.3 Needs of youth in urban areas:

Despite the efforts to promote and activate the role of youth in the development of their communities, and to improve their living and economic conditions, some problems remains in view such as the increasing rates of unemployment among the educated youth, the failure of education and training systems to keep up with the needs of the labor market, the lack of coordination between agencies supporting young people, poor physical and social infrastructure necessary to help youth occupy their leisure time, in addition to the lack of public budgets directed to the youth sector, and the lack of accessibility by the youth to the activities of cultural and media institutions.

Achievements of the council:

- The Higher Council for Youth: The Council, which was established in 2001, to patron the youth in the Kingdom, and invest in the youth energy in a manner that ensures their active participation in human development.
- Strengthening the infrastructure of youth activities, where many youth centers has been created in different parts of the Kingdom, bringing the number to 94 youth centers.
- The establishment of "We All Jordan" Youth Commission in 2006 in order to serve as an institutional platform for the university students and youth throughout the nation to interact with the policies and programs directed thereto in the areas of economic, social, and political development. The total of (12) branches of the commission were established in the various governorates of the Kingdom.

6.4 The needs of the elderly:

Despite the effort exerted to improve the conditions of the elderly in Jordan, they are still facing a number of challenges, such as family and community negative perception of the elderly, the lack of a supportive and safe environment, in addition to the lack of health, social, and health services provided in nursing homes, the lack of opportunities for the elderly to participate in their local and general communities in taking the decision related to their well-being, particularly their needs for shelter.

Among the most prominent achievements: -

- The launch of the National Initiative "Seniors without Borders" in 2014, which aims to promote the lives of the retired seniors through occupying their leisure time.
- Working towards making the comprehensive health centers, which count (8) in total, elderly-friendly.

6-5 Incorporating gender in urban development plans:

Notwithstanding the strategic plans, policies and legislation designed and applied in the past decades for the purpose of uplifting the women status and enhance their economic, social, and political participation, and to bridge the gender gap in various domains, the status of women's participation in and contribution to development is still below the level of ambition. Among the most prominent achievements: -

- National Strategy for Jordanian Women (2013-2017): the strategy document was adopted to demonstrate the trends and general features of the strategy regarding the various women-related issues, and the issues pertaining to the empowerment of women socially, legally, politically and economically.
- The Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs in 2008 has implemented a project to support women's participation in local government, in order to improve the level of women's participation in local councils.

7. Future challenges which must be included in the new urban agenda:**7.1 Management of the urban growth:**

- Reconsider the legislations governing the local administration and governance, such as the cities & villages' regulation law, and the building code and zoning of municipalities.

- Develop the principles followed in planning urban growth strategies and adopt a holistic planning approach of cities, and develop the documents of the inclusive development plans at the city level.
- Improve the effectiveness of the natural resources management in the governorates, through the creation of productive and competitive enterprise.
- Improve the infrastructure services provided in urban centers to keep pace with the international standards adopted in this field, especially with regard to drinking water and management thereof.
- Promote women's participation in local governance through activating the neighborhood councils.
- Provide the financial resources needed to implement the strategies, projects and programs of urban development.
- Enhancing tax collections mechanism in municipalities.
- Develop the capabilities of human resources, including broadening the use of computer, as well as the municipal information and geographic system.
- Develop comprehensive plans for the development of cities based on the spatial schemes that illustrate trends of growth and land use.
- Taking the population dimension into account in the development planning process in light of the future expected population growth.
- Develop a plan and a mechanism to cope with the political status in the Kingdom as a result of repeated wars in neighboring countries, which led to the forced migration of the population.

7.2 The relationship between urban and rural development:

- In order to create sustainable development of the governorates, a balanced distribution of population, employment and infrastructure services among all governorates, is needed to accomplish such development.
- Develop a plan and a mechanism to stop the urban sprawl at the expense of agricultural land, and develop a mechanism to determine the land use and management of their investments.
- Planning, guiding, and programming construction in urban centers and rural areas in all governorates of the Kingdom to order to achieve environmental, economic and population growth balance among the governorates.
- Develop the future development plans for the governorates, according to each governorate features and natural resources.
- Formulate a plan and mechanism to achieve the desired integration in all fields among all governorates.
- Conservation of water sources, groundwater and natural resources and the ability to manage them within the governorates of the Kingdom.
- Establish a data base with regard to population, labor and infrastructure services, economic activities, land uses, and the Jordanian real estate market which could be built upon in the formulation of strategic plans for the development of the various governorates; linking them to the spatial schemes.
- Provide an efficient transportation system serving all regions in the kingdom.

7.3 Needs of the youth in urban areas:

- Design and implement education programs to suit the needs, requirements, growth trends, and developments of the labor market.

- Increase the participation of youth in political activities and parliamentary elections.
- Activate the role of youth in elected councils for civil society institutions.
- Give the youth the priority and attention in the government's development plans.
- Establish a database on the youth in Jordan, their growing needs, problems, and issues.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of youth programs in order to adjust their content in accordance with the rapid developments and changes without losing the basic content.
- Provide young people with health units within health organizations supported by efficient academic staff and departments and focused on reproductive health.

7.4 Needs of the elderly:

- Emphasize the need to include and the workforce under the social security insurance, in order to provide health insurance for them, which is social protection practice dependant.
- Commitment to pension reforms to strengthen the financial sustainability of pension systems in a manner that ensures future obligations for future generations, especially in light of the growing social groups covered under social security law, and the dependence of such groups on the income from these insurance.
- The development of preventive and therapeutic health services, as well as psychiatric health services for the elderly.
- Identify the needs of the elderly within the policies and plans of the Jordanian state in order to incorporate them as a national priority, and provide opportunities for the elderly to participate fully in their local and public communities, and in making the decision related to their welfare needs, particularly with regards to their shelter.
- Enhance the elderly confidence in themselves and their abilities to continue their bestowal and activate their contributions and participation.
- Provide studies and researches on issues relating to elderly women, whether at the international, regional or local level.

7.5 Incorporating gender in urban development plans:

- Continue to maintain the proportional representation of women in parliament and municipal councils and increase the quotas of proportional representation to achieve justice at the level of governorates of the Kingdom, and provide better and more equitable opportunities to ensure women's active participation; progressively building towards a quota no less than (30%) as a minimum in all policymaking and decision-making positions in the various authorities and councils, elected and appointed bodies.
- Ensure the integration of a gender perspective into national policies; taking into account the needs of both women and men fairly.
- Ensure that the budget law takes into account the needs of both women and men, and that it has allocated the necessary resources for the implementation of the National Strategy for Jordanian women.
- Enhance the economic participation of women to achieve a steady income, which supports their contribution to the overall development.
- The national data should be organized according to gender.

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THEME II URBAN PLANNING

8. Planning and sustainable urban design:

The process of urban land-use planning is part of a comprehensive planning process which develops future visions for urban, administrative, social, cultural, economic, service, and environmental development and the future land use patterns.

Planning in Jordan represents an important element in the development process. Such pivotal objective is associated with achieving regional balance in the distribution of population, economic, and social activities as a basis for reducing the differences, bridging the gaps, and overcoming impediments to development, in a manner that enables municipalities to use the planning comprehensive developmental instruments, and prepare cities development strategies, as well as developing the master plans according to elaborate scientific techniques.

Planning is a form that determines the shapes of the future development, identifies the current needs and how to achieve them. It also determines the communities productive and self-revitalization capability.

Due to the nature of urban development, which postulates a sound methodology planning, and based on the role of the Ministry of Municipalities and Amman Greater Municipality in directing and controlling urban development and ensuring the availability of services and facilities to achieve appropriate urban environment in line with the steady increase in population, and based on the guidance of His Majesty King Abdullah II began, the work began in 2006 to prepare a map of land uses for all districts of the Kingdom. The project was carried out in two phases: the first involved the preparation of holistic scheme of land use in the kingdom in general, and the second phase (2008-2012), which included the preparation of holistic schemes for Greater Salt areas, Mahes, Fhais, the new Ain Al-Basha, and the new Ardha, in addition to the municipalities of Rusaifa, Berrin, the municipalities of Greater Irbid, the new Ramtha, and the west side of Irbid.

The work is underway on updating the map of land uses based on new standards and principles that take into account the climate change in the region. This is based on forming a vision for the upcoming twenty years, the formation of trends and policies needed to manage growth within balance between nature and heritage, economic growth and urbanization, and to provide the best policy and regulatory frameworks to contain and directing urban growth and development. Such plans must be flexible and correctable based on the results of monitoring and continuous research of the inherent potentials with a broad popular participation.

Building on that, a master plan for the city of Amman was initiated in 2006 which aims at preparing a serious and comprehensive cities planning scheme. This document represents a somewhat non-traditional style in civil, urban, and local planning. During the panning of municipalities comprehensive schemes, Amman Master Plan Phase V / has taken a new shape as The Metropolis 2025 model. The model was adapted to each municipality according to their status, needs and objectives of the development. The preparation of comprehensive plans for Shafa Al-Balqa', and Irbid province were finalized.

With the increasing pressure on the environment and the utilization of its resources for energy and provision of housing for the ever growing population, pressure on the ecosystem has increased accordingly. Therefore, we must confront the current aggravating urban situation, of which repercussions are only set to worsen in the foreseeable future.

Following the sustainable urban planning approach is one of the main roles of the State in using urban planning as an instrument to achieve a balance between all the urban sectors of the community, and especially the spatial and geographical ones. Sustainable development is in itself economic, environmental and social developments; which include the development of residential and commercial uses, and designing safe sidewalks and roads, as well as providing better public transportation, and maintain open spaces and parks.

The basis for achieving comprehensive sustainable development lies in the State auspices of housing projects. The Jordanian experience is a pioneer in this field; relying on achieving integration in urban policies, where each of which shall include elements of sustainable development to be implemented under the work strategies, under a rational integrated management. This will boost the City's efficiency to compete with other cities. In this area, the Housing and Urban Development Corp. has carried out many projects, where some of them constitute the ground on which urban growth is directed. Some examples of these projects which are spread from the north to the south of the kingdom include the project of the city of Abu Nsair the model city, Princess Iman suburb, the city of Ahl Al Azm / Giza, and the city of Majd / Zarqa to name a few.

9. Improving urban land management, including addressing the urban expansion:

The concept of development management or land management in urban areas starts with the actual comprehensive development process. This can be realized through planning, development of strategies, and achieving the goals through the mobilization of human, financial, and administrative resources, and enhancing the level of performance and community mobilization through active participation, and the performance and the realisation of the actual comprehensive development goals.

Following the planning approach to guide the city's growth is an effective tool for achieving the objectives. This is mainly due to the fact that the city's growth its future depend on its ability, numerous advantages and challenges, and on establishing departments and administrations capable of applying the concepts of sustainable planning; adopting urban development processes and direct communication with citizens to learn their needs.

On the other hand, the project on preparing the comprehensive urban development schemes for municipalities; with the strategies and concepts incorporated therein; represents a quantum leap in the field of organizing Jordanian cities, since the lack of comprehensive schemes previously was reflected on the reality of cities over the years, leading to an imbalance in the distribution of development gains. In some cities, the increasing demand for land in absence of an increasing supply has jacked up land prices, which in turn restricted the chance of low-income individuals to get in on lands within the cities territories.

In the context of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein efforts to realize a quantum leap in the process of sustainable development in Jordan, a number of development and duty-free zones were inaugurated in different parts of the Kingdom. Such zones are aimed to serve as an integrated competitive system for investors by strategically combining the location,

infrastructure, services and labor in the same zone, and providing better access to regional and global markets. In the same context, Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZA) was created in 2002 as a developmental investment zone of multiple economic activities. Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZA) is a duty-free zone and exempt from most tax obligations.

The Development and Duty-free Zones' Commission; which was established in 2008, is the official government institution responsible for launching, organizing, and managing the development and duty-free zones in Jordan. The development and duty-free zones in Jordan are Ma'an development zone, Irbid development zone, the Dead Sea development zone, Ajloun mount development zone, King Hussein Bin Talal Development zone - Mafraq, and Petra zone Authority.

Unfortunately, the shrinking of land areas due to the increasing demand had generated a number of adverse environmental impacts in the Kingdom. At present, adopting a flexible urban planning is urgently needed in order to improve the management of lands within the framework of the following points; in light of the high rates of population growth and the coercive migration of population to the Kingdom:

- The increased rate of urbanization caused the reduction of agricultural land.
- The increasing pressure on infrastructure and the existing environmental services.
- The increasing environmental impacts as a result of construction in terms of the demand for resources or waste production.
- The increasing pressure on public services and utilities, and the need for more to cope with the growing population.
- Achieving social justice and equity with regard to job opportunities for all regions.

The desired objectives of planning in terms of applications of totalitarian schemes for the municipalities:

- To achieve transparency in dealing with the citizens regarding land use and urban areas.
- Preservation of resources (archaeological sites, agricultural lands, natural heritage).
- Avoid negative effects of land use on environment.
- Reduce the cost of infrastructure services.

In addition to improving the management of land to achieve better management, the Kingdom had adopted elements of sustainable urban design through implementing the green building strategy. To this end, the Jordanian building council has approved the Green Building Manual in 2013, which sets the technological and technical criteria necessary to meet the requirements of sustainability of buildings and evaluate the same to reduce the amount of water and energy used in constructing these buildings. This also aims to reduce the consumption of materials during and after construction, promote recycling, and mitigate the environmental impact of buildings on the surrounding environment.

10. Enhancing food production in urban and quasi-urban areas:

The Department of Statistics defines urban agriculture as the industry that produces, manufactures, and markets food significantly to fulfill the daily needs of consumers in the city or the capital and surrounding areas. This activity uses land and water available in urban areas and surrounding areas, utilizing intense production techniques. However, despite the enduring growth of urban and quasi-urban agriculture in Jordan, it remains insufficiently covered under

the surveys of national agricultural, and there seems to be a lack of data on its volume or contribution to the national growth product.

As may be known, the geographical area of Jordan is approximately (89.3) million square kilometers, of which agricultural lands constitute (7.8%); while arid desert and semi-arid lands constitute (81%) thereof. However, most potentially agricultural lands in the Kingdom are perceived as pending construction lands. On the other hand, water scarcity and high prices thereof significantly impede urban agriculture, while the absence of sustainable planning for many years kept the development of agricultural land inert, while viewed as real estate commodities for future urban expansion, which tempts owners to sell their land when the right opportunities emerge. This explains the presence of disused agricultural land and the receding of agricultural land within the urban composition in many of the Kingdom cities.

Even if these lands are zoned within the organizational structural schemes as agricultural land, which refrains from dividing the land into smaller plots, the demand for converting the purposes of the land use from agricultural to residential or commercial lands remains growing. This is mainly attributed to the fact that such lands are privately owned by individuals, however, and the ever expanding urbanization.

In some cases, lands are converted by erecting unlicensed buildings in violation of the zoning, which often compels municipalities to deem these territories as a natural extension of some residential clusters. If this situation continues, unattended effects will be inflicted on the agricultural productivity within the cities, as special materials are required to compensate for the soil deteriorated fertility.

Another factor driving urban planners to exclude agriculture from the master plans of cities is the failure of urban agriculture to compete with other economic activities. This is the reality of many comprehensive schemes, and this is the status of countries pursuing economic development, which is derived from a capitalist base which deems the urban agriculture out of the competition compared to economic and other activities of greater financial yields and stronger influence. The reality however suggests that urban agriculture may strengthen the links between urban and rural areas and is capable of realizing food sufficiency, while reducing energy consumption and pollution caused by transportation convection through reducing the emission of carbon dioxide.

Amman Greater municipality has launched an urban agriculture experiment in 2005, which was intended to develop the concept of home gardens in poor neighborhoods. In this experiment, a number of medicinal, aromatic, Cetacean and succulent plant species were cultivated, which secured a decent income for families. Additionally, over (100) roof gardens were planted in the city center.

It is incumbent upon planners when preparing comprehensive development plans to observe the sustainable and appropriate use of agricultural lands. It is also imperative that such lands are classified; especially planted agricultural land within these schemes.

The main obstacles facing food production in urban areas in the Kingdom can be summarized as follows:

Problems associated with the fragmentation of land ownership, the lack of water resources, urbanization in urban areas as a result of the population growth and poor geographical

distribution of the population. Other problems may relate to desertification and deforestation, failure to benefit from the studies and applied research in the field of agriculture for improving food production.

It is evident that urbanization will probably devour productive land eventually. This implies further alienation of food production sites; which consequently increases the costs of all food production-related activities and bring it to the cities. It must be noted that the existing basic services and facilities, such as transportation, storage, slaughterhouses, markets, are already overwhelmingly encumbered. This is the case in most cities of the Kingdom.

11. Addressing traffic challenges in urban areas:

In the past decades, transportation policies and the degradation of services in the public transportation network caused a number of serious problems plaguing most cities in the Kingdom (such as Amman, Zarqa, Irbid). Such problems manifest in the waste of energy, environmental pollution, public expenditures, and the increasing number of private cars which causes traffic congestion; consequently slowing down traffic movements which is a waste of time and money. Despite the different solutions such as building tunnels or construction and widening of new roads, traffic congestion remains present, as it ambulate from one area to another.

Statistics show that approximately (32) thousand public transportation means roam the streets of the Kingdom, and that (80%) of private vehicles are occupied by one passenger only. This is a great indicator of the citizen lack of confidence in public transportation, where (50%) of the Jordanian households own private cars. During the past decade, the number of vehicles in the Kingdom has increased by (110.9%).

In 2014, the Ministry of Transportation has worked on a comprehensive scheme, which is yet to be completed, at the national level in order to introduce unconventional transportation means, establish the needed infrastructure projects, identify the best practices for the management, operation and ownership of public passenger transportation, and develop the most appropriate mechanisms to encourage investment and partnership with the private sector.

In the capital, Amman, the number of vehicles has reach a staggering (800000) licensed vehicles. This figure is subject to annual increase of up to (10%) or approximately (70000) vehicles annually. In ten years, the number of vehicles in Amman alone is expected to reach two million vehicles. This massive number of vehicles is one of the biggest loads on the infrastructure, where demand exceeds the capacity of the city and the solutions to find alternative roads are not feasible due to the mountainous topography of the city of Amman.

As a result of the improper using of urban planning, land uses become the greatest influence in relation to determining the sizes and types of trips, which translate into disorganized traffic of vehicles. To this end, sustainable urban planning plays an important role, which supports the policies related to the sustainable transportation systems and reduces reliance on private vehicles in order to achieve the objectives of urban development to include a combination of integrated uses and public transportation systems. This can be achieved by the policies pursued by the city including promoting multi-use approach, urban condensation policy, and the policy of utilization of vacant land as possible in the city and reducing random haphazard expansion.

The experience of Amman Greater Municipality in this area is a leading one, where a strategic scheme for transportation and traffic was finalized in 2010, which prioritizes public transportation as the mainstay of the traffic system in the city, and increase the use of public transportation from (14%) to (40%). A number of policies according to the scheme were directed to help mitigate the severity of problems related to transportation, improve public transportation services for existing users, improve the swift transportation network, which include a modern public transportation system, such as the speed buss.

There are many projects adopted by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in the Kingdom aimed at the development, preparation, and implementation of plans and programs and to construct, maintain, and sustain road networks in the Kingdom, develop and implement comprehensive schemes for traffic safety sufficient to improve safety in the Kingdom.

Among the most important of these projects is the creation of Amman Development passageway, which aims to develop an economic and population activity area east of Amman. The project will pave the way for expansion of the city towards the east and south-east in an organized fashion through a deliberate planning process; while finding new areas for investment. The project also contributes towards mitigating traffic congestions by providing an alternative roads away from the city center that directly connects to Queen Alia International Airport highway, and open new locations for agricultural or industrial or new housing areas, especially for people with limited income, where the natural extension to the Greater Amman it is expected to be within the areas in which such roads pass.

12. Improving technical capabilities for planning and management of cities:

In light of the scientific and technological development, which coincides with a consequential development in most aspects of life, activities and functions performed by the city have multiplied. In order to avoid randomization; which may result from unplanned or unelaborated growth, the need to improve the technical capacity of city planning came to view in an elaborate scientific, practical future-oriented manner to solve the problems and avoid the emergence of problems. In this context, many initiatives adopted in Jordan with a view to improve the planning process and achieve balanced development in all regions of the Kingdom. Such initiatives include inclusive schemes and governorates' development programs, not to mention the new standards for urban planning and the four strategies for the development of cities which have emerged from the Regional and local development project. Furthermore, endeavors were initiated to update the cities, villages, and buildings organization bylaw but without being approved.

Technical capabilities in urban planning can be achieved by:

- Institutionalize planning and find the concerned cadres. The foundations of the schematic urban planning in the Kingdom were established through the establishment of the Amman Institute for Urban Development, which undertook the preparation of comprehensive municipalities' schemes. However, this institute was unfortunately ceased due to administrative and financial reasons. At the same time, the relevant departments concerned with planning were established in Greater Amman Municipality and the Ministry of municipal Affairs. Such departments are responsible for looking into status quo on the one hand, the needs and requirements of the citizens and the current urgent urban problems and needs on the other hand.

- Refrain from over emphasis on one of temporal dimensions (future and present) at the expense of the other, as this will ultimately lead to disruption. This is the error which some experts and practitioners in the field of planning in the Kingdom have made since the inclusive plans were finalized.
- Activate the appropriate tools and systems such as geographic information system, which helps the optimal situation analysis and reflect future visions towards possible solutions scenarios.
- Recruitment of specialized and trained staff in urban planning, and care for planning graduates from the universities in the Kingdom.
- Develop legislation and laws governing the work of urban planning. In this area many stakeholders has made significant steps, such as:
 - a. Updating the building code and the new zoning by law, this was prepared for the city of Amman, to be in harmony with the vocabulary of sustainable planning.
 - b. In 2010, the Ministry of Municipalities have also worked on introducing major amendments to the Law on organizing the cities and villages which have not been approved yet to become Law on organizing and planning cities and villages; which shall contain the different levels of planning from the types of plans, the contents of each, and the agencies responsible for ratification.
 - c. The Ministry of Municipalities has prepared the planning standards documents for the whole Kingdom; defining the regulatory framework of urban planning in the Kingdom.

Create a legislative framework for urban planning is of great importance, where comprehensive plans in the kingdom were previously set up, but have not been applied or approved. This is due to the fact that the legislative framework under the law on organizing cities and villages since 1966 lacks the vocabulary of urban planning. This necessitates the approval of proposed amendments currently in order for planning efforts exerted in the Kingdom not go in vain, and to have the plans approved and processed to the implementation phase to make it binding on all parties. As a result, it will be incumbent the decision-maker, relevant staff and the local community to understand these plans and participate in the preparation thereof according to a clear methodology, leading to the formulation of decisions based on completed plans in all its aspects.

To improve the capacity of urban planning and how to achieve a sustainable development, group of important aspects are provided, but there are no promising attempts were done for the Kingdom such as using urban areas in the harvesting energy, and approving criteria for land pricing suiting the reality and different population segments, including the lands of city centers and suburbs.

13. Challenges and lessons learned:

One of the most important steps to prepare and implement a strategy for sustainable development is to identify priority challenges that must be addressed by the strategy, and that the comprehensive planning scheme ensures in its urban practices and applications the important balance between the urban and the rural sector. To this end, appropriate standards were developed to ensure refraining from excess focus on cities or specific urban areas while neglecting integrated urban development for many villages, remote or poor areas.

The urban environment is vulnerable to four types of problems, many of which may occur within the due to several causes. Such causes may include the lack of awareness and public

participation, bad governance, poor policies, and lack of knowledge. Failure to confront, address these causes and opting for addressing the immediate and obvious causes implies that the environmental problems will remain in view. The key problems facing the planners can be categorized in four groups:

- The problems of access to infrastructure and environmental services.
- Pollution problems caused by urban waste and emissions.
- The problems of resource deterioration.
- The problems of environmental hazards.

The first and the last group of problems are often under control or not so apparent in the cities of the developed world, while the developing countries are usually faced with all four groups of problems. This is the case of many municipalities in the kingdom, as such problems do not occur separately, but can occur simultaneously, where interaction between them could increase the severity of existing environmental effects or the emergence of new effects.

Based on our experience in urban planning in the Kingdom, we can sum up the challenges facing sustainable urban planning in two important levels; the first is the administrative level and the second is the practical application.

The first administrative level challenges are as follows:

- Managements at the municipalities may indulge into deep details in some cases; which hampers its ability to monitor and identify the big picture. This is most dangerous when it comes to the planning scheme in particular. This will indeed incapacitate the municipalities to form the required understanding building to the future vision of the city.
- Largely or exaggeratedly focusing on a particular sector of the planning scheme, which in turn leads to the occurrence of different types of flaws in the scheme; leading to negligence of other comprehensive urban sectors, with its various dimensions.

The challenges at the second level / level of urban planning in the city are:

- The random urbanization expansion over agricultural land which should be preserved.
- The increasing density of population in urban and rural areas.
- Deterioration of the urban environment and overlapping heterogeneous land uses in cities and villages.
- The increasingly costs of establishing and developing residential areas and the need to develop mechanisms to stimulate the non-governmental sectors.
- Imbalances between supply and demand on the available housing units.
- The status of imbalance in the distribution of housing services and facilities in all areas.
- Escalating traffic and transportation problems.
- Lack of community participation in the areas of urban planning.
- Lack of effective inclusion of environmental issues into sectoral policies.

The most important that determines the role and position of comprehensive planning system with all levels is the ability to specify the scope, terms of reference of the urban planning information, which means the raw material the system dealing with as one of the most important inputs and outputs of comprehensive statistical data or information, or as public urban criteria, or as laws and legislations. Therefore, a powerful and effective urban planning information

system shall be created reflecting a comprehensive, accurate and realistic position and overall development in the Kingdom.

The lessons learned may be derived through finding the best development solutions to achieve sustainable urban design. This is done through finding the ideal solution that takes into account the criteria of sustainable development, which is the responsibility of today's generation vis à vis the future generation. Such solutions must take into account the most important criteria of sustainable development in terms of the following:

- 1) Protect the environment from existing and potential pollutants of all kinds.
- 2) Conservation of natural resources and its sustainability; using quality management of natural resources, and exploiting the same with the least possible wastes and most possible return.
- 3) The adoption of flexibility in urban planning, and that the urban planning should regulate the city's growth and achieve the goals which the society participates with planners in selecting. The spatial planning, both developmental and urban, is characterized by its ability to address existing problems and cater for future ones through the development of objectives and policies to achieve them; taking into account the principles of flexibility, inclusiveness, and integration between all plans and the sustainability thereof.

The urban environment consists mainly of natural and built environment. The quality of these environments is influenced by economic, social, and spatial factors, as well as the institutional framework that governs the relationship between these elements. All this shows that the relationship between the components of the urban environment, quality factors, the problems faced and the hidden causes thereof are quite complex. This means that dealing with the urban environment requires a comprehensive and objective perspective and refraining from temporary and immediate solutions; while continue on digging into the real causes of environmental problems and solve them.

14. Future challenges and issues to be incorporated in the new urban agenda:

It is necessary to have a comprehensive urban schematic system at the national level able to assume the responsibilities of the present conditions and variables on the one hand, and on the other hand is responsible for the formulation and implementation of an urban strategic vision for the future. Based on these principles, the work on Amman Master Plan with its various stages was commenced since 2007 to overcome the traditional thinking of comprehensive planning and shift towards spatial strategic planning and build planning cadres needed, on the grounds that planning for the city cannot be done through the a rigid scheme for the future of the city, but rather through a strategic vision for growth and management of the same through the modification and development of the plan's components.

The key urban planning challenges facing planners in the Kingdom may be summarized as follows:

- 1) Failure to prioritize urban planning at the national level as appropriate in terms of development, training, and patronage.
- 2) Individualized decisions, which rely on trial and error and not on a sound utilization of the information to reach the correct results.
- 3) Absence or lack of institutionalization and national strategic plans in many official institutions in its real sense.

- 4) Lack of systematic decision-making, and poor experience in supporting the planning decision.
- 5) Absence of specialized managements or poor performance thereof. Such managements are particularly important as they are responsible and capable of analyzing and monitoring key trends related to urbanization and the environment.
- 6) Lack of specialized cadres in urban planning or shortage thereof, and the lack of interest of the authorities in training and building the capacity of urban planning cadres.
- 7) Poor employment of demographic indicators in the development planning process, and the lack of accurate and aggregate data on migration.
- 8) Lack of interest in the use of geographic information systems, development and linkage of the same to planning.
- 9) The difficulty of systematic and continuous access to information for all and at all levels, and poor capacity building and exchange of experiences, knowledge and expertise in the field of urban planning.
- 10) Lack of or paucity of qualitative research projects related to urban planning and sustainable land use.
- 11) The lack of information and data related to environmental and urban development, which often makes the process of evaluating the programs and plans inaccurate in many cases.

We are ought to immediately start working with the different sectors and stakeholders in the Kingdom to reach sustainable urban planning by directing plans and policies toward adopting the following strategic objectives:

- Restoring the biodiversity and natural diversity towards the planning for green urban environments.
- Reduce energy consumed in transportation within a single urban area.
- Reduce the use of non-renewable energy and resources and replace it with renewable energy sources.
- Flexible planning and design that suits the needs and the changing population growth rates.
- Encourage the multi-use of lands.
- Create healthy, comfortable, and environmentally friendly areas.

We can propose a number of future cases that can be integrated within the new urban agenda, which must be immediately implemented by the official planning bodies if we are to catch up with urban planning. These include naming a few:

- 1) The institutionalization of the planning process at the local, regional, and national levels. This is what the existing institutions that influence the decision-making process must start on immediately to form a robust foundation for supporting and sustaining the process of planning. This should be done through:
 - Commence and carry on the preparation and updating the databases and the urban planning information.
 - Study of the status of the official national planning body as a mean of constructive self-criticism.
 - Develop and implement a phased and a comprehensive plan for the planning body, as well as preparing and training of promising cadres to work in the field of urban planning.
 - Develop awareness programs on sustainable urban planning and its role in meeting the challenges.

- It is also necessary to develop guidelines pertaining to planning and urban design standards.
- 2) Establishing the main concepts of urban planning with the decision-makers, and work to integrate the concept of sustainable development and sustainable communities at the heart of the comprehensive urban planning process.
- 3) Promote the need for urban policies and strategies by decentralization, and strengthening the local authorities, as well as enhancing the participation in decision-making.
- 4) Develop and review of institutional structures, legislation and regulations governing the process of sustainable urban planning, and work towards build a general framework for the concepts, system, laws and regulations of planning, along with approval and ratification thereof.
- 5) Establish centers at the local level to work on the basis of the comprehensive planning systems concept as a contemporary and necessary instrument for the development of urban planning at the national level.

We can conclude from the preceding that all stakeholders are obligated to coordinate among themselves, as well as to adhere to the implementation of the recommendations stated under these initiatives.

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THEME III

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

15. Addressing the climate change:

In recent years, the phenomenon of climate change became tangible to countries and individuals to which many scientific studies and decisions by international organization come to view. All of this emphasizes that the change in the Earth's climate has become a phenomenon that cannot be overlooked and its adverse effects became a common concern of humankind. Indeed, mankind is deeply anxious about the significant increases in concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused by human activities, which would consequently exacerbate the natural global warming effect which will certainly result in further warming of the earth's surface and the atmosphere. This phenomenon may adversely affect natural ecosystems and the mankind.

To this end, the international community has teamed up to take steps towards addressing this global phenomenon. This endeavor was translated into the World Climate Conference in 1979, in which plans and a global program for the climate have been formulated, while a large number of scientists were nominated to study this phenomenon. In the same context, nations have gathered again at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil in 1992 to formulate a global convention to address the climate change phenomenon; namely "The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", which Jordan was amongst the first countries in the region to join and ratify in 1994.

Jordan is one of the affected countries and not the countries contributing to this phenomenon of climate change, like many developing countries, Jordan has begun to suffer from the negative effects of the climate change including the increasing temperatures, the increase in drought-affected area, erratic rainfall, wobbling heat waves, a significant plunge in available water (underground and surface) due to the decline in water flows, thus causing a shortfall of water available for irrigation and thus threatening food shortage, in addition to the impact of climate change on disease patterns and availability of clean water and decent sanitation facilities, the migration of population from the most affected areas, and the impact of all this on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Adaptation to climate change is no longer an option but rather a necessity and a way of life. Perhaps, this is more important due to the growing population in Jordan and the region, especially for the climate change sensitive segments.

The Jordanian cities is clearly suffer from the poor urban planning which must now take into account the subject of climate change and its potential impact on the green areas and increasing rates of land deterioration. This particularly important studies showed that the agricultural area in the Kingdom have declined to (7.8%) only out of the total geographical area of the Kingdom. Furthermore, chaotic patterns of land use seem to be prevalent which significantly encumbers the environmental sector, through the misuse of land, the lack of modern standards to regulate land use, as well as the different categories of buildings, tourist, residential, industrial, and commercial areas. Among the most important elements of poor land planning manifests in the concentration of the industrial zones in the cities and human settlements such as: Amman, Zarqa, Aqaba, and Irbid, and the negative influence of interactions that occur between these industries, urban centers, and environmental resources such as: groundwater, soil, unlicensed waste spoils,

and the excessive urban expansion. This has a devastating impact on increased air pollution, especially with greenhouse gases resulting primarily from vehicle emissions.

The transition towards a green economy, green cities and buildings will help in facing the challenges posed by climate change. Such an approach should include protection of agricultural lands in and around cities (especially as it largely contributes in absorption of carbon dioxide and mitigates the effects of climate change). Also, a green eco-friendly transportation systems must be established, while new building must be energy-efficient designed with emphasis on maintenance of open green spaces, which includes endemic flora species and increase green areas. To facilitate such transition, a number of current practices must be subjected to "greening"; while new green measures should be introduced. To this end, the Jordanian Council of green buildings was established in 2009 to be the official representative of the World Council for green building in the kingdom within a global network that consists of over 80 councils from around the world. This council is responsible for mainstreaming the concepts of efficient and eco-friendly buildings, and enhancing their practical applications on the ground. The Council acts as a center of excellence in the development of guidelines and codes of green building. On the other hand, Jordan was an active participant in the Rio + 20 Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in the city of Rio de Janeiro - Brazil in 2012. In this conference, Jordan reconfirmed its tireless quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and its willingness to participate in the creating the sustainable development agenda and its goals beyond 2015, and its commitment to the gradual transition towards the green economy and follow sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

In turn, the Ministry of Environment, which was established in 2003 and in collaboration with the United Nations Development program (UNDP), took the initiative of issuing a climate change policy for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years 2013 – 2020. This policy was primarily developed to steer the work of the National Committee on Climate Change; covering the key elements of climate change planning and management which manifest in adapting to climate changes and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, with a special focus on adaptation as being the inevitable path in the coming period in the context of natural resource management. The focus in the area of adaptation is mainly oriented towards the need to support water and agriculture projects along with the recommended actions in other sectors, including health, food security, ecosystem management, coastal zone management, disaster risk reduction, and tourism. The policy includes some recommendations that call for creating and enhancing an enabling environment for policy-making oriented research in the area of climate change. The Ministry of Environment is currently working on the third national communications report on climate change.

At the institutional level, the Ministry of Environment is reconsidering its organizational structure to introduce the directorate of climate change. The directorate will act as a green economy specialized unit. Other amendments include converting the Deir Alla environmental office into the Directorate of Environmental Protection of the Jordan Valley. The Ministry of Environment had also issued a set of environmental legislation that aim to protect and sustain the environmental elements. The most important legislations include: the Environmental Protection Law No. (52) - 2006, whereby a number of bylaws have emerged, such as:

- The bylaw on management and exchange of harmful and hazardous substances No. (24) for the year 2005.
- Solid waste management bylaw for the year 2005.
- The environmental control and inspection bylaw for 2009.

- The natural reserves and national parks bylaw No. (29) for the year 2005.
- The environmental impact assessment bylaw No. (37) for the year 2005 and annexes thereof.
- The bylaw on protecting the environment against pollution in cases of emergency for the year 2005.
- Soil protection bylaw for the year 2005.
- Air Protection bylaw No. (28) for the year 2005.
- An amending bylaw of the Environmental Protection Fund bylaw No. (81) for the year 2013.
- The bylaw on the environmental requirements for electric power generation using direct-burning of oil shale No. (75) for the year 2013.

In addition to the preceding, a set of environmental instructions organization to work in the environment sector exist. In another endeavor, the Ministry is currently reviewing the Environmental Protection law in force to introduce new articles related to addressing the climate change; with reference to the issue of achieving comprehensive and sustainable development of which the most important tool is to shift towards a green economy and sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

In 2014, the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension has commenced on implementing a pilot project for irrigation techniques aiming to counter the effects of climate change in Jordan. The pilot project was financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and will extend of four years. The project primarily targets smallholder farmers in irrigated areas around the Kingdom, where modern irrigation techniques will be used to reduce vulnerability to climate change, which will consequently increase the resilience to the impacts of climate change and water system in Jordan, by testing innovative and effective techniques of water use in various irrigated areas in Jordan.

16. Reducing natural disasters risks:

Human beings face all kinds of dangers during their daily usual activities as well as endangering to their properties. The magnitude of potential damage which may be incurred by the man depends on the type, nature and location of the incident. This only applies to everyday man-made incident. However, larger scale destructive and the most influential incidents are those arising from natural and man-made disasters.

With regards to risks and their impacts, the countries found that it is necessary to take measures to relieve the human sufferings by preventing the occurrence of such incidents on the one hand and mitigation of their impacts in the event of their occurrence on the other hand. Such measures have evolved to become a major part of comprehensive plans prepared by specialized bodies concerned with addressing emergency conditions. Such measures include preparedness, recovery, and impacts removal.

By virtue of its geographical location and human activities in and around the kingdom, Jordan prone to many risks, including natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, the risk of locust invasions, severe weather conditions (blizzards, Freezes). The second category is the risks caused by human activities such as fires, chemical hazards including (industrial accidents, hazardous materials transportation accidents on the roads, etc...), chemical, radiation, and bacterial pollution, armed conflicts, and population migrations.

Such risks often result in devastating consequences to society with all its components. Such consequences may include multiple mortalities and varying injuries, loss of several individuals, displacement of population, destruction of infrastructure (electricity, water, sewage, roads transportation, communications, bridges, dams , facilities, housing, etc...), inflicting considerable material losses to the public and private property, paralysis of normal daily life, especially health care and services, pollution of the environment (water, soil, air), and the spread of epidemics and diseases.

In this regard, the Hashemite leadership has spared no effort to protect the citizen and his property, where the Supreme Council of Civil Defense was established by virtue of Royal directives. Consequently, the council has become by virtue of law the authorized body to take all actions and measures related to addressing emergencies. The Council shall be responsible for the following:

- Develop the general policy of the civil defense in countering emergencies and the potential result thereof.
- Approve comprehensive plans needed in cases of emergencies and disasters, and determine the duties and responsibilities of each official or civil entity, and monitor their implementation.
- Approve the necessary plans to tackle radiation, chemical and biological outbreaks, as well as toxic gases to ensure prevention and protection; in coordination and cooperation with the competent authorities.
- Issue the instructions necessary to organize the work of civil defense the Council and the management of the base of operation in the Council and of those represented therein, as well as the civil defense committee's bases of operations in the governorates and districts.
- Create and equip public shelters in the Kingdom.
- Identify the duties and functions of the civil defense committees formed under the provisions herein in the different governorates.
- Identify and duties of the armed forces and public security in emergency and disaster situations to support the civil defense.
- Formation of civilian volunteer teams in the age range of (18) to (50) to support the civil defense.
- Explain the mechanism of warning citizens of emergencies and disasters, and identify the means to do so.
- Prepare a realistic budget for emergencies and disasters management, and submit the same to the Cabinet for approval and inclusion in the general budget.
- Recommend to the cabinet to guide and merge departments and institutions and the relevant local authorities to monitor the financial allocations in their annual budgets necessary to perform their duties and tasks as assigned by the Council.

At the level of inter-Arab cooperation, the first Arab conference to reduce the risk of disasters was held in the city of Aqaba during the period 19-21/3/2013, where the conference discussed the existing policies and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk management, as well as the regional progress made in the efforts to reduce the risks and the implementation of Hyogo Action Framework, the regional situation and efforts exerted in respect of Hyogo Action Framework 2, the Global Framework for Disaster Reduction beyond 2015, the nature of risks in urban areas in the Arab region, and finally the best practices for risk management in urban areas.

17. Reduction of traffic congestion:

Land transportation represents a key element in the social and economic development and is considered a vital element for land and society. As road transportation has some advantages traffic congestion which is caused by the irregular traffic slowdown, which wastes time and money. Land transportation is one of human activities that pollute air, create noise, and help the outbreak of diseases as a result of emissions from cars exhaust. This significantly affects the human health, as well as the anger among drivers which may lead to the occurrence of traffic accidents. Nowadays, road transportation in Jordan has increased to by over (90) folds compared to early fifties of the last century. The number of vehicles have increased by approximately (8.6%) to reach (110.9%) during the last ten years, which in turn led to the increase in the number of registered drivers, which has reached about (76.3%). All of this is attributed to the large increase in population, where the percentage increase of about (22.8%) in the last ten years. The number of foreign vehicles entering the Kingdom has also increased, as well as Jordanian expatriates' vehicles or the vehicles of fellow Arabs coming as visitors or residents, which has increased by (180.3%) in the last ten years. This increase in the number of vehicles is the factor that led to traffic congestions in the streets of the Kingdom and the capital, in particular, to which about 177 thousand vehicles enter every day.

Nevertheless, all these increases were not accompanied with neither an expansion of the road network or any improvement in the public transportation system as a convenient alternative for usage of privately owned vehicles. Other reasons that led to the growing problem of traffic congestion is related to the lack of proper planning of cities and the failure of construction of roundabouts and tunnels to accommodate such a massive number of vehicles, as well as the lack of proper detours when new roads are constructed, knowing that some of these projects do not contribute to solving the problems of traffic as required. In addition, roads and sidewalks are often inappropriately used by street vendors and car shows, while some hotels do exploit or close adjacent roads for security reasons. On top of that, random parking and misbehavior of drivers such as lane violations and failure to give priority add to the problem . All of this leads to traffic jams on most of the main streets even beyond morning and evening peaks, where it became almost permanent in some locations. This requires engineering, regulatory and administrative, technical and control solutions and action by all the relevant authorities in order to mitigate this problem and its negative effects on both the economic and environmental levels. Also, reducing the use of private cars and shifting more towards public transportation network requires planning and fiscal policies with a comprehensive strategy for transportation and improvement of the public transportation network and system, knowing that the Ministry of Transportation is currently working on a project to develop a new strategy for transportation that aims to develop long-term strategic plan for the transportation sector that expands to 2030, and to provide a program for monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators and setting the priorities for investments. This of course should take into account the regional dimension in order to develop and manage the transportation sector effectively. To this end, all the transportation sectors will be consolidated (road, maritime, air, and wired) within a single planning document. This is aimed to align the work with the objectives of the national agenda which seek to achieve modern, sustained, efficient, and safe transportation system that enhances the environmental stability and promote economic and social development. Such a system should also be capable of achieving the aspirations of the Jordanians and His Majesty Royal Visions, and contribute effectively to the achievement of national goals.

18. Air pollution:

The atmosphere represents an important element of the surrounding environment, which in the natural conditions consisting of several gases mainly nitrogen, oxygen (78%) and (21%), respectively, in addition to small amounts of some other gases such as carbon dioxide, argon, neon and helium, which aggregately constitute (1%). However, if these percentages are disrupted due to the presence of gases that are harmful to organisms such as sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, and carbon oxide, as well as some organic compounds, dust and others then air shall be deemed polluted.

Air pollution is often temporarily if resulted by natural factors such as dust emission due to strong winds and the sirocco, fires and others. Permanent air pollution on the other hand usually occurs because of activities associated with the economic development process. Mining operations, power plants, chemical industries, and constructions are main contributors to air pollution. In regards to the different means of transportation which have increased dramatically, they stand among the most important sources of air pollutants at the meantime. Air pollution is broader prevalent because of environmental pollution, as it moves between the regions and cross-border because of wind movements.

The accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere has affected the lives of organisms, mankind, as these pollutants lead to many diseases, including respiratory diseases, which usually lead to higher rates of mortality in those areas. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere has also caused the phenomenon known as global warming, which has led to a rise in the Earth's temperature and major climate changes in many parts of the world. Furthermore, the use of certain organic compounds in some industrial applications has resulted in the interaction of these gases with the ozone, which forms an insulating layer of the Earth from the harmful sun rays, causing a hole in that layer. The hole will continue to increase if the use of these materials is not restricted.

The sources of air pollution are: extractive and manufacturing industries, such as petroleum refinery, cement, phosphate, potash and others. These factories emit harmful gases such as carbon oxides and sulfur oxides, in addition to the emission of large amounts of dust in the surrounding areas. Also, the emission of electric power plants, industries, houses and commercial facilities.

Due to the increasing demand for energy as a result of the population growth and the accompanying evolution in industrial growth, air pollution has increased with several pollutants; fore mostly sulfur and nitrogen oxides in addition to the emission of greenhouse gases which is blamed for global warming. Perhaps the most important causes of air pollution is that industrial enterprises still rely mainly on fuel oil for energy production, where the proportion of fuel oil use is still around (27%), while the use of diesel has increased to reach (36%).

Burning of solid waste: such as the burning of tires and household waste which emit large amounts of carbon oxides and sulfur oxides. Soot, Sandboxes, crushers, asphalt mixers, ready concrete mixers, quarries and stone saws: These sources emit large amounts of dust that spread over large areas depending on the wind direction.

Crude oil loading (Aqaba Port) and petroleum byproducts (gas stations): These sources result in the spread of petroleum byproducts aerosols which spread in the areas surrounding the gas stations. Olive trees and pounders result in the emission of some volatile compounds that

cause uncomfortable odor; especially from Zebar collection pools exposed to the sun light that lead to oxidation of oils residue due to the heat turning them into Aldehydes and other odorous compounds, such as phenols which cause allergic reactions in the respiratory system.

Wastewater treatment plants: emitting some gases resulting from fermentation processes such as hydrogen sulfide H₂S, ammonia NH₃, and methane CH₄, etc.. Such gases may cause health effects in addition to unpleasant odors and can spread over long distances.

Locomotive sources: include vehicles; which have increased dramatically during the past years; where the number of gasoline vehicles has multiplied by over six folds during the period from 1981 to 2006, while diesel vehicles have multiplied more than ten times during that period.

Natural sources: include dust storms, pollen, and accidental fires.

The Ministry of Environment is the authority concerned with monitoring and reducing air pollution in the region. Under its mandate, the ministry has established the Directorate of Monitoring and Evaluation in 2006 in order to monitor emissions and concentrations of pollutants in the air, and identify hot environmental foci in order to deal with them at the national level; while binding polluters to comply with the limits and specifications allowed in Jordan and sighting violators.

In 2009, the World Bank has prepared a study to calculate the cost of environmental deterioration in Jordan through a scientific method to measure the actual and estimated spending on addressing health and environmental impacts of environmental pollution in several sectors, and the result was as follows:

Sector	Cost (million JOD) (annually)	GDP %
Water	82,86	0.81%
Land	11,92	0.12%
Air	113	1.15%
Waste	23,86	0.23%
Other areas	4,83	0.04%
Total	236,47	2.35%

It is evident that environmental deterioration drives down the quality of already limited natural resources, which in turn led to a fall of the standard of living and soar up spending on health services of the diseases caused by this deterioration, such as respiratory diseases and malignancies. It is also necessary to allocate astronomical amounts of money in an attempt to rebalance the ecosystem of the affected areas.

19. Challenges and lessons learned:

1) Addressing the climate change:

Despite the achievements made in terms of dealing with the negative effects of climate changes, climate change is still a major issue hindering the achievement of sustainable development in Jordan (especially in the water and agriculture sectors). The most prominent achievements are:

- Jordan has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June 1992 and ratified it in November 1993.
- Jordan has submitted the first report of national communications to the UNFCCC in January 1998.
- The cabinet approved the formation of the national committee on climate change in 2001.
- Jordan has approved the Kyoto Protocol in 2003.
- The formation of a designated national authority (DNA) for the development of project proposals in addition to initiatives for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Four projects of good development mechanism were registered so far with the Executive council which qualified to be benefited from the sale of low quantity emission.
- A self-assessment study (NCSA) was prepared, which relates to environmental management in the field of climate change.
- A comprehensive program was launched to enhance Jordan adaptability to climate change.
- Jordan has developed the first and the second national communications report for the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change.
- Jordan has prepared a study titled "National environment and economic development of climate change (NEEDS).
- Jordan has joined the partnership initiative for market preparation (PMR).
- The Jordanian climate change policy 2013-2020 has been developed and launched as the first policy of its kind in the Arab region.
- The completion of the scoping study on the status of the green economy in Jordan and commencing on the development of a national strategy for the green economy.
- The establishment of the Jordanian Green Building Council in 2009.

2) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):

One of the most important challenges facing the efforts to reduce disaster risk lies in the limited financial resources, lack of qualified human resources, and the lack of coordination between the agencies involved.

The most prominent achievements are:

- The formation of the Supreme Council of Civil Defense to be qualified to deal with any disaster that may occur in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan starting from the readiness stage with the response and finally how to deal with such incidents.
- The creation of (3) emergency warehouses spread over the three regions, which are fully equipped, and also identifying shelter locations for those affected by natural disasters.
- Issuing the instructions for the civil defense volunteers for the year 2012, which aim to increase the effectiveness of rescue operation of human lives and properties, and help the entities involved in disaster management.
- Issuing the instructions on organizing, import, export, transportation, storage, sale, and safe guarding of explosives for the year 2014.

3) Reducing traffic jams:

The main causes of traffic jams manifest in the lack of relevant roads and streets to cater for such scale of traffic, the ineffectiveness of the public transportation, the unified starting times of official working hours, the lack of public parking spaces especially within the commercial areas, as well as the establishment of large business ventures on main streets and the failure to study

their traffic impact before inception, in addition to the concentration of major service centers in the capital within specific areas and on main streets. The most prominent achievements are:

- Utilizing the following traffic control systems and mechanism: These represent (the cameras installed at traffic lights, on the sides of roads or inside traffic police patrols cars).
- Utilizing a geographical positioning system of traffic accidents (GPS): to develop the necessary solutions for dangerous areas and traffic jams, and the utilizing a Portable Digital Assistant system for traffic citations (PDA).
- Awareness campaigns for the citizens through the public security radio with regards to traffic congestion and suggest alternative roads.
- Organizing the traffic within the capital (Amman) by helicopter.
- Coordination between the operating room at the Ministry with the central control room at the Greater Amman Municipality to control traffic via usage of proper traffic lights.

4) Air pollution:

The main challenges in this regard manifest in the increased concentrations of sulfur in diesel, due to unsustainable patterns of production in the industrial sector, the increased numbers of private cars as people avoid the use of public transportation, poor funding for the expansion of networks for monitoring the quality of air in order to cover all regions of the Kingdom. The most prominent achievements are:

- Jordan is the first country in the region to develop a national strategy for the protection of the environment, in 1991, which included action plans to combat air pollution.
- Completely phased out the use of gasoline in 2008.
- Monitoring the concentration levels of gaseous air pollutants and micro airborne dust in the most polluted areas, where a monitoring network has been established to cover (75%) of the population of Jordan.
- Calculating of pollutants levels resulting from the different sectors (transportation, industrial sector, and the agricultural sector) in Jordan, as well as the establishment of an action plan to reduce their emissions.
- Setting the necessary specifications for vehicles imported for the purposes of public and environmental safety.
- Upgrading the public transportation buses, where the average operational life of medium size buses has reached (20) years; and (25) years for large buses; providing all necessary facilities and customs exemptions.
- Delisting small public car of which the operating life exceeds ten years and provide customs exemptions in return for importing hybrid cars, and prohibits the import of vehicles older than five years.
- Upgrading the truck fleet.
- Providing government incentives for the students of public universities to encourage the use of public buses.
- Amending the specifications of diesel and gasoline for the purposes of reducing the emissions resulting from their use.

20. Challenges and future outlook:

Jordan stresses the need to address the conflicts taking place in some Arab countries through peaceful and diplomatic manner since these conflicts negative and destructive effects to the achievement of comprehensive and sustainable development of these countries. This also

applies to the countries neighboring the conflict, where the Syrian crisis, for example, led to the displacement of approximately (1.4) million Syrians to the territory of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which overwhelmingly encumbers the infrastructure of the kingdom and drains down its already scarce natural resources; compromising the quality of these resources. Such conflicts also may inflict devastating effects on the development plans and programs prepared by the government, which would be reflected negatively on the Jordanian economy and the citizens' standard of living. For instance, Zaa'tari camp was created over the largest underground water reservoir in Jordan which will bring havoc if contamination by human activities of the camp.

1) Addressing the climate change:

- Incorporate the concept of climate change and its impacts and consequences prior to construction of any project.
- Set a legislative framework to regulate the work of climate change to maximize the benefits and minimize the adverse effects.
- Build up national and institutional expertise in the field of climate change, and technology transfer.
- Improving the climate forecast through enhancing the control and knowledge and using the scientific techniques.
- Raise the awareness among political decision-makers and enhance individual and institutional capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change in a fast, effective, and knowledge-supported manner, through employing environmental national awareness programs.
- Transition to green economy, green cities and places to cope with challenges imposed by the climate change.
- Expansion of land reclamation.
- Strengthen the role of community to confront the challenges posed by climate change by raising awareness and working towards changing misbehaviors, taking into consideration the role of women as a housewife and a mother.

2) Disaster Risk Reduction:

- Updating the National Strategy to eliminate disasters.
- The formation of a technical committee from all stakeholders to be the executive arm of the Supreme Council of Civil Defense.
- Build up the local capabilities involved in crisis management.
- Mobilize human and financial resources as necessary to implement the comprehensive national plan for emergencies and disasters.
- Training to handle civil defense actions in case of emergencies at the highest level of qualification and readiness.

3) Reducing traffic jams:

- Develop a new long-term strategy for the transportation sector that extends to the year 2030.
- Improve the public transportation network and raise the awareness among all community segments to be used instead of private vehicles.
- Expand roads constantly, improve main intersections, and create new intersections, tunnels, and others.
- Not granting a license for any building without parking.
- Transfer some of the public department located in overpopulated areas to other areas.

- Prohibit the entry of private cars to congested areas, and creating parking spaces at nominal fees.
- Divide the working hours of public employees by varying the starting and finish time.

4) Air pollution:

- Monitoring air quality programs in the crowded territories (industrial and too much populated).
- Complete legislation and specifications and update the same to reduce the pollution resulting from various sectors.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate the high sulfur concentration in used diesel to cope with global levels.
- Pursue with the program to link factories with the Ministry of Environment to control the emissions from various industries.

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THEME IV
URBAN GOVERNANCE LEGISLATIONS ⁽¹⁾
CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

21. Improving urban Legislations:

The fifties era of the bygone century was constitutive decade for Jordan on the subject of local communities and the desire for developing them to cope with the political, social, economic and technological changes affecting such communities, and in light of the increasing need of the community for better participation and access to services. To this end, several laws and regulations were approved and several public departments and institutions as well as local units were formed. Jordan approach to local communities was composed of three bylaws; namely the governorates bylaw, the municipality bylaw, and the villages' management bylaw. The governorates bylaw is based on the administrative formations bylaw No. 16 of 1962, under which the kingdom was divided into governorates, provinces, districts, and areas. It is considered as a system of no administrative focus rather than being a decentralized system, due to the fact that a governorate is subsidiary of the Ministry of the Interior subject to its presidency control. In fact the governorate is closer to the central system than to the decentralized system. Jordan was able to tap into the experience of local groups as formed in village councils, where it worked on enacting and implementing the villages' management law No. 5 of 1954. I municipalities, Jordan has worked on implementing the municipalities law No. 29 of 1955, as amended. Such experiences can be regarded as actually linked to the local communities. The work of the local administration in Jordan is structures under a number of laws, regulations and directives as stipulated in the attached list of regulations. Despite the introduction of several amendments to the legislation, they still need to be further developed to keep abreast of with development dynamics.

In the area of housing, the following legislative issues were addressed:

- Approving the Landlords and Tenants Law No. (30) for the year 2000 with the aim to balance the relationship between owners and tenants, and encourage investors to invest in housing for the purpose of leasing.
- The government issued the decree No. (1932) dated 5/8/2006, which calls for the exemption from registration fees and associated charges for all residential units with a maximum area of (120) m² excluding services. Should the area exceed (120) m², then the excess area of the apartment shall be subject to registration fees. Should the apartment area exceed (150) m², then the whole area of the apartment is subject to the applicable registration fees. Also, the sales tax on steel was reduced from 16% to 8%.
- Issuing the initial draft of the law on regulating the housing sector, with the participation of both the public and private sectors in order to organize the work of the housing sector within an appropriate legislative environment that ensures the protection of all parties involved in the housing process.

With regard to management of Municipalities a law was issued on regulating the municipal affairs in 1925, which remained in force until the Municipalities Law No. 9 of 1938. In 1955 the Municipalities Act No. 29 of 1955 was issued, which was regarded the municipal council as one of the local administration units in Jordan and; granting the municipal council under the above mentioned municipal law the legal personality with financial independence and the right of

(1) The term "local administration" is commonly used in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

possession and litigation. After that, the municipal law No. (13) of 2011 was issued; which introduced the developmental role of municipalities in addition to a number of amendments to the elections and the participation of women. However, at the level of urban planning and the organization of urban areas, the first bylaw was issued in 1933, followed by the law on regulating cities, villages and buildings No. 79 for the year 1966, under which the regulatory authorities and the planning committees' terms of references were developed. It also stipulated the provisions regulating the construction, monitoring of urbanization and protecting the environment against pollution; imposing criminal sanctions and the criminalizing offenders.

Under this law, a number of regulations were issued; most importantly the regulation on building coding No. (19) for the year 1985 for the areas located within the boundaries of the scheme. Another example is the regulation on land use No. 6 for the year 2007 to control the construction process and steer investment towards the areas outside the boundaries of the scheme.

Environmental wise, law No. (52) for the year 2006 came to protect and preserve the environment in line with the environmental agreements and to contribute to the protection of human and environment health against pollution. Under this law, a set of regulations and instructions were issued to maintain the sustainable development of human and environmental, through complying with the environmental conditions and standard specifications aiming to reduce environmental pollution. Furthermore, the policies, programs and projects necessary for sustainable development were introduced.

22. Decentralization and enhancing local authorities/municipalities.

The concept of decentralized system and local governance was introduced since the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This is evident in issuing the first municipalities' law in 1925, and the administrative formations regulation in 1927. In 1928 the statute of the preceding law was issued, under which Article 26 and beyond stipulate that "administrative subdivisions in the east of the Jordan, grades, names, management methodology, and addresses of management personnel thereof shall be assigned by virtue of a regulation to be issued by the Executive Council with the consent of His Royal Highness the Prince". Nevertheless, the administrative staff powers and type of such powers shall be determined under the law of Municipal Affairs in the cities and towns of East Jordan, which shall manage the municipal councils according to a special law. Based on that, the new municipalities' law No. 9 in 1928 was issued, then the 1947 constitution which was based on a popular decision represented in the decisions of municipal councils. The situation continues as it was under the statute of 1928 until the 1952 constitution; consequently evolving the Jordanian application of local administration, as in Article 120 which stipulate that "Administrative subdivisions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the formations of government departments, grades, names, management methodology, staff recruitment, dismissal and supervision, the limits of their powers and terms of reference shall be determined according to the regulations to be issued by the Council of Ministers with the consent of his majesty the King" Also, Article 121 of the same stipulates that "Municipal affairs and local councils shall be managed by municipal or local councils, according to special laws". Subsequently, the law on the villages' management No. 5 of 1954 was passed, the Municipalities' law No. 17 of 1954 and the Municipalities' law No. 29 of 1955 and No. 14 in 2007, and finally the Municipalities law for the year 2011. Furthermore, the administrative formations regulation was issued in 1965, and 1966, along with the regulation No. 47 of 2000, the administrative subdivisions' regulation

in 1957, 1972, 1985, and 1995, and the administrative subdivisions' regulation No. 46 of 2000, as amended.

On 5/7/2004 His Majesty King Abdullah II expressed his support for a proposed administrative decentralization project in the governorates. In this regard, His Majesty called upon the officials to develop the studies and legislation necessary prelude to the formal approval thereof. However, the project did not succeed due to the tendency to apply local administration in a balanced manner with the municipalities.

In 2005, a Royal Decree was issued forming a committee of twelve. Such committee was composed of political, economic and administrative leaders aiming to reconsider the administrative subdivisions in the kingdom in order to introduce several development zones or regions, where each of which shall includes a number of governorates; while each governorate shall have a directly elected council from residents of the region. The council would be responsible; along with other elected municipal councils in the governorates; for setting the priorities and develop plans and programs for the region. The initial proposals were indeed developed and a pilot was carried out in Madaba particularly due to its complete development scheme and available budget. For political and social reasons, the idea of regions was called off and replaced with the decentralization of governorates.

In 2009, inter- ministerial and technical committees were formed; which was responsible for developing several scenarios for the shape of decentralization in Jordan, including: the decentralization project document, local councils draft article, an amending draft article of the municipalities' law, and an amending draft article of the administrative formations.

In 2014, the legislation shaping the local decentralized administration was introduced, headed by the Ministry of Interior. Under this legislation the following was agreed upon: (a) to provide optimum services for the citizens in their local communities, (b) increase public participation, (d) focus on the development decision by identifying local communities' priorities to ensure equitable distribution of development returns,(d) review the legislation to ensure the application of the local administration according to the desirable structure, monitoring the services provided by ministries in the governorates and (e) specify authorities of the local administration in the governorates. Additionally, it is necessary to adopt the principle of fiscal decentralization, finalize the agenda of the inter-ministerial technical committee through the preparation of the following: the draft article of the municipalities' law for the year 2014, and the law of governorate councils of 2014; granting governors developmental powers and also assistant the governor for the development affairs to act as the vice president of the Executive Council and the General Secretariat of the development units in governorates.

Based on the preceding, the local governance and decentralization system in Jordan was formed based on a futuristic vision and mechanism of action as follows:

- Mobilize national and community efforts with the participation of stakeholders from the public and the private sectors and cooperate to create a better life for the citizens in their areas of residence.
- Establish a national dialogue with stakeholders in order to reach a consensus on unified national vision, in line with the royal directives and visions to find a developmental and administrative decentralized system.
- Implement a participatory approach on the national and local levels in all governorates to ensure that the general framework of the proposed project is appropriate.

- Bring into being a formal reference to follow-up and coordinate among all principal and subsidiary committees supervising the project areas at the Ministry of interior.
- Provide competent and qualified cadres and sourcing advisory expertise, and a number of governors and administrative governors to be selected to review the output of the committees work.
- Study the basic pillars of the project and develop a base for the preparation of local development management strategy. The most prominent pillars are: development of integrated legislation, development of local administrative organizational structures, dividing the tasks between national institutions, governorates and municipalities, carrying out the local elections on regular basis and smoothly, finding suitable financing system, develop the mechanisms of legal and financial supervision of the regional and local councils, strengthen the partnership with the private sector, management and development of human resource, provide technical support for training, promote the principles of accountability and equal opportunities.

23. Improving participation and human rights in the urban development field:

In recent years, Jordan was able to make a great progress in order to apply the concept of popular participation through the creation of governing legislation; as such legislations would support the role of citizens and their participation in the management of local affairs and local public facilities located within their areas of residence within the territory of the state. It has also sought after 1996 to improve popular participation and human rights through ratifying many international charters and conventions, for example:

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2006.
- The Convention on eliminating all Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Jordan has also enacted several pieces of legislation that strengthened inclusiveness and human rights, for example:
- The Election Law No. (25) for the year 2012
- This law grants Jordanians the right to elect as well as run for office, which is considered one of the most important political rights; ensuring their participation in political life and exercise the role of control over the work of the government.
- The Political Parties Law (16) for the year 2006.
- This law grants Jordanians the rights to form political parties and join any of them in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and those hereunder; granting the political parties the right to participate in elections at various locations and levels.
- Municipalities Law No. (13) for the year 2011 .This law supports the role of citizens and their participation in the management of local affairs and utilities located within their localities within the territory of the kingdom.
- The Public Meeting Act No. (45) for the year 2001
- Jordanians have the right to hold public meetings or organizing rallies to express their views. This is among the most important political rights granted to Jordanians.

Since the issuance of the Municipalities Act No. 29 of 1955, as amended, the elected municipal Council in public poll and common vote was regarded as one of the local administration units in Jordan; giving it a legal personality with financial independence, which shall have the right to induce, cancel, and determine its boundaries, functions and powers. It aims to develop and implement follow-up plans and programs to achieve sustainable development with the

participation of local communities and to exercise any activities of local developmental nature, and manage all the services, facilities and local projects assigned to them on their own or through partnership with the private sector and civil society institutions. At the level of planning and organization, the law on organizing cities, villages and buildings No. 79 for the year 1966 includes three levels of planning; the regional level which comes in two types and administered by the regional council; which shall be granted all the tasks and powers granted to the Higher regulatory council and the local regulatory commissions as the case in the Petra zone Authority, The Aqaba Special Economic Zone, the Jordan Valley Authority, and the development Zones Commission. The other is managed by the Provincial Planning Committees in governorates and provinces. The second level / local level and the third / detailed level are management by the local regulatory committees (municipal councils). Each type of these levels has its own plans and programs, implementation phases which are tentatively approved by these committees, each according to its term of reference, to be ultimately implemented according to a decision of the Higher Regulatory Council. Since 2006, after the issuance of the regulation of land use No. 6 for the year 2007, and the ratification of the map of land use, the ministry has pursued a participatory approach in the preparation of plans by holding workshops with the local community and its leaders and civil institutions to discuss all matters relating to the development of their localities and identify potential investment projects in order to come up with regional comprehensive development plans. The Ministry is also undertaking, in conjunction with international organizations the building of institutional capacity of municipalities and promote popular participation in municipal work; activating the participation of the private sector with municipalities and provide financial support for priority investment projects, and work towards creating voluntary committees, Revival Committees, and units of development in the municipalities in order to expand the participation umbrella between the government, the municipalities, and communities.

24. Enhancing safety and security in urban areas:

The community partnership strategy seeks to enhance the security and safety in Jordan to achieve a number of objectives within certain main themes manifesting in the reduction of crime and proliferation of illegal drugs, promote traffic safety, increase the efficiency of public security officials and the effectiveness of police and security operations, raise the level of logistic readiness and promote the use of strategic approach in the decision-making process, and development security media. The goal of reducing crime linked to strengthening the sense of security and safety in the community, and activating the role of stakeholders in the provision of security services according to international standards, and respecting human rights. In regards to illegal drugs, a threefold strategy in reducing proliferation of illegal drugs among the preventive, operational, and remedial pillars through a combination of punitive legislation, such as the penal code No. 16 of 1960, the Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances No. 11 of 1988, and the Crime Prevention Law No. 7 of 1955. With respect to the domain of traffic, the Public Security Directorate in collaboration with stakeholders promotes traffic safety and implements road safety control effectively and efficiently using all means and possibilities towards providing safer roads for its users. Traffic departments were established that have collaborated on a number of themes and intensified lectures and courses in partnership with various public and private institutions due to the potential impact of such training on correcting the public behavior towards the use of the road and protecting the community members, and strengthening the supervisory and regulatory role which controls the situation of traffic through adopting and implementing the traffic law No. 49 of 2008, as amended, and the regulation on licensing drivers and vehicles, and the transportation law No. 33 for the year 2010. In 2006, the Jordanian Environmental Protection Act No. 52 was passed which included a provision on

environmental awareness in the community. Paragraph (h) of Article IV stipulates "coordination of national efforts to protect the environment, including the development of a national strategy for awareness, education and environmental communication, as well as transport, use, and provision of environmental information, and take the necessary measures to this end". Also, paragraph (a) of Article IV of the same law stipulates "Develop the public policy for the protection of the environment, and prepare the plans, programs and projects necessary to achieve sustainable development".

In the area of urban planning, the Ministry of Municipalities works on drawing the urban features, adheres to the standards of development, and provides integrated infrastructure in accordance with the legislatively provided plans to ensure a safe environment for the life of the population and the sustainability of development projects in all urban areas. In the area of urban project planning, the ministry provides logistical and financial support through the Cities & Villages Development Bank and international grants. The Municipalities Act included a set of tasks and powers vested in local councils, all of which relate to taking the necessary precautions to maintain the general health of the population, prevent the outbreak of epidemics and prevent harmful accidents damage as a result of performing any of the municipalities' functions. The law permitted the demolition of dilapidated buildings that pose a threat to public safety, health and security. Also, regulation No. 1 of 1978 has been issued and was named the regulation on preventing calamities and waste collection fees within the borders of the municipalities. Furthermore, the law on organizing the cities, villages and buildings No. 79 for the year 1966 has included monitoring urbanization within urban areas to preserve their natural aesthetic nature and prevent damage of calamities, pollution, wrong dispose of waste and sewage. The law has designated a special article on traffic control on the roads in collaboration with the Traffic Department to improve traffic flow and determine the speed limit on urban roads and prevent random parking. The law has also included the need to identify riverbeds, valleys and areas prone to landslides and glides and the necessity to take precautionary measure to provide the means of public safety for the citizens and construction of buildings. Other examples of safety and security enhancing laws in urban areas include the Jordanian National Construction Law No. 7 of 1993 along with the regulations and codes issued hereunder, as it specifically stipulates public safety in the implementation of construction projects from the design phase until completion. Add to that the Contractors Association Law No. 13 of 1983, which necessitate the compliance with contracting agreements; which emphasizes taking all the necessary precautionary measures to ensure public safety for the citizens and public funds. This is in addition to the set of punitive and penal laws and legislation and traffic law.

25. Improving social Integration and Equality:

- Jordan has ratified a range of international agreements related to the promotion of human and women's rights. the following legislation were amendment and approved:
 - Social Security law in 2014, which created unemployment insurance, maternity insurance, and optional subscription; allowing housewife to subscribe to social security.
 - In 2014, Jordan has joined the United Nations' initiative to eliminate violence against women, and to establish of associations concerned with gender-based violence against women, prepare a strategy to eliminate violence against women, establish Al-Wifaq family reconciliation home, and issuing the regulations on shelters for women victimized and affected by human trafficking crimes in 2012.
 - Civil service bylaw in 2013, which granted female employees a breastfeeding hour per day for nine months after maternity leave, a leave upon abortion, and the family

reconciliation offices bylaw in 2013, not to mention the exemptions granted for persons with disabilities in 2013.

- **Participation in public life:**

- Women constitute 12% of the total members of the Senate. However, the Women's Committee was formed therein as a permanent committee.
- The amended election law for the House of Representatives for the year 2012: allocated 15 seats for women. Accordingly, and the percentage of women in the House of Representatives has increased from 10.8% in 2009 to 12% in 2013. We must also note that the Committee on Women and Family Affairs was established in the House of Representatives.
- Women make up to 11% of ministerial seats, and 10% of senior management positions.
- The municipalities' law for the year 2011 has increased the quota for women in municipal councils from 20% to 25%. Currently, women constitute 35.9% of the members of municipal councils in 2013.
- Women representation in labor unions is around 22% and 32% in professional unions, and 7.6% in the chambers of industry and commerce.
- The political parties' law for the year 2012 has stated that women members in the party should not be less than 10%.
- The Human Rights Unit was introduced at the Prime Ministry in 2014 and is working to coordinate efforts with human rights-concerned community organizations.
- The Jordanian forum of female parliamentarians in 2013 was established aiming at laying out a legislative agenda for each parliamentary session, in which the priority laws are determined, especially those related to women and human rights.

- **Economic Participation:** The percentage of women owning lands is 9.2%, apartments 19.5%, and securities 43.4%. There seems to be many actors that have contributed to overcoming the financial constraints that limit the capacity of women's participation in the production process and work through the provision of aid and concessional loans.
- **Education:** Achievement of the development goal related on gender equality of enrollment. The average female enrollment in primary education is 99%, 87% in secondary education, and 51.3% in the universities. The percentage of illiteracy among females has reached 9.9% in 2012.
- **Health:** preparation of the policies and strategies needed to improve the quality of health care in general and reproductive health in particular, including the development program for the period 2011-2013, where Jordan has witnessed a quantum leap in the field of health care, which was reflected on the improvement of health indicators; such as life expectancy rises in females and a decrease in procreation rates and mortality of babies and mothers.
- **The Elderly:** Provide care for the elderly and providing social and health care services, as well as an infrastructure responsive to their needs. The number of nursing homes, day clubs, and comprehensive elderly-friendly health care centers has increased. Provide care for people with disabilities in terms of preparing the strategies and legislation and provide different services for their support and their integration in the community in order to contribute to the process of sustainable development. The Higher Council for Disability was created in 2007, while the national strategy for people with disabilities for the years 2010-2015 was also issued. Pediatric issues are addressed through the National Council for

Family Affairs and its role in coordinating with the relevant institutions to raise awareness of pediatric issues, and the Center for Social Support subsidiary of the Jordanian Hashemite Human Development Fund and its contribution to the implementation of the national strategy to reduce child labor.

26. Lessons learned:

- Urban development policies in Jordan have an advantage of integrating with economic and social development strategies. This is in order to provide services to all citizens on the national and local levels. Based on the government prudence, represented by all its official institutions, to meet the growing demand for citizen services in their local communities, the government intervention came through legislation, policies and action strategies that formed the general framework of urban development in Jordan. Based on the above, the successive Jordanian governments have paid a considerable interest to urban legislation and improvement thereof to keep abreast with the requirements of development.
- Political support for the development of legislation to elevate the intellect and applications of the local administration, especially with regard to the shift towards decentralization and efforts exerted to achieve the best practices in terms of administrative subdivisions, assignment of powers, the distribution of roles and responsibilities, identifying references, and future trends and the consequential planning decision in governorates and municipalities.
- Provide a legislative framework for urban development whereby communities are granted their role in participation, enabled to manage their localities and conclude development plans in their areas and prioritize the appropriate investment projects in order to ensure the sustainability of the projects.
- Adopting a participatory approach in the development and amendment of legislation, and the integration of policies, roles and responsibilities among all the official authorities. Coordination at the national and local levels, as well as with international institutions, particularly with regard to capacity building.
- Promotion of human rights and gender equality, and adopt plans for institutionalizing the social role to achieve this. Here it is necessary to activate the application of legislation and prepare for the women empowerment phase based on competition. Also to strengthen the role of civil society institutions as partners to the government in achieving development and activating the role of the private sector and community responsibility, and enhance coordination between institutions that contribute to the development of economic and social programs and evaluation of programs and highlight their impact on the target groups.

27. Challenges and future issues to be integrated in the new urban agenda:

- **Requirements for implementing decentralization and finding the appropriate legislation:**
 - Legislative reforms to provide enabling environment for developing the desirable decentralization system to be consistent with the political, social and economic state context of Jordan.
 - Institutional reforms to ensure there is no overlapping of roles and responsibilities between the concerned parties to work on the project are to work in a balanced manner by jurisdiction. It requires capacity building for workers in state institutions at both the national and local levels to provide a clear vision of the desired system and its

applications in a way that contributes to facilitate the procedures for citizens and relieve their suffering and contribute to development.

- Legislation shall ensure the participation of the civil society organizations in the preparation of the system, especially as they contribute to the local community awareness concepts of decentralization. This leads to ensure community acceptance of the system and respond to change and achieve the desired goals.
- **Housing and basic urban services:** The forced migration caused by the crisis in Iraq in 2003 and Syria in 2012 contributed to social and economic changes that have affected the housing market and infrastructure services, resulted and caused a sudden pop up of prices of houses and land, and undermining the financial capability of the citizens, creating a gap between supply and demand in the housing, the difficulty to own houses, poor sustainability of housing credit support programs, and the lack of small residential land plots. The proposed law on regulating the housing sector also faces disapproval of some stakeholders in the public and private sector. Here, it is recommended to complete the study of the proposed project and submit it to the competent authorities.
- **Improve social integration and equality:** Despite the scale of strategic plans and policies that have been applied to enhance the role of women, however, the economic and labor market participation of women remain below the level of ambition, as women have no equal access to senior positions, promotions and training opportunities, which requires amending the legislations and promote a culture of empowerment and provide guidance and legal advice services, coordination of the institutions' efforts to contribute to the promotion of economic and social programs for women, improving the health and social services for the elderly and persons with special needs and supplying such services with qualified cadres.
- **Development of legislation in the area of urban planning:** In order to grant local communities their appropriate the opportunity to participate in the development of their own future plans and identify their priority investment projects, and promote the principle of decentralization in decision-making at regional and local levels, regulators are working to prepare an urban law that takes into account the requirements of the new era, and developing a system that handles regulatory issues.

LIST OF REGULATIONS

- 1) Environmental Protection Law No. 52 of 2003
- 2) Temporary agriculture Law No. 44 for the year 2002
- 3) The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Law (Water Authority Law No. 18 of 1988, the Jordan Valley development authority law No. 19 of 1989)
- 4) Atomic Energy Act No. 42 of 2007
- 5) The Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Security law No. 43 for the year 2007
- 6) Civil Defense Law No. 18 of 1999
- 7) Tourism law No. 20 of 1988
- 8) The Fireworks law No. 13 for the year 1953
- 9) Antiquities Law No. 21 of 1988
- 10) State Property and land Conservation law and No. 14 of 1961
- 11) The Communications law No. 13 of 1995
- 12) The Public Administration law No. 10 of 1965
- 13) Public Health Law No. 47 for the year 2008
- 14) Jordanian Penal Code No. 16 of 1960
- 15) Code of Criminal Procedure No. 9 of 1961
- 16) Firearms and ammunition law No. 34 of 1952
- 17) Traffic Law No. 49 for the year 2008
- 18) Maritime Law No. 46 of 2006
- 19) Aqaba Special Economic Zone law No. 32 of 2000
- 20) Petra zone Authority law No. 15 for the year 2009.
- 21) Food Control law
- 22) Quarries law
- 23) Fire prevention and protection code issued in accordance with the Jordanian National Provisional building law No. (19) for the year 2003, which replaced Law No. (8) for the year 2004.
- 24) Firearms and ammunition trafficking law for the year 1975
- 25) Furnished apartments Instructions for the year 2007
- 26) Instructions on licensing liquor stores and the principles of licensing them, and amendments for the year 2010
- 27) Turkish bath Instructions for the year 2006
- 28) The instructions on regulation the Electrical and video games centers in Amman Greater Municipality of the year 1999.
- 29) The instructions on regulation fireworks organizations for the year 2014.
- 30) The instructions on regulation the licensing of and organizing the sale of mobile telephone lines for the year 2010.
- 31) The instructions on regulation popular cafes, 2013
- 32) The instructions on regulation coffee shops, 2013
- 33) The instructions on regulation Internet cafes for the year 2001
- 34) The instructions on regulation wedding halls, 2013
- 35) Instructions on licensing hair salons for the year 2003 (ladies salons)
- 36) Instructions on organizing Billiards and Snooker recreational centers for the year 2002.
- 37) Instructions on licensing jewelry maintenance and sale shops for the year 2009
- 38) Instructions for private security and protection companies for the year 2011
- 39) Instructions for colored balls centers for the year 2000
- 40) Landlords and Tenants Law No. (30) of 2000
- 41) The public Corporation Housing and Urban Development Law No. (28) for the year 1992

- 42) The law of apartments and floors possession, as amended, No. 25 of 1968.
- 43) Municipalities' Law No. (13) for the year 2011 and its amendments.
- 44) The law on regulating the cities and villages No. (79) of 1966, as amended.
- 45) The law of division within the areas of the municipalities No. (11) of 1968, as amended.
- 46) Crafts and industries law No. (16) for the year 1953 and amendments.
- 47) Professions licenses law No. (28) of 1999, as amended.
- 48) Buildings and land Tax within the municipal areas Law No. (11) of 1954, as amended.
- 49) Expropriation Law No. (12) for the year 1987 and amendments.
- 50) The law of voluntary organizations for building cities No. (60) for the year 1985.
- 51) The law on establishing of municipal courts No. (72) for the year 2001.
- 52) The law on construction areas outside the organization No. (32) of 1968.
- 53) The law on the professional offices services fees in the municipal areas No. (21) for the year 1985.
- 54) The law on construction and rural services No. (27) for the year 1970.
- 55) The bylaw on organizing and management of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs No. (27) of 1976, as amended.
- 56) The bylaw on municipal employees No. (28) for the year 2002.
- 57) The bylaw on Naming and numbering streets and buildings within the areas of the municipalities No. (145) for the year 1973.
- 58) The bylaw on Joint Service Councils No. (17) for the year 1983.
- 59) The bylaw on sale of roads litter in municipal areas (6) for the year 1978.
- 60) The bylaw on the municipalities' employees' pension and bonuses system and No. (2) of 1955, as amended.
- 61) The bylaw on the fees of parking spaces within municipalities' areas no. (68) For the year 1977.
- 62) The bylaw on the roads and sidewalks within the areas of the municipalities No. (73) For the year 2003.
- 63) The bylaw on wholesale markets for vegetables and fruits No. (47) For the year 2004.
- 64) The bylaw on slaughterhouses within the municipal areas No. (42) For the year 1978.
- 65) The bylaw on monitoring and regulating hawkers, stalls and awnings within the premises of the municipal areas No. (81) for the year 2009.
- 66) The bylaw on advertisement signage in urban areas and villages No. (7) For the year 1986.
- 67) The bylaw on supplies and municipalities' works No. (55) for the year 1989.
- 68) The bylaw on buildings and organization of cities and villages No. (19) for the year 1985 and its amendments.
- 69) The bylaw on the finances of municipalities No. (4) of 1955, as amended.
- 70) The bylaw on the municipalities' heads No. (45) for the year 1982.
- 71) The bylaw on the unified bonus system for municipalities' employees No. (15) of 1989, as amended.
- 72) The bylaw on preventing abominations and waste collection fees areas within the municipality No. (1) for the year 1978 and its amendments.
- 73) Jordan National Building Code No. (7) For the year (1993).
- 74) The Environmental Protection Law No. (52) For the year 2006
- 75) Air Protection Law No. (28) For the year 2005
- 76) Soil Protection Law No. (26) For the year 2005
- 77) The bylaw on protection of nature reserves and national legislation No. (29) for the year 2005
- 78) The bylaw on the Environmental impact assessment No. (37) for the year 2005
- 79) The instructions on reducing and prevention of noise for the year 2003
- 80) The instructions for selecting the site of development activities for the year 2012.

THEME V
URBAN ECONOMY
CHALLENGES OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

28. Improvement of the Municipal Finance:

- The availability of financing for the municipalities is necessary to achieve its goals towards their local communities. As a result of population growth and lack of resources to refinance services in municipalities of high density municipalities accumulated debt and as a result reduced services o residences with no plan to pay back and perhaps the possibility of default.
- The improvement of municipal finance is based on the followings:

As a result certain action needed to solve such insolvency such as:

- Scheduling the debt on municipalities with a relevant period for repayment.
 - Developed a plan to tackle tax evasion.
 - Addressing self assessment of income for municipalities and allocate extra fund from the general budget.
 - Implementation of new management techniques to finance projects in municipalities and training employees to use such techniques.
 - Find legislative and regulatory environment that enable municipalities to increase its financial resources and the use of innovative tools to attain adequate financing such as the adoption of the decartelization project and to encourage issuing of municipal bonds.
 - Municipalities should prepare a development plan including analysis of economic, social and urban areas in an appropriate way o promote comparative advantages and exchange of benefits among them based on mutual benefits and integration also the private sector institutions small and medium enterprises to participate in projects that are considered of priority to residents.
 - Encourage donations (cash and in-kind) and voluntary work in local communities and urge those with high income groups to donate to the needy municipalities.
 - Adopt criteria that take into consideration equity with regard to distribution of grants and aid for the municipalities.
- **Sources of financing for the municipalities in Jordan:** taxes on land, fines and fees, licenses fees, fuel revenues, capital projects revenue, donations, contributions, interests and dividends etc.

the government is working in coordination with the MOMA to direct government initiatives (grant and loans) towards financing projects of priority for the municipalities.

- Government contributions to the municipalities constitutes 40% of municipal revenue as well as 14% of loans attained from cities and villages banks.
- GOJ and through the MOP allocated 2 million JD of its budget to improve infrastructure services for various municipalities, and 1.5 million JD from the(social economic enhancement program) to enable municipalities to coordinate with contractors from the private sector to help them take the necessary measures to prevent the flow of water into houses / and or streets and tunnels during winter times, as well as 6 million JD received from the gulf grant / Kuwait fund for Arab Economic development to buy vehicles and equipment for that purpose.

- Work is underway to prepare feasibility studies through the program enhancing productivity centers for all municipalities in Jordan taking into consideration the distinctive importance of each government and consider the investment map of the governments prepared by the Arab planning institute for the purpose of provision of funding for municipalities to enable them to implement its long term plans and in cooperation with the private sector.
- The GOJ signed a number of agreements with donors to provide support for the municipalities as a result of the Syrian influx within criteria to ensure equitable distribution of aid. Also the World Bank and through C&V DB established trust fund to support the municipalities of: Irbid & Mafrqa funded by Canada, UK, and Switzerland.

29. Promoting and improving access to housing finance:

Restructuring the housing sector which had been approved in 1996 and work pursued according to the recommendation adopted by the program, Jordan has made a number of reforms to enhance housing finance including diversities in strategies and programs resulted in distinctive achievement such as:

- Secondary mortgage facility, the establishment of SMC which issued about 103 millions JD of mortgage backed security in 2012 double the amount issued since its launching in 2005.
- Real estate Leasing for the purpose of owning: in 2000, it constitutes 2.5% of total real estate financing ,in 2006 it reached 159 million JD of which 64% geared to the real estate VS. 48% in 2005. In 2007, the number reached 200 million JD of which 71% geared to the real estate. In 2008 the total value dropped by 15% because of the global crisis to reach 170 million JD 60% for real estate leasing for commercial purposes. During 2010 it reached 202 MJD and reached 454 MJD in 2012 dropping by 46% compared to 2011.
- GOJ subsidized residential loans to public employees by 3.5% basis points and in accordance with special agreement with the banks.About 6000 public employees benefited from such program for the period (2000-2010) and this program was ended on 23/03/2010.
- Total loans granted to individuals for the purpose of housing reached 1752 million JD in 2012 accounted for 47.8% of the total credit granted to the constructions sector and 25.1% higher than loans granted in 2011.
- **Credit facilities granted by banks to individuals' construction sector:**
During the period (2005-2012) with a total value of loans 7214 million and accounted for 36.5% of the total credit granted to the construction sector and despite the share of commercial bank which constitutes the 72 and Islamic banks 28% for the loans respectively granted to the sector. Still the growth rate for Islamic banking grew at a rate for 36.7% higher than the commercial banks constitutes
- **Residential loans of employees fund:** Total funds granted during the period (2005-2010) :492 million and dropped by 47% during 2010 relative to 2005.
- **Most important achievement with regard to credit market / housing:**
 - Create competition among financial institutions.
 - Mobilization of saving s and long term deposits for the purposes of long term financing
 - Amend the legislations with respect to prolonging of repayment of loans repay loans in proportion with the capability of citizens
 - Establishing SMC to create secondary market for loan refinancing resulting in:
 - Diversify in housing finance methods.
 - Increase in the weighted average interest rates, where the indicator went up to (8.95%) in (2012) compared to (8.1%) in (2005), with a difference of (0.85%).
 - The increase in the rate of refinancing: from 8.95% in 2012 to 8.1% in 2005
 - **In order to activate the housing finance, the following is recommended:**

1. Mobilization of resources for the purpose of housing at the national level to provide long term financing to enable all income groups to attain decent housing with emphasis on low income segments.
2. Provision of sustainable incentives system geared to low income groups in the domain of housing programs especially those related to housing production and in housing finance.
3. Incentives should be geared to housing developers working effectively and efficiently for the low income housing.

30. Supporting local economic development:

This issue is of great importance at the national and local levels for its role in bridging the gaps among urban areas in the kingdom according to criteria that takes into consideration the efficient use of available human and financial resources and in coordination with local bodies and authorities.

in order to achieve this and since 2002, a number of plans and programs prepared to promote local development and build up capacities for employees for preparation of the decentralization project in order to achieve this the following steps are taken:

- Establishment of local department within the governments and provide them with the efficient.
- Units for local development in the provinces have been established and supported them with the necessary cadres and techniques, to supervise the implementation of capital projects. Advisory and executive boards are also formed in the provinces to supervise the implementation of local development initiatives and administrative affairs.
- Local development in municipalities have been established, and legislations governing the obligations of the municipalities and ensuring its authorities in the selection and implementation of priority projects in their localities have been updated, in coordination with all concerned entities at the levels of national and mediator (Jordanian Municipalities Act, 2011).
- Provincial Development Fund was established which supports investment in small and medium-sized production projects using non-traditional financing tools in commensurate with the nature and needs of the project in the form of direct contributions of capital, shares/convertible bonds, stocks and intra shares.
- The promotion of economic and social productivity program has been launched by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, which through the productivity, financing and capacity-building trained and rehabilitate number of local community entities and build their abilities to suit the productive work.
- The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has supported the Development and Employment Fund during the period from 2002 to 2013 by 11 million dinars for re-lending the target groups of young people and local authorities in Jordan, and the number of projects implemented was 3600, providing 4000 career opportunities.

- **In the area of supporting micro, small and medium projects in Jordan:**

- Since 2013, the comprehensive development project is being implemented to support micro, small and medium projects, with support from the World Bank Group by a loan of 70 million US dollars to enable the Central Bank of Jordan to take the necessary measures with the banking sector to improve the chances of grating micro, small and medium projects by financing through commercial banks.
- IN 2013, a 50 million US dollars loan has been provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for the program to support projects of small and medium private sector institutions, in cooperation with the Central Bank of Jordan, and support the Development and Employment Fund by 30 million US dollars in 2012 to finance the small and medium private sector projects.
- The government is in negotiation with the World Bank for additional finance of 50 million US dollars, and 150 million US dollars from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to complete the necessary support to sustain the micro, small, and medium projects.
- For the micro finance, the government is pursuing the implementation of national strategy for the micro finance sector and implements some reforms to improve the business and investment environment in such sector, and improve the financial comprehensiveness services provided to citizens. It is planned to obtain 35 million Euro as a support by the European Union to support the general budget during the period of 2014-2018 to support reformations and achievements done in the strategy.
- With respect to the loan of the World Bank's of 70 million US dollars, it has been distributed by the Central Bank of Jordan on twelve commercial banks (including two Islamic ones), with which agreements have been signed) to be re-lent to small and medium companies at competitive interest ratios for medium and long terms. At the end first quarter of 2014, the results of utilizing the loan was positive and exceeded all target indicators; the utilization percentage was about 74% of the amounts transferred to the banks (amounting about 61 million US dollars). More than 4112 clients of such a sector have benefited from the loan, 63% of them outside the capital Amman. The loans granted to projects owned by women accounted for 58%, while loans for projects owned formed by young (less than 35 years) about 45%.
- With respect to the 30 million US dollars loan of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the loan is being provided through the Development and Employment Fund; the Fund has received 22.5 million US dollars, and the entire received amount was lent to for initiatives for small and medium projects in the provinces, and the rest 7.5 million US dollars of the said loan will be received by the end of 2014.
- A facility program to guarantee the loans of small and medium companies has been launched with 70% of the required loans supported by (OPIC) by providing a first grant of 70 million US dollars to cover the cost of loan guarantees in commercial banks, provide a grace appropriate period, financial services and technical assistance to rehabilitate the small and medium companies wishing to have a finance, especially those operated under creative and innovative ideas and concerned in the rationalization of energy and water consumption. This is in addition to technical assistance to support projects and banks participating in the program to be enabled utilize form grants, technical support and guarantees provided optimally. These grants are provided with the participation of (OPIC / CHF) the World Bank

(WB), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It will be done in collaboration with the Jordanian Guarantee Loans Company, the Jordan Economical Projects Development Corporation and the Central Bank of Jordan under the supervision of the concerned Steering Committee.

31. Providing career opportunities and good living standards:

- Providing career opportunities is among vital tasks of any government in the world, but the mission becomes more urgent in Jordan because more than half of people is under twenty, which means that the number of workers entering into the labor market exceeds the number of person off duty, and because the economic growth depends largely on human resources.
- The number of workers in Jordan is worrisome; the ratio of unemployment among young people has remained above the limit of 10% over the past decade, and the ratio of women contribution in the labor market is deemed one of the lowest in the world. For more complications, the periods of economic growth did not lead to an increase consistent with opportunities for Jordanians, especially the high increasing of population in the labor housing in future is expected, as the age structure of the population is changed which lead to challenges in providing additional employment opportunities. This indicates structural imbalances that must be addressed.
- The percentage of poverty in Jordan was 14.4% in 2010 compared to 13.3% in 2008. This confirms the need to deal with poverty in its comprehensive concept, use of available resources efficiently and effectively in supporting needy families, empower communities to increase their income, and direct support programs to beneficiaries. The initiative of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has launched to promote economic and social productivity program in 2002 in order to improve the living standards of citizens in various regions of Jordan, with a focus on the needy, youth and women and finance the implementation of some activities and programs that can achieve this goal. Therefore, 1000 productive and service projects are being carried out annually, which can provide 2000 new career opportunities for target groups. The program also operated through Iradah with its centers scattered over governorates of Jordan to provide technical and advisory support, economy feasibility and studies for productive projects and provide training necessary for the completion of projects in various regions of Jordan.
- Prioritizing intervention which expected to have a greatest impact in creating employment opportunities requires a number of recommendations such as:
 - Study the factors affecting workforce and reach the unanimous agreement of different concerned entities affecting the labor sector as Labor Unions, Trade Unions, Employers and their Associations as well as the Government.
 - Develop practical solutions with measurable performance measurements as well as mechanisms for evaluation and corrective action when necessary to deal with the limited resources available in Jordan.
 - Establish an institutional framework for coordinating policies, programs and the accountability of Governments to ensure the successful implementation and action plan based on the short, medium and long term, and shift away from short-term solutions which would worsen the problems in the long term.

To achieve the above, it is necessary to adopt proposals and viable mechanisms and implementation within the available possibilities. The followings are needed:

- Enhance the policies governing the labor market and build a comprehensive database, and restructure the organization with the broad participation of the private sector.
- Partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations including training, rehabilitation and employment in the workplace, in addition to assessing the technical and vocational training program currently in place.
- Issue legislations and the necessary instructions to regulate migrant workers and the training of local labor to replace foreign labor gradually.
- Orienting the capital expenditure in governorates to projects which the labor-intensive employment is relied on in Jordan, and support projects to develop opportunities in the labor market.
- Implement number of training projects and recruitment in the sectors of energy and new technologies sector related to oil and gas pipelines.
- Matching the demands in the labor market and qualifications.
- Preserve workers ' rights (social security, insurance, etc).
- Provide social protection and promote the entry of women, and the disabled students into the labor market.
- Regulate the provision of funding entities for with easy requirements for projects which in turn will provide employment opportunities for the unemployed people.

32. Integration of the urban economy in national development policies:

Jordan made significant efforts with regard to planning and implementation of programs and projects aimed at supporting the urban economy through support of local governments (counties and municipalities) and enable them to raise its institutional and financial capacity and development, guidance for ongoing funding (grants/loans) towards infrastructure development, and financial reforms to ensure the equitable distribution of development gains in all regions of Jordan in accordance with clear standards and criteria. The most prominent initiatives of the Jordanian Government in this area are as follows:

- Implement institutional capacity building project for provincial governors and staff of development units in the governorates for train and enable them to lead the development task at the level of the governorates. Units for local development have been established in the governorates and their qualified personnel has been supported by necessary techniques and built up their capabilities.
- Issue the official report on the regional and local development project entitled (framework of local sustainable economic development: local economic development strategy, investment planning, and institutional building), which emphasized the role of local

development in units in municipalities and identified the general framework for local and regional development policy in the integration of development initiatives, in addition to its proposal on the distribution of powers and responsibilities in line with the decentralization project, so that the province's management play a role of the regional government, and municipalities as local governments.

- Implement strategic programs of city development programmed regionally (Kerak, tafila, Zarqa, Mafraq) where it was prepared - in a participatory approach - to develop these cities under a clear vision and action plan for the overall sustainable and balanced development.
- Implement the capacity-building project for a number of municipalities with the support of the European Union, while continuing to work on a project promoting local economic development in Jordan to act as a financier to utilize the economic development opportunities at the local level.
- Prepare comprehensive plans for a number of municipalities in Jordan which aimed at preparing a comprehensive development plans for all municipalities in Jordan at the regional and local levels that the urban development constituted the geographical aspect for the development projects based on the relative advantages available in every region of the Kingdom for a balanced and integrated development plan (practical application of the concept of the urban economy).
- Continue the implementation of the reform of tax and land which is intended to simplify tax administration, flow of information, and computerization of taxation information system for municipalities in order to accelerate the completion of financial transactions for citizens, and increase the capacity of municipalities to collect financial revenues.
- The Jordanian Government has launched their works program for the next four years (2013-2016) to reflect the most important challenges facing the economic sectors, production, service, and future trends for each of them to improve productivity and enable different groups of society and reduce development disparities among governorates.
- Prepare the development program for the governorates within a medium-term planning for the years (2013-2016) based on efforts made at the national level in the field of strategic development planning. These programs provide an analysis of provincial economic and social reality and the labor market, and indicated interventions that will stimulate the private sector and civil society institutions on effective partnership in development. Set of governmental programs and projects have been included which will force the Jordanian Government to include it within the budget of the State for the coming years and monitor the necessary allocations, and look for required finance for implementing the priority projects of citizens demands from the available finance sources.
- Launching the national employment strategy (2011-2020), which have been developed to address challenges represent the ability of Jordanian economy to provide career opportunities annually to limit the poverty and unemployment levels, and the increased number of migrants into the labor market annually.
- Preparation to set up the economic vision of the Jordanian economy (2015-2025) in partnership with all sectors of Jordanian society; the Jordan today faces some challenges that affect the future of comprehensive and sustainable development, which needs a

methodology vision depending on dialogue, accumulation of experiences, and negative planning to avoid negative effects on development efforts.

33. Challenges and lessons learned:

- **Improve the finance of municipalities:**

Follow-up the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and projects targeting the municipal sector and its institutions (Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Bank of Cities and Villages Development, Municipalities, Councils of Mutual Services) to enable them raise its capabilities in managing the collection of its revenues, and continue to make the necessary financial reforms to ensure a more equitable distribution of the Municipalities benefits of the budget depends on clear standards and fundamentals. The financial management information system should be activated, training the municipal staff to use it, update the policies of collecting debts, develop a policy for the management of assets, provide legislation and regulations environment that ensure financial independence for the municipality to be enabled to follow new mechanisms and use innovative tools to obtain the necessary funding policies.

- **Enhance and improve the access to housing finance:**

The Jordanian government continues to implement institutional, legislative and financial reforms system, including freeing the housing finance sector from constraints of residential long-term lending, mobilize the financial resources, encourage to establish non-bank financial institutions, and enhance the equal competition in the housing finance market system. It has also been based on strategies for multiple programs and housing finance, in addition to continuing to provide financing programs to meet the growing demand for residential loans in order to enable the citizens to purchase housing units within the financial viability and provide programs to support housing finance directed to low-income categories. The government also seeks to amend legislation in the banking sector with regard to the terms of lending for housing from banks to individuals, and develop legislation relating to residential production inputs such as land legislations, infrastructure, raw materials legislation fees relating to the ownership of housing, and seek to provide informal funding channels to provide residential loan on favorable terms.

- **Support the local economic development:**

The equal distribution of development gains in all governorates of the Kingdom shall be taken into consideration by providing additional incentives for investment projects and updating the investment map of Kingdom's the governorates. This is in addition to the expansion in the establishment of business sectors to include most of governorates of the Kingdom and increase access to comprehensive financial services by the low-income and needy people who can work. And to support creativity to develop new products of micro finance, and find out a simple and accessible channels to offer these products, ensure the efficient growth for micro-finance sector as a part of the financial system of the state, continue to support the provincial development Fund to be enabled to provide the necessary funding for the establishment of an economic feasibility study and enhance the leading business culture in the governorates of the Kingdom.

- **Finding out career opportunities and good living standards:**

To reduce the unemployment rate to reach 11% in 2016 compared to 12.2% in 2012, and contain the additional no. of laborers entering the labor market. These tasks, however, require finding out employment opportunities for Jordanians by an average of 60 thousand jobs annually, and increase the ratio of energetic people economically. The executive program of the National strategy for recruitment shall be applied, in order to create more career opportunities for Jordanian youth, enhance the participation of women in the labor market, as well as replace the local manpower instead of foreign workers in some economical sectors gradually and thoughtfully, especially in professions that can be held by Jordanians in accordance with clear standards, as well as regulate the entry of labor to Jordan.

In addition to the alignment between supply and demand in the labor market, the poor alignment has become a dilemma preventing the new graduates of educational institutions to engage in the labor market (i.e. determine the manpower needs, study the quantitative and qualitative aspects of supply and demand based on temporal and spatial aspects), and create a motivational policy to retain labor that will be trained, propose a mechanism to coordinate efforts between the various training entities, continue to encourage the leading and innovative projects in governorates that can reflect positively on the population in these areas of different ages.

- **Integrating the urban economy into the national development policies:**

To depend on the efforts made and achievements of previous national initiatives, specifically in the field of urban planning and align outputs resulted thereof with new initiatives aimed at reducing the developmental variation spatially between the regions of the Kingdom. This is deemed as an approach that will lead to positive results in the development of management systems and local governance, and enhance the productive ability according to a comprehensive and integrated strategy methodology in terms of the nature and objectives of the programs and projects that have been implemented, as well as in the use of all available resources, including human, financial or natural in addition to activate the role of all parties involved in its achievement.

The initiatives activities should also be followed up to ensure its progress according to planned financial and timeframes as requires an efficient and effective system to collect

accurate data and information to be provided in timely manner in order to take the right decisions from different administrative levels and to cope with difficulties and obstacles encountered. The evaluation process concerns what has been achieved of development initiatives, projects, and programs that are important to show how the actual implementation of the activities of these initiatives is agreed with objectives that have been planned. This is in addition to measure the resulted impacts from the implementation of such activities on the target areas and different stages and levels of initiatives' implementation in terms of the preparation style thereto, and how to assess the needs of community, arrange the citizens' prioritization, plan, implement and follow up the activities of initiatives spatially and financially as well as the method of application and use.

34. Challenges and future issues to be incorporated in the new urban agenda:

- Improve the municipal financing:

- The financial resources of municipalities are decreasing and their debts increased, in addition to the weakness of collecting municipal revenues in relation to taxes and charges.
- Horizontal imbalances between municipalities and poor coordination among themselves and with intermediate level (governorates).
- Inflated numbers of cadres which reflected on the capital spending and the associated rise in the proportion of salaries and wages to the municipal budget, which negatively affects the quality of services provided by the municipality.
- Inefficiency of directing financial allocations to provide the services needed for development in urban areas.
- The capability to implement plans and comprehensive structural drawings is very weak, and the adequate capacity to implement the projects contained therein is unavailable.
- The need to develop the legislation governing the affairs of municipalities and the sources of funds and uses to ensure granting municipalities greater ability to develop tools and new sources of investment and finance, including the ability of municipalities to issue bonds yield, which is used to finance investment projects of the municipality and to be repaid from the proceeds of those projects and bond obligation, which is used to finance infrastructure and others.
- Weak participation of the private sector and civil society institutions in the financing of investment projects of the municipality.
- Non-application of clear rules in overseeing the preparation of the annual budgets of municipalities and so on for the basis of debts exemptions.

- Promote and improve access to housing finance:

- The rising costs of providing housing due to high prices of production inputs, especially residential land, and infrastructure services, and prices of raw materials.
- Inability to meet the condition needed to attain housing loans for all segments of society due to limited income of citizens.
- Low percentage change in the income of the Jordanian citizen ratio to the change in housing prices.

- Shortage of supply small residential lands in size and the high prices of it to low-income.
- Dependence on official funding source for housing finance in the light of the scarcity and weakness of other sources of funding.
- Difficult conditions and guarantees.

In order to meet the challenges, the Jordanian government is seeking to amend the relevant legislation with regard to housing provision system includes land regulations and infrastructure and construction services, which impact the cost of housing, and thus provide an opportunity for housing finance. It also makes changes to conditions that shall be bound by banks for attaining loans according to the nature of residential housing programs.

- **Support for local economic development:**

- Developmental disparities between different regions of the Kingdom.
- The high proportion of citizens who live in urban areas, which increases the pressure on infrastructure services and public utilities and increases the demand for the provision of housing and access to employment.
- Forced migrations to Jordan and the surrounding political circumstances which pose additional pressure on resources and infrastructure already limited.
- High degree of centralization in the making, implementation and follow-up development decision and the preparation of budgets.
- High debt of municipalities and its limited effective role with regard to development.
- Poor availability of sufficient liquidity to meet the types of lending finance products with the requirements of the target groups.
- The role of the private sector and civil society organizations in the process of the development of the local economy is somewhat limited.
- To work to support local economic development, it is necessary to focus on a number of interrelated issues which form the basis to achieve them:
 - The adoption of an institutional framework that illustrates the distribution of powers between the central government and the governorates, municipalities and the Greater Amman Municipality, and economic and development areas.
 - Work within an integrated program for local economic development to attract funding from multiple destinations to ensure the implementation of development projects.
 - Improve infrastructure and service delivery.
 - Provide incentives for commercial banks to meet the needs of micro-enterprises and small and medium enterprises.

- **Creating jobs and a decent livelihood:**

- Unemployment rate is varied among the governorates of the Kingdom.
- Increase the number of workers into the labor market; expect their increasing numbers in the future, and the limited employment opportunities in the public and private sectors.

- Decreasing rate of participants in apprenticeship programs, noting that the qualifications of more than half of the unemployed persons are less than secondary level.
- Decreasing participation rate of woman with special needs in the workforce compared to developing and developed countries.
- Decreasing rate of employers to employ Jordanians as believed they are less efficiency and productivity than migrant workers.
- Decreasing rate of immigrant workers and the data of unpermitted are inaccurate.
- The poor participation of private sector and local community institutions to train and employ the Jordanian citizens.
- The lack of studies on the Jordanian labor market (supply and demand) and the abroad Jordanian labor.

- Integrating the urban economy into national development strategies:

- A general decline in key economic indicators for the year 2013 such as slow growth rates in the GDP to reach (2.8%), and the budget deficit reaching (after receiving of aid) to (1.3) billion, which constitutes 5.5% of GDP, and the public debit reached 80% of GDP, the current account deficit accounted for 10% of GDP.
- Decline in the level of productivity and low participation rates in the labor market in various regions of the Kingdom urban.
- Many economic sectors and segments of society influenced by variables in economic and political developments during the past three years.
- Unstable security situation in the neighboring countries leads to direct and indirect costs on the national economy, especially after the rise in the number of Syrian refugees and the concentration of them in the governorates of the north, where the government has to provide full service and support them, adding pressure on the state budget and on infrastructure and on economic resources in general and the depletion of resources as well as competition with Jordanians on the already limited employment opportunities, as well as influenced by the size of intra-regional trade and transit.
- Weak reliance on efforts made previously, and the weakness of concerned authorities to implement national initiatives by following up a control system that can realize the completion of required aspects in accordance with temporal and spatial specified frameworks, as well as evaluating the effects resulted thereof to be utilized in the future.

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THEME VI
HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES
CHALLENGES FACING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

35. Development of slums and prevent their spread:

- Slums in Jordan were originated during periods of rapid growth of cities in Jordan. This came as a result of increasing population growth resulting from the natural increase of the population and internal migration to the major cities, and the external migrations. This resulted to negative impact on the development process in terms of the demographic imbalance between urban and rural areas. The concerned authorities became responsible for planning and organization in Jordan and aware of the seriousness of growing phenomenon of propagation of random buildings and communities and the emersion of some of the slums in the cities and abroad. Accordingly, the Jordanian government since the seventies of the last century took a range of actions that has contributed greatly to stop the spread of this phenomenon. The procedures were as follows:
- The housing and Urban Development Corporation to contribute to the achievement of social and economic security for citizens and undertake its role in the process of sustainable development as defined by its law, it undertake to implement projects to improve the infrastructure of low services and squatter areas and improve social and economic development, (39) locations including (11) Camps (28) squatter areas, which benefited more than 450 000 citizens, in which the development of (139) of social buildings built within these areas.
- In completing the policy of improvement and development adopted by Jordan in the eighties for the development of areas of low services through a program of urban development which included three projects: Urban Development I, II and III. Work commenced since the beginning of 1997 on a social productivity program, which is a national program aimed at improving infrastructure services and social development in most of the slums over the entire Kingdom.

Through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the following steps have been done:

- The regulations and instructions of the construction and organization were modified in order to limit the squatter areas.
- Request the municipalities to monitor construction and irregularities and not allow any type of construction to be built without certified drawings.
- Treatment of random foci and improve infrastructure services in residential neighborhoods and poor areas and directing some of the grants, technical and financial assistance to serve such goals on cleaning and create sidewalks, pave streets and roads, and perform required maintenance. The integration of cities and villages converged and adjacent municipalities large is able to improve services in their regions and to control the spread of random buildings.
- Comprehensive plan for land use have been developed to be a guide to clarify the trends of development and population expansions and direct investment and the preservation of natural and agricultural resources to allocate expansions of residential and economic projects and other uses. In this domain, and up to 2013, (79) out of (93) municipality works due to layout plans.

36. Improving the chances of obtaining decent housing:

In line with the government guidelines and in implementing of the recommendations of the national housing strategy, which was approved in 1989, to adopt an alternative organized private sector to be the direct product of housing, in 1996, the housing sector was restructured. The restructuring program included a group of reformation that the government role enables the regulatory private sector to become a direct product for the population. The role of the government is limited through the General Housing and Urban Development Corporation to sponsor and organize the housing sector in the Kingdom through the development of policies in the following areas:

Housing legislations: The Jordanian government since mid of 2010 until the end of 2011 took a series of decisions in the field of real estate to ease the burden of rising home prices on the Jordanian citizens. Most notably the exemption apartments area of less than 150 m² of the transfer fee and registration of property, and reducing registration fees and tax sale of the property (10%) to (5%) of the Apartments area of more than 150 m² maximum of (300) m². Also reduce the sales tax on rebar (16%) to (8%). At the beginning of 2012 the Resolution No. 1932 dated 5/8/2006 and the most prominent features exemption from registration fees for all residential units with an area of up to 120 m², and if the area increased from 120 m² undergo extra space for registration fees but if increased space for the apartment (150) m², the whole area of the apartment are subject to registration fees. With respect to reducing the tax on the steel reinforcement (16%) to (8%), it is still applicable note that the effect of this reduction on the cost of housing costs is limited.

Residential lease: The government has developed the terms of the law of owners and tenants in order to activate the sector as a whole to motivate investors to build for the purposes of leasing, reducing the wages of new housing as a result of increased supply expected, and reducing wastage in the economy resulting from the investment in closed housing, reducing the controversy and disputes over old. The most important amendments aim to provide a balanced relationship between owners and tenants.

Organization: A policy of reducing the categories of residential housing (a), (b), (c) and (d) has been adopted in order to provide more small sizes units that can meet the low-income households.

Infrastructure services: The spending percentage of government on infrastructure to GDP at constant prices (3.01%) during the 2012, is lower than 2011 in (2.04%). The per capita from the spending on infrastructure services in the Kingdom during the year 2012 is around (49.5) dinars per year, declining by 40% compared with 2011. The data indicates that the percentage of households connected with water, electricity, and sanitary services at the local level is about (96.7%), (99.9%), and (59.7 %), respectively, during 2012.

Housing Finance: The Jordanian government has sought to make institutional and legislative and financial reforms, which shall free the finance sector from obstacles of residential lending on long-term. This came through the mobilization of financial resources and to encourage the establishment of non-banking financial institutions and to promote fair competition in the market for housing finance. As numerous funding methods where work on a commercial basis and an Islamic perspective.

The government has worked to provide several housing programs including programs directed to low-income groups:

- The royal initiative for housing the poorest households and needy families and rehabilitation of housing for poor families in the camps.
- Housing production through the partnership between the public and private sector.
- The housing production through Housing and Urban Development Corporation.
- Production of the housing through the private sector includes housing companies and the owner of building for him/herself, which met 90% of the annual need for housing during 2005-2012.

37. Ensuring sustainable supplies of potable water:

Jordan relies primarily on rain water to feed surface water and groundwater. According to the General Census of Population and Housing for the year (2004), the per capita share of water (147 liters) / day, and dropped to 89 liters / day in 2013. This constituted 9% of the water poverty line, which is estimated (1000) liters per person /day. The percentage of waste water represents (43%). The percentage of households served by the water system is (98%).

With regard to the quantity and quality of water, the volume of rainfall during the season (2012/2013) was about (8120) million cubic meters, that accounts for (99.1%) of the long-term average, and was at (77%) of the long-term average during the season 2008/2009. In the field of secure water scientific specifications, the monitoring programs has covered (100%) of the specification requirements, for drinking water, as has been covered (100%) of the chemical tests required in the specifications of Jordan standard for drinking water No. (286) for the year (2013). In addition to (100%) of the chemical and biological variables in the wastewater emerging from the factories to the requirements of the specification according to specification No. (893) for the year (2013), been covered (93%) of the variables of chemical and biological required in addition to the cover (100%) of the tests required in the specifications to Jordanian standards microbiological, radiological, where the percentage of matching tests of water quality to the number of quantitative samples (99.4%) for the year (2013) . The results of laboratory tests showed matching the quality of drinking water by bacterial (99.6%) year (2012). As for the results of bacteriological tests for water desalination plants, mineral water and bottled, the results showed that the percentage overrun was (1.9%) for the year (2013).

The most prominent achievements during the year (2012) as follows:

- Develop and explore new sources of water through the construction of dams, Al-Wahidi dam in Ma'an and Shizm dam in Tafila at a cost of 5 million dinars. As well as the Kufranja dam with a capacity of (6 million m³) and at a cost of 30 million dinars. Studies have been completed for the establishment of Ibn Hammad, Karak, Al-lajjun Zarqa - Ma'in dams which will provide approximately (10 million m³) of water. Promote water harvesting through the construction of dams and ponds and desert excavation and which will provide about 2 million m³ of water.
- **Strategic Projects:**
 - Disi reservoir water conveyance project: Commencement of the project began in 2010 through a partnership with the private sector in order to secure the 100 million cubic liters of potable water. The cost of the project is (670) million for the purposes of distribution of water within pipelines reaching all governorates of the Kingdom.

- The Red Sea / Dead Sea water transporter: the first phase includes the establishment of a desalination plant in Aqaba Governorate to desalinate (85-100) million cubic meters per year.
- **Improving the efficiency of water supply and distribution systems for domestic, industrial, commercial and agricultural purposes:**
 - Continue the implementation of many projects to reduce water loss and rehabilitation of water systems in all regions of the Kingdom. Of these projects to improve water networks in Zarqa Governorate and Al- Rusaifa province projects and reduce waste in the governorate of Irbid and Karak, its completion rates are varied from (40%) to (75%). The implementation of these projects to reduce the wastage of networks to (42%) in (2011) compared to (43.9%) in (2008).
 - Implementation of projects through the Jordan Valley Authority to reduce lost water in the irrigation networks and raise its efficiency. The cost of these projects is about 25 million dinars. Accordingly, water wastage of irrigation networks decreased by (14%) in (2012) compared to (16%) in (2008), as the percentage of processed water increased up to (90%) in (2013).
- **Private sector participation in the management of water services:** Number of water companies increased up to 3 in (2011), and the number of contracts participated by the private sector increased up to 6 in 2012.

38. Ensuring sustainable provision of basic sanitary services:

Jordan always seeks to expand sewer service to include all cities of the Kingdom, villages and communities. The most important achievements up to the year 2012 are as follows:

- Construction of sewage systems projects in south of Amman, worth 75 million dinars, and the project villages west of Jerash worth 17 million dinars and the Southern Shouneh project worth 12 million dinars, as it is expected to start implementing Naor sanitation project in 2012 at a cost of 59 million dinars, in addition to expansion of the sewage networks in the various governorates which the completion rate is about 90% in order to raise the number of subscribers in sanitation services to reach 70% by the end of the year 2013 where the ratio was 68% in 2013, compared to about 65% for the year 2010. Meanwhile, starting implementation of sewerage system in projects sewage in zarka-funded by MCC.
- Implementation of several projects for the construction of treatment plants of sewage with the latest international standards and specifications, most recently Al-Kherbe Al-Samraa project at a cost of 130 million dinars, which provided more than (7.5) million cubic meters of treated water which is characterized by specifications and high quality suitable for agricultural uses and some industrial applications in cooling projects where it is expected to start expanding the station at the beginning of the year in 2012 after the signing of a financing agreement with the Millennium Challenge Corporation of America to serve 60% of the population of the kingdom until the end of the year 2030 at to continuing of implementation of projects of water treatment plants at wadi Shalala and in the Valley North Shouneh, Mafraq, Jerash at costs exceeding (100) million jd , the completion rate is around (60%).

39. Improving the provision of clean energy:

Jordan, in relation to energy sources, relies on importing oil, which constitute 94% of the energy products it consumes. There has been a shift toward using solar energy as a substitute for oil products especially for water heating which had reached 16% in 2012.

The most important achievements and results of 2012:

- **Oil:** Continue restructuring the oil sector and promote the competition towards the removal of fuel subsidy. Proposals have been submitted by concerned entities to establish the logistics company in addition to three marketing companies, as well as to continue marketing exploratory areas in Jordan and prospecting for oil where oil exploration will end in four areas during the years to come.
- **Oil Shale:** Oil shale is available in huge quantities in Jordan. It is expected to be an alternative source of energy, which will contribute 14% of the primary energy products in 2020. Six memoranda of Understanding and (3) trade agreements were signed with companies to utilize oil shale and do geological studies, technical, environmental and feasibility studies. The number of memoranda of understanding increased to (8) agreements at the end of the 2013.
- **Natural gas:** The contribution of the natural gas in the total of energy mixture has dropped to 35% in 2012 due to the interruption of Egyptian gas as a result of repeated bombings, which led to an increased burden on the Jordanian government budget by using diesel and heavy fuel instead of the natural gas which cost 4 times as much. The deficit reached 1.2 billion dinars in 2011. Researchers studied alternative energy and came up with preparing the infrastructure of the Aqaba Port by creating a special wharf to receive the natural gas to be stored and pumped via Arabic pipelines, in addition to develop Al-Raisheh Gas Field.
- **Mining:** Setting the terms of reference for marketing and utilization of areas where gold and cooper at WAdi Araba and sign memorandums of understandings with a specialized company. Commercial agreement shall be entered to benefit from these products, expand the other mining activity, especially drilling, extraction, and attracting new special investment.
- **Electrical power:** Completion of the following projects:
 - Qatraneh station which generates 300m.
 - Trying to find financing for Al-Samra Power Plant (140MW) to increase its capacity up to 1050m.
 - Increase the generation capacity of power from 3,099 MW in 2010 to 3,452 MW in 2012.
 - IPP3 project with 600MW: A tender was offered to international companies for 350MW. The project is implemented in the form of BOO (Build-Operate-Own)
 - Strengthening the local transmission network lines and transformation stations to meet the growth in demand for electricity.
 - Reducing losses from distribution lines by 12.3% in 2011 compared to 13% for the year 2010.
 - Percentage of the population receiving electricity was 99.9% in 2012.
- **Nuclear power:** the issuance of the Nuclear Energy Act No. 42 of 2007, as amended, and the law of Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Security No. 43 for the year 2007 and its amendments whereby Jordan Atomic Energy Commission and Jordan nuclear regulatory commission has been established, nuclear reactor at the University of Science and

Technology will be built by the end of 2015. A tender was offered to companies to provide presentation on the establishment of a nuclear reactor in Jordan. The technical and financial evaluation for the selection of appropriate technology for Jordan year /2012 was finally made.

- **Renewable energy and energy conservation:**

- Adoption of the law of renewable energy and energy efficiency (2012).
- Prepare studies on renewable energy tariff that a regulation shall be made thereof.
- Receive 64 offers regarding the renewable energy, and appoints a consultant to study and evaluate the offers.
- A tender for the second project to generate electricity from the wind energy (80-90mw) in the area of Fageej / Shobak.
- Choose the location of the project and to begin preparations for the utilization of solar energy to generate electricity using solar PV cells generating (1) megawatts through a grant debt swap with the Spanish government.
- Search for sources of funding: Try to benefit from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) of the World Bank to finance the project for the utilization of solar thermal energy to generate electricity by using concentrated solar (CSP).
- Finishing the first phase of the project: energy efficiency in illumination in houses and streets in the three pilot areas, and prepare for the second phase for the preparation of a national program that is expected to reduce electricity consumption by (30%).
- Expanded usage of appliances and energy-saving equipment and increase the proportion of the use of solar energy for water heating purposes in homes by (15%) for the year (2011).
- Increase the contribution of new and renewable energy in the total energy consumption from (2%) in the year (2011) to (3%) in (2012)
- Increased and applied the quota of constructions providing energy.
- Exempting devices and equipment of energy-saving and renewable energy from taxes and fees to reduce the cost and enhance and increase its usage.

40. Enhancing the provision of sustainable transportation system:

The Ministry of Transportation adopted a short-term strategic plan for the years (2012-2014) included a set of programs and projects in the areas of different transportation domains. The most important achievements are as follows:

Public transportation: during 2014 number of legislations namely the issuance of the revised FAQ for instructions forming the competent bodies to consider and adjudicate complaints for the year 2013 have been prepared in the second phase of the study of the master plan, which aims to apply the output of the first phase to Jerash Governorate. Develop a new tariff system and the development of policies to support the transportation in order to create a public transportation system for passengers with reliable and environment-friendly to keep with developments and to meet the needs of all segments of society. Tendering, , implementation and operation and development of intelligent transportation systems which aims to provide an integrated and intelligent system for payment of fares in the public transportation and leading to the establishment of a clearinghouse based on the collection of revenues and fares distributed within operators. With regard to infrastructure development project for public transportation and the requirements of public transportation services, establishments and rehabilitation centers for bus dash, departure and arrival in the governorates. Centers in Karak, Madaba and Jerash and work is ongoing centers in Salt, Irbid, Ajloun and Tafila. The completion of the dash centers for

the common travel in cars in Um Soyneh in cooperation with the Investment Unit – Social Security Corporation. Continue with the project wage subsidies for students of public universities, which currently include three public universities: science and technology, the Hashemeyya and King Hussein Bin Talal. In addition, support the development of infrastructure for the Centers for loading and unloading between the Jordanian and Iraqi binomial in cooperation with (yard right).

Rail transportation: The implementation project procedures to create a railway connecting the mines of Alshaydieh with the current railway are being performed, as well as creating a loading and unloading station in Wadi Alyetim Valley as a first stage of the national railway network project. This project includes the creation of a standard railway network in about 900km long linking the major cities of the Kingdom, logistics centers, and the production centers with Aqaba port and the neighboring countries. Lands for railway edge have been taken in possession and we are trying to find funds related to Government given the parameters of the law of public debt, and in tender procedures at Government Tenders Department. This project is important to maintain the functions of Aqaba Railway Corporation, ensure the continuous transportation of phosphate after the relocation of the new port. The project procedures related to the public transport linking Amman with Zarqa is being performed and is ready to offer by the Government Tenders Department in order to develop the sector with its facilities and services, and create an investment environment, local employment, solve the issues of traffic congestion and public transport. This is in addition to reduce accidents, environmental pollution, maintain the road network, reduce the number of transportation means, operational costs, and fuel consumption, to ensure sustainable services for public transportation between Amman and Zarqa.

Maritime transport: Jordan's accession to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) of the year 2004 for being at the world level in the application of the maritime Convention of the International Maritime Organization is to benefit the maritime industry and maintain the level of the Aqaba Gulf, protect the marine environment and biodiversity by limiting the plankton and environmental contaminants being brought by the water of ships coming to Aqaba port. The coastal station has been completed which enhances the capabilities of the maritime transport sector through the provision of maritime communications between ships and shore and responds to help calls.

Air transportation : the opening of the rehabilitation project and the expansion and operation of Queen Alia International Airport, is also being worked on the completion of the second phase of the project is that the completion of the entire business during the year 2014 was the conclusion of several agreements for air services for the Liberation of the atmosphere between Jordan and a number of states have adopted the policy of airspace open, which would make Jordan a regional center for air transportation.

41. Challenges and lessons learned:

- **Slums and squatter areas:**

- Periodic updating of the regulatory schemes to cope with changes in the structure of society; socially and economically with cities and villages.
- Modifying the system of using lands in line with zoning plans to reduce squatter expansion at the outskirts of cities and agricultural areas.
- Applying and developing legislations for the control of buildings.

- Making programs for the development of slums by providing it with infrastructure services.

- **Housing sector:**

- Activating the role of the private sector in providing housing to all segments, including the low-income. The contribution of the private sector is (88%) of the total housing production in Jordan which meets (90%) of housing. The private sector organizing the housing and developing lands for low-income groups is allowed to use the standards and privileges enjoyed by the government authorities in the same field. Several agreements between the public and private sectors have been signed and to provide land plots suitable for the production of residential units.
- Support housing finance programs to serve low-income persons.
- Coping with constraints that hinder the provision of land suitable locations and sizes to meet all segments. The comprehensive planning for organization and lands use has been adopted, and programs abided by municipalities and related regulators have been made though which adequate spaces that would meet the housing demand were arranged.
- Perform legislative and institutional reforms in the housing finance sector in order to expand the secondary mortgage market to provide adequate funds for all income groups. Legislation has been modified to achieve equal competition among financial institutions; legislation was amended with respect to the conditions and collateral of housing finance, and the creation of mechanisms for the payment of housing loans in line with capabilities of borrowers.
- Providing exemptions from registration and transfer of ownership fees, and the reduction of sales tax on steel.
- Amending legislation regarding residential leasing in order to find a balanced relationship between the owners and tenants and encourage the private sector to produce housing for the purposes of leasing.
- Developing local building materials and the provision of inexpensive alternatives.
- Developing techniques and construction methods to suit the local environment.
- Providing residential programs to meet demand of housing for poor families.

- **Potable drinking water:**

- Optimized utilization of water resources and maintain them according to the standards and technical specifications and locally and globally.
- Developing the systems providing water sources through strategic national and international projects.
- Regulating water uses (ground and surface) for different purposes.
- increase the efficiency of transportation systems, water supply and reducing the water loss.

- **Sanitation:**

- Construction of water treatment plants in order to increase the capacity and process the wastewater to be reused in irrigation and industry.
- Construction of drainage systems and building treatment plants, sewage water with the latest international standards and specifications to ensure sustainable access to sanitation services.
- Enhancing the participation of private sector in the management of water services and sanitation.

- **Transportation sector:**

- Amending legislations governing the transportation policies and activities in line with laws and international developments.
- Comprehensive planning to provide public transportation services.
- Strengthening the regional relations by executing agreements and joining the bilateral, regional and international treaties.
- Removing the subsidy of the air transportation sector and raise the level of infrastructure services and increase private sector investment.

- **Energy:**

- Depending on imported energy due to limited domestic energy sources.
- Amending legislation and the establishment a center for energy research purposes in cooperation with international organizations.
- Preparing studies and tendering of projects in various energy fields.
- Expanding in the use of energy-saving devices.
- Optimal utilization of oil shale as an alternative source of electric power or extraction of crude oil and oil products. Jordan has a large reserve of oil shale which calls for inciting companies that have been signing agreements with them for the conduct of proceedings in exploration and production.
- Proceeding in renewable energy projects, especially wind and solar energy to generate electricity.

42. Challenges and future issues to be incorporated in the new urban agenda:

In relation to challenges, the natural increase in the population of Jordan in addition to the increase of forced immigration is due to regional conditions in neighboring countries. The return of expatriates is a main factor affect the provision of basic services.

- **Slums and preventing its expansion:**

- The increasing number of population would result in misusing lands and formation of residential areas suffering from the lack of basic services.
- Decreasing rates of economic growth which would affect the standard of living and high levels of poverty.
- Future trends:
- Developing programs to be abided by municipalities and regulation entities though which sufficient spaces of land can be organized to meet the need of housing for poor families.
- Modifying building and organization regulations to prevent slums and expansion.
- Directing housing policies and future plans to reduce the spread of slums.

- **Housing:**

- Cost for providing houses is high.
- Eroded purchasing power of citizens
- The gap between demand and supply.
- Difficult stipulations required to attain residential loans.
- Shortage of available land reasonably priced due to the greedy owners who asks for sky rocketing prices beyond the capability of people.

- Limited information available with regard to the housing sector.
- Housing crisis resulting from Syrians influx.

- **The future visions:**

- Passing a law regulating the housing sector with the participation of both the public and private sectors and the approval of stakeholders.
- Updating the national housing strategy that has been adopted in 1989 and work on a strategy to cope with developments and changes.
- Continue providing housing programs directed to low-income groups

- **Potable drinking water:**

- The Renewable water sources and over pumping of strategic reserves of water are limited.
- The significant gap between water demand and availability as per capita share of renewable of water is less than 15% of the water poverty line. The irrigation water is also used 71% of the water demand and 54% of the water supply for 2013, in addition to high rate of water loss.
- High cost of capital projects and inability to secure the necessary funding to invest in the water sector.
- Institutional and financial challenges, which represent the restructuring of institutions operating in the sector, the drinking water tariff, and the inability to recover the operational and capital costs, where the cost of water irrigation is high, while the collectible costs of irrigation is low.

- **Sanitation:**

The capacity of the treatment plants and pumping stations is limited to handle and transport the wastewater (quality and quantity) in addition to population increase and urbanization and increasing demand for sanitation services.

- **Energy:**

- Providing all energy resources necessary to reach sustainable development at lowest reasonable cost and best specifications by developing and applying strategies, legislations and programs, and by diversifying imported energy resources, as well as developing and improving the resources of domestic and renewable energy along with rising up its efficiency in various sectors.
- Developing and utilizing of the traditional and renewable energy, oil shale and uranium.
- Transferring, localizing and developing the nuclear energy technology and developing its usage sustainably.
- Increasing efficiency of energy in all sectors, and maximizing the added value for the utilization of mineral ores.

- **Transportation:**

- Conducting feasibility studies for various transportation projects so as Jordan to be a liaison center regionally and internationally.
- Increasing the revenue rate from traffic by 5% of GDP in 2017.
- Offering transportation projects through the private sector via introduction of (BOT).
- It is expected that the private sector will invest about 7 billion dinars in the transportation sector.
- The government intended to provide facilities to develop the trade and investment environment in the transportation sector.
- Reorganizing the institutions specialized in wired transportation sector.
- Allowing the private sector to invest in infrastructure, and provide the necessary incentives.
- Focusing on economically viable projects that would reduce transportation costs and facilitate the flow of goods.

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The seventh Theme
Indicators for 1996 – 2006 – 2013
Distributed according to the gender as possible

Existing Indicator	Indicator	Year			Source
		1996	2006	2013	
Percentage of population in poor neighborhoods	• The ratio of population in poverty pockets ² relative to the population of the Kingdom (the ratio for 2010 is of the poorest areas to the total population of the Kingdom).	N.A	6.9	(2010)13.6	Analysis of the poverty status in Jordan – 2010 + The poverty Report- The Coordinating Commission of the Social cohesion + the Department of Statistics.
	• The percentage of employed individuals whose salary is less than one dollar per day (the equivalent of the purchasing power)>100 JOD monthly)	N.A	8,9	(2012)1,4	The Executive development program 2012 – Ministry of planning & International Cooperation.
	• Social productivity program (includes squatter areas + camps).	N.A	500000 people	N.A	Housing and Urban Development Corporation
	• The ratio of poor residents to the total population	(1997) 21,3	13	(2010) 14,4	Analysis of the poverty status in Jordan – 2010 + The poverty Report- The Coordinating Commission of the Social cohesion + the Department of Statistics.
The percentage of urban population who own decent housing (the indicator for 1996 represents the ratio of owned housing / the total population).	• The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type / owned / urban.	(1997) 63.0	66.7	(2010) 70.6	household Income & expenditures 2006 + 2010 - DOS
	• The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type / owned / Males.	N.A	69.8	N.A	

² Pockets of poverty: are the areas where the poverty rate exceeding 25%. (The final poverty analysis report 2010 / Coordination Commission for Social Cohesion).

In addition, the poorest areas are provinces in which the poverty rate exceeds 25%, including poor districts within the poorest province. (The Poverty status report in Jordan 2010 / Department of Statistics)

Existing Indicator	Indicator	Year			Source
		1996	2006	2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type / owned / Females. 	N.A	76.3	N.A	
The percentage of urban residents renting decent housing (the indicator for 1996 represents the ratio of rented housing/the total population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type / tenant/urban. 	(1997) 32.4	25.3	(2010) 26.1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type / tenants / males. 	N.A	22.2	N.A	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the housing possession type tenants/ Females. 	N.A	20.1	N.A	
The percentage of residents in urban areas access to potable water (the indicator for 1996 represents the ration of population provided with safe drinking water/ the total population, being the mail water source).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the main drinking water source/public network/urban. 	(1997) 98.8	81.3	(2010) 62.4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the main drinking water source/public network/Males. 	N.A	81.2	N.A	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the main potable water source/public network/Females. 	N.A	79.7	N.A	
The ratio of residents in urban areas provided with sanitary services (the indicator for 1996 represents the ration of housing units provided with sanitary services/the total population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household members according to the type of sanitary facilities/public network/urban. 	(1997) 70.4	69.1	(2010) 68.5	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative distribution of household 	N.A	57.3	N.A	

Existing Indicator	Indicator	Year			Source
		1996	2006	2013	
	members according to the type of sanitary facilities/public network/Males				
	• The relative distribution of household members according to the type of sanitary facilities/public network/Females	N.A	57	N.A	
The ratio of residents in urban areas provided with waste collection services regularly.	• The percentage of the municipalities' coverage of waste collection in the Kingdom.	N.A	96	(2012) 97	The Executive development program 2012 – Ministry of planning & International Cooperation.
The ratio of residents in urban areas provided with clean energy (the indicator for 1996 and 2012 represents the ration of housing units provided with local energy/the total population)	• The relative distribution of household members according to the main type of energy/public network / electricity/urban.	(1997) 99.8	100	(2012) 99.9	household Income & expenditures 2006 + 2010 - DOS
	• The relative distribution of household members according to the main type of energy/public network / electricity/Males.	N.A	99.9	N.A	
	• The relative distribution of household members according to the main type of energy/public network / electricity/Females.	N.A	100	N.A	
The percentage of residents in urban areas provided with public transportation services.	• Accessibility (the percentage of residents within a walking distance no more than 10 minutes from the nearest bus stop)	N.A	N.A	(2012) 75	The Executive development program 2012+ performance evaluation of the executive program 2007 – 2009, Ministry of planning & International Cooperation
	• Number of busses / 1000 people.	N.A	N.A	(2012) 1,2	

Existing Indicator	Indicator	Year			Source
		1996	2006	2013	
	• The average population per buss.	N.A	356	N.A	
The decentralized level of sustainable urban development.					
1) The percentage of policies and regulations related to urban issues drafted in cooperation with the local & regional governments since 1996 until now.	• The number of strategic plans on the municipalities' level.	N.A	(2008) 10	(2012) 3	The Executive development program 2012 – Ministry of planning & International Cooperation.
2) The ratio of local and regional governments' revenue and expenditures to the general budget.	• Allocation- General Budget (million JOD / Ministry of municipal affairs	N.A	N.A	(2012)1713 0	
	• Expenditure- General Budget (million JOD / Ministry of municipal affairs.	N.A	N.A	(2012)6199	
3) The local authorities' expenditures / local revenues.	• The ration of expenditures/the general budget.	N.A	N.A	(2012) 36	
The number of local, regional, and central authorities which had applied urban policies to support development of the local economy, and create job opportunities and decent livelihoods.	• Number of governorates	12	12	12	Ministry of municipal affairs / the annual yearbook 2007
	• Number of municipalities.	328	99	93	
The percentage of local and regional authorities which had adopted , developed and applied the safety and security of policies and strategies.	• Number of governorates	12	12	12	
The percentage of local and regional authorities which had applied designs and schemes of sustainable and inclusive cities which appropriately reflects the population growth.	• The number of inclusive schemes that take the population growth into account in the municipalities' urban planning.	N.A	(2010) 36	(2012) 39	The Executive development program 2012 – Ministry of planning & International Cooperation.

Existing Indicator	Indicator	Year			Source
		1996	2006	2013	
The GDP contribution in the urban areas		(1997)519 2.4	11092.6	23,851.6	

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE HABITAT III

HE Eng Sami Halaseh / Minister of Public Works and Housing - Chairman of the Committee
HE Aqel Biltaji / Secretary of the Greater Amman municipality.
HE Dr. Kamel Mahadin / Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Aqaba Special Economic Zone authority.
HE Eng Fares Jundiadi / Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation - Deputy Chairman of the Committee.
HE Dr. Saleh Kharabsheh / Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning.
HE Eng Walid Al-Otoum / Secretary General of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
HE Engineer Ahmed Al-Qatarneh / Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment.
HE Eng Basem Al-Telfah / Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.
HE Dr. Ezzedine Kanakria / Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance.
HE Eng Farothe Kingdom Hiyari / Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.
HE Eng Mu'een Al-Sayegh / Director General of the Department of land and space.
HE Dr. Qasim Al-Zubi / Director General of the Department of Statistics.
HE Dr. Sawsan Al-Majali / Secretary General of the Higher Population Council.
HE Major General Tahir Al-Smadi / Assistant commander of traffic
HE Dr. Raed Sami Al-Edwan / Director General of the Directorate of Local Development / Ministry of the Interior
HE Dr. Salwa Al-Nemes / Secretary General of the National Committee for Women's Affairs of Jordan.
HE Engineer Abdullah Obeidat / Head of the Jordanian Engineers Association.
Eng Ahmad Tarawneh / Head of the Jordanian Contractors' Association.
HE Mr. Kamal Awamleh / Chairman of the Jordanian housing Investors' Society.
Dr. Adli Kandah / Chairman of the Jordanian Banks Association.
HE Eng Mei Asfour / Director of the housing policies department in the Housing and Urban Development Corporation - Rapporteur of the Commission.

The Members participating in developing the themes of the Habitat III national report

The first Theme / demographic and urban development / headed by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation

HE Eng. Fares Junaidi / Head of theme
Eng. Mei Asfour / Housing and Urban Development Corporation
Eng. Basema Al-So'oub/ Housing and Urban Development Corporation

The second Theme / urban planning / headed by the Greater Amman Municipality

HE Eng. Fawzi Massad / Head of the Theme
Eng. Rima Odeh / Greater Amman Municipality
Eng. Mei Asfour / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.
Eng. Basema Al-So'oub/ Housing and Urban Development Corporation
Mr. Ali Nahar Al-Mutlaq / Higher Housing Council.
Ms. Abdullah Zyoud / Ministry of Environment
Ms. Heba Kothe / Ministry of Planning
Mr. Haitham Al-Fuqaha / Lands & Survey Department.
Mr. Mohammed Qasim Al-Stouha / Aqaba Region Authority

Mr. Khalaf Thiabat / PSD

The third Theme / The Environment and Urban Development / chaired by the Ministry of the Environment

HE Eng. Ahmed Qatarneh / Head of the Theme

Mr. Mohammed Afaeah / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Adnan Al-Zawahreh / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Jaber Daradkeh / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Faraj Al-Taleb / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Indira Al-Thahabi / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Khalid Al-Fayez / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Amad Nasir Eddeen / Ministry of Environment

Dr. Ahmed Abdel Fattah / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Bothinah Batarseh / Ministry of Environment

Eng. Basema Al-So'oub/ Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Mr. Ahmad Al-Jbour / Ministry of the Interior

Captain Eyad Abu Qudous / The Royal Department for environment protection / PSD

The fourth Theme / Regulations - Urban Governance / headed by Ministry of Interior / Directorate of Local Development

Governor Dr. Raed Al-Edwan / Head of the Theme.

Eng. Basem Tarawneh / Greater Amman Municipality.

Mr. Tail Abdul Hamid Al-Majali / Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.

Lieutenant colonel Ramsey Al-Debek / PSD.

Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi / Higher Population Council.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Aga / Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Medhat Anagherh / Ministry of Environment.

Eng. Mei Asfour / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Eng. Mohamed Ennab / Ministry of Municipalities.

Ms. Rawan Al-Ma'aytah / Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Jbour / Ministry of the Interior.

Dr. Ali Al-Moas / Ministry of the Interior.

Mr. Malik Ajarma / Ministry of the Interior.

Mr. Tamer Mdarmeh / Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Ms. Hala Jweinat / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

The Fifth Theme / "Urban Economy - Challenges for the new urban agenda", headed by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Dr. Saleh Kharabsheh / Head of the Theme.

Eng. Ghassan Khraisat / Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Eng. Akram Khraisat / Greater Amman Municipality.

Eng. Khaled Abu Eisheh / Board of Commissioners of Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.

Eng. Samah Fafas / Board of Commissioners of Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.

Dr. Ali Al-Shibli / Department of Statistics.

Fadi Al-Mashharawi / Jordan Banks Association.

Eng. Mohammed Abu-Afefeh / Jordan Engineers Association.

Eng. Tariq Al-Hreini / Jordanian Contractors Association.

Eng. Samir Hasweh /The Jordanian housing Investors' Society.

Ms. Heba Kothesh Abzakh / Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Ms. Hala Jweinat / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Sixth Theme / Housing and basic urban services / headed by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation

HE Eng. Fares Junaidi / Head of the Theme.

Eng. Mei Asfour / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Ms. Hala Jweinat / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

The Seventh Theme / Indicators / headed by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation

HE Eng. Fares Junaidi / Head Theme.

Eng. Mei Asfour / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Ms. Hala Jweinat / Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Ms. Huda Abu-Odeh / General Organization for Housing and Urban Development.