



## **SPEECH AT EGAR ANNUAL MEETING**

**An Address by HE Kamal Nasser**

**Minister for Political Development and Minister of State for Legal Affairs**

**At Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum/Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business/**

**German – Jordanian University**

**April 7, 2008**

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Conference Chair,  
Distinguished Guests and Colleagues,  
Esteemed Friends and Participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here today and to speak at the Evian Group Annual Meeting on "Arab Responses to Global Challenges & Global Responses to Arab Challenges". Let me begin by thanking Evian Group for inviting me to join you in your 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting where you will be discussing key issues related to future generations.

Many thanks to my friend Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of the Evian Group–Arab Region and Co-Chair of the Evian Group and to his distinguished organization for co-organizing this important gathering in Jordan at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business where the gifted become leaders.

In an increasingly interconnected world, progress towards integration is an essential pillar for building our future. The experience, know-how and vision brought by the Evian Group to the table coupled with the fact that Jordan is hosting this meeting gives me a reason to rejoice and be optimistic.

To address sustainable development issues at the global level, you have dedicated an entire day out of three to discuss issues related to Arab youth and their problems. This shows how important this subject is and how crucial it is to find solutions for our young generation who we will entrust with our progress and hopes to build a better future.

The impressive, pluralistic assembly of this meeting shows that we are prepared for the challenges ahead of us. We, the private sector, civil society and governments understand that we need to join hands and locate our resources to find solutions for the problems infecting our region and its people with despair and pain.

Promoting a transparent, democratic and accountable governance system locally and regionally along with gender equality are the main issues that will be tackled in the meetings in addition to facilitating and providing a universally accepted framework of collaboration and exchange of goods and services amongst Arab countries and others globally as well.

Environment will also be studied comprehensively; water shortage will be discussed along with finding new resources. Desertification and encroachment are common all over the world but the Arab world is considerably more affected than others.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This meeting is going to tackle all of what I just mentioned and more. This makes it not only a daring move, unprecedented in its scale and ambition, but also provides a very real and feasible opportunity to involve all concerned parties and stakeholders, to consider all sides and aspects of problems, and to initiate first steps towards a durable and far-reaching transformation of the Arab world, which will result in the its second Renaissance – something our illustrious ancestors would be proud of.

Jordan's hosting of many economical and cultural activities depicts the Royal Hashemite Leadership's support and care of all humanitarian efforts and initiatives.

We have a greater responsibility and together, we can make a difference. Let me thank Evian Group for their warm welcome and let us work together to support our future generation.

I wish the annual meeting great success and thank you for your attention.