STATEMENT

BY

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FIRST SECRETARY

BEFORE THE SECOND COMMITTEE

SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 19

“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

NEW YORK, 4 NOVEMBER 2013
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for the various reports that are before the Committee under this agenda item. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Sustainable development aims at optimizing the realization of a society's social, environmental and economic objectives. However, despite efforts to incorporate sustainable development into policy agendas, several major challenges remain to integrate the three dimensions of sustainability.

In advancing sustainable development, development co-operation does have a vital and catalytic role to play, in this regard, a re-commitment to new and additional financial resources for sustainable development as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, and on favorable terms, is critical in assisting developing countries to achieve sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of the High Level Political Forum and the recent outcome of the reform on the strengthening of ECOSOC are both considered important processes for achieving the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable
development. Therefore, while reaffirming the commitment towards our path for sustainable development, it is essential to provide the Forum with sufficient resources and support from the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change is a serious challenge that could undermine progress towards achieving sustainable development.

Jordan is one of the most arid countries in the world where desertification remains an issue. To address this problem, several governmental initiatives have been undertaken, mainly through the National Action Programme (NAP) to combat desertification, which includes six major programmes that are mainly "project-based", which include several projects related to desertification monitoring and control, capacity building, natural resources rehabilitation and development. Other initiatives include improving water use efficiency by adopting advanced technologies in irrigation systems, to minimize soil erosion in addition to enhancing research for drought and saline tolerant crops, and seed production.

Also since climate protection is strongly linked with other areas of development cooperation, access to clean and renewable energy is considered a key for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development.

My delegation considers that the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol should remain the central multilateral framework for cooperative action to address climate change issues. Jordan supports the Durban Platform and intends to become a Party to the new global legal agreement on climate change to be developed under the
Durban Platform (to be formalized by 2015 and take effect from 2020), under the condition that the differentiation of the commitments under the new agreement are in accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities".

My delegation looks forward to a fruitful outcome at the COP 19/ CMP9, which will take place in Poland in November this year.

Mr. Chairman,

The global importance of Jordan’s biodiversity lies within its geographical location and climate. Despite its rich biodiversity, Jordan's nature is facing many threats as reflected by the national and global status of many species and their habitats. Nevertheless, Jordan has taken comprehensive steps in the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity including the continuation of the establishment of the national protected areas network, the enhancement of strict monitoring on wildlife components and promoting the application of strategic environmental assessments as means to promote sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The response to the impacts of climate change and disasters should include the strengthening of the Hugo Framework for Action for disaster risk reduction and supporting efforts for the implementation of plans and strategies for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development. The First Arab States regional
consultation on the Post 2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2) took place in Jordan in March this year where representatives from the region underlined the importance of undertaking concerted actions, including by carrying out a thorough assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the current (HFA) in order to inform and scale up Disaster Risk Reduction efforts as part of (HFA2).

Mr. Chairman,

As the coming decade, 2014-2024 will be the International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, accelerating the efforts to ensure improved universal access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services are instrumental for achieving sustainable development since access to sustainable energy contributes to poverty eradication and helps provide basic human needs. It is therefore important to underline the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes that the related discussions in our Committee will assist in identifying ways and means to address the challenges and substantially stimulate sustainable development worldwide to the benefit of all.

I thank you.