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## The Dead Sea Declaration

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## The Dead Sea Declaration

MENA Region Earth Charter 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

24<sup>th</sup> November 2010

The participants of the MENA Region Earth Charter Celebration held at the Dead Sea in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during 23<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Thank HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal for her sponsorship of this celebration and her constant support of the local, regional and international activities within the context of the Earth Charter Initiative,

Affirm their reinforcement of their commitment to the Earth Charter and its principles which include respect and care of the community of life, the integrity of the ecosystem, social and economic equality, democracy, peace, and fight against violence,

Renew their commitment to the Amman Regional Declaration related to the Earth Charter issued on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2001 calling for the adoption of the Earth Charter by all organizations and institutions working in the fields of environment and sustainable development. Also, to implement the principles and values of the Charter in the business and activities carried out by these institutions.

Affirm the need to proceed in the application of Earth Charter principles and all the principles and values included in the international environmental and developmental agreements in the regional countries, including the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development, the Millennium goals, the International Strategy to protect the bio-diversity ,

Indicate that the values included in the Earth Charter are essential and necessary for the adoption of best practices and policies that contribute in creating a sustainable society based on the respect of nature, human rights, economic equality and the culture of peace,

Affirm that there is a direct relation among the economic, political, social, environmental and cultural challenges facing the countries of the region and that the best approach to encounter these challenges is the integrated response to them through focusing on principles and values included in the Earth Charter, and especially the sense of local, regional and international responsibility.

Aware that MENA region faces several challenges in the area of sustainable development but at the same time it has distinct natural resources and the social capital which can accelerate

the process of development in these countries and improve the quality of life and the available opportunities for their societies in addition to the positive contribution to the human journey toward a future distinguished by peace and sustainability.

Referring to the fruitful discussion that took place during the MENA Region Earth Charter 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration distinguished by the diversity of ideas, proposals, expertise and suggestions.

The participants agreed to the following:

1. Create a network of regional institutions and experts to coordinate the implementation of the Earth Charter principles by various countries according to the specialization of each organization in a manner by which all issues of the Charter are covered.
2. Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development will undertake the responsibilities of the Secretariat of the network with the membership of organizations, public and private and the regional experts who believe in the importance of the Earth Charter at the national and regional level and to coordinate efforts and exchange experiences and success stories and establish a database that can be utilized in institutional development and the process of sustain development in the countries of the region.
3. Uphold the core values of Earth Charter in all development projects, initiatives and activities undertaken by participating institutions.
4. Augment membership of national and regional institutions that adopt the Earth Charter.
5. Adopt and implement model projects that are based on the principles of the Earth Charter including environmental education projects that integrate local communities in continuing education programs.
6. Establish national and regional working groups in the region with the goal of empowering and building the capacities of the youth in active participation in the adoption and implementation of the principles and values of the Earth Charter.

They further underscore the following recommendations:

1. The right of the countries of the MENA region to enjoy and exercise sovereignty over their natural resources, and work to fulfill the developmental aspiration of their respective communities in a way that is sustainable and that preserve the right of upcoming generations.
2. Protect the right to live in MENA states and advocate rejection of occupation and foreign interference regardless of any justification, and support the right to independence and self-determination for the peoples of the region.
3. Invite MENA region governments to adopt plans and policies for sustainable development that would strike a balance between spontaneous economic growth and integrated management of natural resources.
4. Give due attention to formal education and lifelong learning, communication and awareness raising in refurbishing skills, and culture of societies and especially the youth for positively participating in the sustainable development and improving of standards of living and investing the potential energy and social capital in the MENA region.
5. Encourage the commitment of the business sector in the Region to the principles of social and environmental responsibility and to introduce appropriate and nature friendly technologies in

production processes and waste management; and to provide support to local development projects for the purpose of achieving sustained partnerships between the private sector and local communities.

6. Strengthen the role of religious leaders in raising environmental and developmental awareness and providing counseling to communities on how to protect natural resources as enshrined in religious values and teachings which constitutes the main sources of conviction and beliefs among the region's communities.
7. Invite the media and journalists to actively participate in spreading awareness of the Earth Charter among the various segments of the communities
8. Adopt an initiative to implement activities to integrate the youth within the next ten years to increase the Earth Charter principles and values including conducting a group of national and regional activities
9. Invite member countries to actively participate in regional and international discussions to prepare for Rio +20 in coordination with the secretariat of the Earth Charter and the general secretariat of the MENA region network.

Dead Sea  
November 24, 2010