

As written

Statement by Jordanian Delegation
read on behalf of H.E. Mohamed Mehdi **Farhan**,
Minister of Labor
The Hashemite Kingdom of- Jordan--“”

The Hague Forum

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Your Excellency, President
Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the UNFPA.
The Heads and Members of Delegations.

It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to address this distinguished conference "The ICPD + 5 International Forum (The Hague Forum)", and to thank all those who worked to make this important meeting possible. Today, I want to share with you the major highlights of Jordan's experience since ICPD 1994.

As we all are aware, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, has created a new global consensus on population and development for the purposes of promoting objectives such as improved reproductive health, ensured gender equity, equality and empowerment of women. Furthermore, ICPD reaffirmed that population and development policies and strategies are important and integral part of all development considerations.

The Program of Action adopted at the ICPD Conference in Cairo in September 1994 has continued to resonate throughout all the population and RTI activities in Jordan. It affected significantly Jordan's national agenda in terms of issues to be tackled and the resources to be mobilized in order

to meet the commitments that Jordan, among other countries, made at ICPD.

Since 1994 Jordan carried out a Fourth Population Census, two Demographic and Family Health Surveys and two Employment Surveys. The data obtained through these surveys were utilized in the planning of activities i-elated to population and development. A number of policy-oriented research papers were prepared and a family Planning KAP survey and a Religious Leaders' Opinion Survey were carried out.

A National Population Strategy (NPS) was formulated and officially endorsed in 1996 and then revised this year in light of new data with integrated RH and gender components. UNFPA provided financial and technical support in the development and updating of the National Population Strategy. The CST advisers reviewed all NPS related documents and provided valuable advice.

A concomitant national FP Communication Strategy was developed to inform married women and men, religious and community leaders and service providers about the full range of RI-I issues including family Planning and contraceptive methods. A National Campaign to involve men in the familial decision-making was also launched.

Effective advocacy activities for Population and RH issues in Jordan were also started to bring about more support among policy makers and planners in public, private and NGO sectors.

Today, larger number of facilities in the public, private and NGO sectors throughout Jordan are providing better quality RH/FP counseling and services. In the last seven years, Total Fertility Rate declined by more than 1.2 births and Contraceptive Prevalence increased to 53% for married mothers 15-49 years. More couples are currently informed and served so that they can freely take responsible reproductive decisions.

Despite all these changes, the challenges that stand before us are tremendous. As a result of past high fertility in Jordan, large cohorts of young male and female adolescents and youth are about to start their reproductive life. We are well aware 'that further efforts are needed to meet their unmet reproductive health needs in order to avoid unwanted and shortly spaced children.

Three months ago, Jordan National Population Commission participated in the Arab Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Program of Action-Beirut 22-25 September, 1998. The Secretary General of Jordan National Population

Commission was chosen as the rapporteur of the Conference. The Conference recommendations emphasized the following points:

- 1 . To ensure the implementation of the ICPD- Programme of Action.
3. The political and institutional framework.
3. Implementation of Policies and Programs. "
4. Enhancing national capabilities.
5. Resource allocations.
6. Sectoral Plans.

It gives me great pleasure to confirm once again Jordan's commitment to carry out the decisions of the ICPD Programme of action.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to UNFPA and all other international and donor agencies around the world who supported Jordan's efforts that aim at placing population concerns at the heart of sustainable development .