

Forward by HE Mr. Abdulrahim Al-Akour

On the dawn of this third millennium, Jordan faces various environmental challenges due to its fragile environmental resources and limited financial assets.

Despite the obstacles faced, we in Jordan have faith in our wise leadership and in the young generation the real asset in Jordan, characterized by their ability to give without weariness or tedium. We also believe in the capabilities of all citizens and their willingness to develop and grow. For that, we are confident of our capabilities to develop a comprehensive perspective for the future that would enable us to pursue higher levels of development.

Environmental issues ranging from less demanding problems to highly complex issues, namely poverty were always a global concern since the Stockholm Conference in 1972. The Earth Summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, was a clear indication of the continuous global and international efforts (over a period of twenty years) to promote environmental protection. During the summit, the urgency to focus on linkages between environmental and developmental issues was made evident. The participation of the late

The preparation of National Agenda 21 was the main outcome of the Earth Summit, outlining the approaches to be adopted by the international community towards achieving sustainable development.

Jordan pledged its commitment to the principles of sustainable development, and accordingly Agenda 21 has been prepared with extensive efforts and through a participatory approach involving all sectors of the society. This document set in motion a process of coordination, cooperation and harmonization between governmental and non-governmental institutions.

I hereby would like to extend my appreciation to all the parties who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the formulation of Agenda 21. I would like to reiterate the importance of Agenda 21 document, which reflects our commitment to our identity, culture, history and faith in our people.

As Jordanians, our unwavering dedication to place our country on the path of progress and development, requires that we all work to conserve our cultural heritage and unique biodiversity and that we cooperate with all governmental entities entrusted with protecting the environment. The quote from the Holy Quran serves as a meaningful guidance and inspiration for building a Jordan that is prepared to embrace the challenges of the new millenium.

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