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Position Paper: JORDAN (The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)

**The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

Jordan suffers from a severe water scarcity problem. The country is one of the four driest in the world and this is the result of climate change. It is projected that the population will continue to grow from about 6.5 million in the year 2013 to 7.8 million by the year 2022. This growing population results in the falling of available water resources per capita. Water scarcity will have a direct impact on the health of Jordanians. In 2005, a WHO/UNEP project determining minimum water requirements for health in Jordan showed a linkage between the per capita water consumption and the incidence of diarrhoea. Due to the serious vulnerabilities of water scarcity, the national Government has prioritized the use of clean water for domestic supply. This should avoid much of the direct health risks from water scarcity: However, the proposed increase in use of wastewater reuse as an alternative water supply could raise a series of health risks. Unless adequately managed, both untreated and to a lesser extent treated wastewater poses significant risks to health. Increasing agricultural use of wastewater, driven by climate change, is likely to increase intestinal diseases and exposure to toxic chemicals for farmers, neighbouring communities, and consumers. These are the many reasons why Jordan believes that dealing with the issue of climate change is of utmost importance. Jordan issued a national climate change policy in 2013, led by the Ministry of Environment.

**Climate Refugees**

Jordan is affected by the migration of climate refugees from Syria. The drought that occurred in Syria between 2006-2011 had led to many Syrians leaving their homeland in order to find jobs in other countries. Many environmental issues are caused because of climate change, drought being just one of them. These changes are what cause people to leave and settle elsewhere. The Syrian refugee population settled in many countries, one of them being Jordan. The surplus in the population has led to Jordan making the required accommodations in order to meet the needs of everyone.

**Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Historically, Jordan was amongst the first group of developing countries to ratify the UNFCCC and make an accession to the Kyoto Protocol in 1994 and 2003 respectively. On October 5, 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris agreement was achieved. The Paris agreement later entered into force on November 4, 2016. Jordan has signed this agreement but has yet to ratify it, although the deadline is on April 21, 2017. Jordan has chosen the path to both mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to reduce the presence of greenhouse gases. By partnering up with the UNDP, Jordan is striving towards the hope of a more cleaner and renewable future. The unconditional outcome target is aiming at reducing Jordan’s greenhouse gases emissions by 1.5 % by 2030 and a conditional outcome target at 12.5 % by 2030.