

**The second session of 2024 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will be held from 4 to 6 December 2024, at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi.**

**Talking Points for H.E. Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat**

Greetings to Your Excellencies and Representatives of Member States,

It is a true honor to be here today to share a testimonial about the impactful efforts of the UN-Habitat Jordan Country Programme.

UN-Habitat's global mission to achieve **"A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world"** is clearly reflected in the program's work across Jordan. As someone who has witnessed the program's growth over the years, I can confidently say that its commitment to this vision is evident not only in its technical support to ministries, municipalities, and communities but also in its operational projects. These initiatives have equally benefited Jordanians and refugees alike.

Since 2005, the program has operated under the framework of the Host-Country Agreement with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, signed in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. By integrating national strategies with local perspectives, the UN-Habitat Jordan Programme is addressing complex urban challenges unique to Jordan's context. It ensures that no one—and no place—is left behind.

What sets this program apart is its unwavering focus on people. UN-Habitat's participatory approach ensures that those most affected by urban challenges—women, youth, refugees, and underserved communities—are not just beneficiaries but active participants in the decision-making process.

A shining example of this is the transformation of Ghor Al Safi, a poverty pocket in southern Jordan that is often marginalized. Here, UN-Habitat Jordan collaborated with local and UN organizations to rehabilitate a neglected public space and community center. This initiative turned the area into an inclusive and accessible space offering safe play areas for children, markets for local entrepreneurs, and a sustainable agriculture zone. The community center now serves as an incubator for social and cultural activities, equipping women and children with entrepreneurial and livelihood skills.

Through projects like these, Jordan has become a hub for urban innovation, showcasing pioneering efforts in climate resilience, community-led neighborhood development, and SDG localization. At the recent World Urban Forum in Egypt, Jordan stood out with visibility in 29 sessions, presenting innovative solutions that serve as models for the region and beyond.

Reflecting on these success stories and their impact, I am reminded of a fundamental truth: urbanization can be a powerful tool for transformation when stakeholders and communities are engaged. UN-Habitat's work in Jordan not only addresses immediate needs but also builds local capacities, laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable resilience.

To the team at UN-Habitat Jordan, thank you for your dedication to our communities. And to Your Excellencies here today, let us carry these lessons forward—continuing to support the sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience of our cities to ensure a better quality of life for all.