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Excellencies, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, may the peace of God be upon you.

It is a pleasure for me to address you on behalf of Jordan and to speak before the whole assembly at this 38th Session of the FAO Conference. At a time when agriculture is of utmost importance in providing the global population with means of survival and a time when we see more than 450 million individuals are still suffering from a lack of food, we also observe that water resources are becoming increasingly scarce.

The FAO has attached utmost importance to this issue. Certain countries are focusing on these issues of food and water resources. We observe that the production of bio-energy has deviated a considerable amount of food products which has had a negative impact on the poorest and the developing countries. This has resulted in a considerable rural exodus and migration to neighboring countries. All of these aspects have prevented the meeting of the food needs of these people.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, these changes are recurring at a time when the FAO is continuing to play its normative role. These changes have not seen, at the FAO, the adoption of new methods to deal with these food needs. It is therefore necessary to develop a mechanism within FAO which will allow us to deal with climate change and changes in the type of farms in order to meet the challenges that these farmers are facing. This can only be done if financial assistance is granted, in enhancing productivity and preserving natural resources. We must lend priority to high yield species in order to be able to produce sufficient quantities. We must also adopt the most advanced technologies and allow for technology transfer in order to meet these objectives.

It is also necessary to provide assistance to these countries from the Organization free of bureaucracy also attempting to reduce costs. All of these countries are seeing a fragmentation of farm holdings with a focus on smaller holdings. So the Organization must help us to adopt the cooperative system. This can only be beneficial for producers and consumers. It is also necessary to adopt rational methods of governance at regional, national, and local levels in order to guarantee transparency, responsibility, and the supply of services.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Jordan is aware that the lack of food security is a global phenomenon and this phenomenon is being exacerbated due to a lack of natural resources including water resources. If measures are not taken urgently, if there is not a political will to ensure food security for everyone, we will be unable to meet these goals. Therefore, Jordan is determined to meet its international commitments.

It has taken into consideration the difficult situation experienced by neighboring countries. We are living in a region where conflicts are on the increase and are outpacing development and resources that we have available. The blockade of Palestinian producers means that Jordan is the only outlet for their produce regionally or internationally. This comes in addition to other factors.

With the advent of the Arab Spring which sparked a set number of crises including this Syrian crisis which only exacerbated the situation in the North of Jordan, that area where there are more than 1.2 million refugees. This has only exerted additional pressure on already scarce resources and on water resources, thus exacerbating problems experienced by farmers.

The seriousness of the Syrian crisis has only worsened the burden carried by Jordan, placing more demand on resources. This has increased the rate of consumption of agricultural produce and also led to an increase in prices, an increase in imports also, thus worsening problems like unemployment.

The exacerbation of the situation in Syria has led to the closure of borders with that country which is also closed pathways for Jordanian produce to that country, to Lebanon, and other countries including in Europe. This means that Jordanian exports in the agricultural sector or the livestock sector have experienced losses of approximately 400 million dollars per year.

These ills have not been met with great interest on the part of the international community, commensurate with the problems. So it is time the tension be focused on these products to ensure that we can achieve every objective of ensuring food security and improving living standard of our population, and to allow all of these people to contribute to the growth of production globally and ultimately also to allow our country to meet its international obligations to supply the necessary agricultural produce for self-sufficiency.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to organizing this meeting and to the FAO.

Thank you very much.