

**Statement Delivered by**  
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**Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**of Jordan**  
**At the**  
**“ Founding Conference of**  
**The International Renewable Energy Agency”**  
**(IRENA)**  
**26-27 January 2009 , Bonn - Germany**

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**Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today to participate in the Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). First of all allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Jordanian Government to the German Government for their great and continuous efforts to initiate the establishment of this agency and conduct this global gathering successfully. Also, allow me to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Spain and Denmark for their support to make this initiative closer to reality and our appreciation also to all who have contributed in the preparation of this conference.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Sustainable development of a society depends mainly on the availability of energy resources, and how efficiently they are utilized.

The amount of available conventional energy resources are decreasing with time. We have to change the world energy basis in the next few decades from polluting and finite to solely clean

and sustainable energies -the renewable ones- which are the best possible choice and create so many benefits and new hopes for our societies.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Jordan is a non-oil producing country and faces real challenges due to limited energy resources and high oil bills. This has a negative impact on our economical and social development.

In order to meet the challenges faced by our energy sector, a comprehensive Energy Strategy was issued end of 2007. One of the crucial elements of this strategy is the provision of reliable energy supply by increasing the share of local energy resources including the renewable ones in the total energy mix and reducing the dependencies of imported oil.

The Government of Jordan has set a target to increase the share of renewable energy to reach 10% of total energy mix by the year 2020.

Renewable energies and energy efficiency solutions are needed in Jordan. The importance of renewable energy in achieving energy autonomy translates into economic and political security.

In order to achieve our aim and for encouraging private sector investment in renewable energy, a legislation on Renewable Energy has been drafted and a "Renewable and Energy Efficiency Fund" will be established within this legislation to serve as a good financing tool for studies and demonstrators projects in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

We believe that renewable energy resources have the potential to become part of the world's energy system in the coming years, and may act as a major catalyst for improving trade and

competitiveness and reinforcing industrial co-operation between nations especially among developing countries.

In this context, the initiative for the creation of IRENA is of great importance and comes in the right direction. IRENA would mean a significant step to foster cooperation and promote the worldwide expansion of renewable energies, contributing towards closing the gap between the huge potential of renewable technologies and their current relatively low market shares as quickly as possible.

It is worth mentioning that, Jordan is one of the main supporters of IRENA initiative, that worked very hard with the founding countries to convince the large number of interested countries in the world throughout the last preparatory meetings to join the initiative.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

It is our faith and hope that IRENA could initiate realistic ideas, clear policies and measures towards more development and promotion of renewable energy resources in order to increase their contribution to the global energy balance .

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the readiness of the Government of Jordan to actively contribute to the establishment of IRENA, and thus we are delighted to sign the Statute today. I am confident that the outcomes of today's meeting will provide a good success to IRENA and to our future activities and cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

In closing, I would like to thank the Organizers of this significant conference for all their efforts, and our hosts for their warm reception and hospitality.

**Thank you**