

Statement on Jordan VNR, delivered by a representative of the NGO Major Group

Dear Excellencies, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to represent part of Jordan's civil society here at this forum to speak about the achievements on the Agenda 2030 in Jordan.

Jordan faces the same challenges as the world – the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and other external shocks. However, Jordan's economic imbalances such as chronic state-indebtedness, stagnant economic growth, and high levels of unemployment and poverty, were not caused by them. They were present before and worsened due to IFI-led austerity policies. This comes at the detriment of vulnerable groups.

56% of those registered with the Social Security earn \$700/ month and less, not enough to cover living costs in light of rising inflation, despite government plans to achieve a rate of 8% by 2025. It now stands at 24%. Jordanians are now more vulnerable to poverty than they were five years ago.

Discriminatory laws against women, economic participation of women at 13.7% and 31.5% unemployment of women, and increased domestic violence documented show that despite of domestic governmental policies, a joint effort of governmental and societal actors is needed to achieve gender equality.

Economic growth is stagnant at around 2%. This is not sufficient to create enough decent jobs for all. Unfair tax policies weaken the economy's capacity to grow. Now, 22.8% of workers are unemployed. Half of the workforce works informally, social protection networks.

Migrant workers, refugees and women are the first to suffer from the lack of protection. Inequality in Jordan remains a problem and is increasing, in particular given the low wage levels for the majority of workers in Jordan.

Civil society in Jordan has worked and will work to support the government in implementing various reform policies, and it needs more freedom to do so.

Various indicators of governance and democratic practices have declined significantly over the past few years.

Thank you.