

**JORDAN'S ADDRESS
HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES 26
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
1 NOVEMBER 2021**

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Prime Minister
Mr President,
Your Excellencies:

Let me begin by thanking the government and the people of the United Kingdom, for welcoming this historic Conference.

And let me thank the dedicated people from across the world who have steadily focused on means to counter the climate threat.

But our gathering here is evidence that the larger international effort has not been enough.

We see this, not only in extreme events—firestorms, flooding, deadly landslides. But we also see it in the inch-by-inch loss of healthy, essential environment, lands and waters that are the lifeblood of billions of people.

The Middle East has been among the hardest-hit regions. In Jordan, reduced rainfalls and high evaporation have combined to a deadly effect. The Jordan River is a shadow of what the Bible and our forefathers depicted. The Dead Sea is dropping by more than half a metre a year. Freshwater aquifers are dwindling, and their salinity rising. All this compounds our extreme water scarcity, already under pressure because of massive refugee flows.

This is why Jordan is committed to the climate change fight.

When Jordan joined the Paris Agreement in 2015, we set a target of a 14-percent carbon reduction by 2030. And now, we aim to double it over the next nine years, with your help.

To achieve this, we have identified 32 emission-reduction projects, with a total cost of \$7.6 billion dollars.

The work has begun. Jordan has been a regional pioneer in renewable energy, clean mobility, and other green technologies. We have worked closely with the green-tech industry, and we welcome continued partnership.

Numerous solar and wind projects are up and running. And this sector will continue to grow, as we plan to export electricity to neighbouring countries.

We are closing the water loop, through the optimal use of highly treated water and advanced farming methods.

Other initiatives will enhance our resiliency in key areas such as disaster mitigation, carbon recapture, food security, and waste management. We are embarking on an ambitious forestation effort to plant 10 million trees over the next 10 years within our protected areas.

And we are taking steps to care for a unique marine resource, our resilient coral reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba. We have designated a protected nature reserve, and with your support, will be able to leverage learnings about effective climate change mitigation and adaptation, by establishing a marine science and research park in Aqaba to help marine areas at risk across the globe, and increase knowledge sharing on water, energy, and environmental research.

In all our efforts, international partners have been and will be essential. A key part of this is COP-26 support for developing countries, both to mitigate the destruction caused by global climate change, and to sustain work for a greener, safer future.

My friends,

It will do little good to address the climate threat in one place and ignore it elsewhere. Human impact, on a global level, has created the climate crisis, and human action, on a global level, is required to end it.

Truly, this is the fight of our lives. And Jordan will continue to play its full part.

Thank you.