

Under the Patronage of  
**HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal**

**“Panel Discussion on Climate Change”**

Sunday, September 6, 2015 – Amman  
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum

Welcoming Remarks  
**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh**

1. HRH Princess Sumayya, in your person, I salute with respect and admiration HRH Prince Hassan, Al-Ahsan, our climate Godfather, our Patron.
2. HRH Princess Sumayya, thank you for honouring us with your presence and for keynoting us. Your relentless efforts to promote innovation are applauded by all.
3. H.E. Ambassador Carline Dumas, my dear friend, I am proud to share with you hosting this event, like many others before.
4. H.E. Mr. Stephane Gompertz, French Special Envoy for Africa and the M.E. on Climate Change, Bon Conrage on your leadership of this vital and difficult endeavor.
5. Distinguished speakers.
  - (1) **H.E. Lina Shbeeb**, I am privileged to welcome you once again as a dear and outstanding minister.
  - (2) Distinguished colleague **Ahmad Qatarneh**, we are here in you domain, environment.
  - (3) Distinguished Colleague **Fawzi Masad**, may regards to you and to my dear friend Lord Mayor **Akle Beltaji**, and thanks for your efforts to make Amman a yet better livable city.

- (4) Distinguished **Mrs. Layla Rkiouak**, I am aware of the great initiatives of WANA, under the stewardship of **Erica Harper**, lead by our guiding star **HRH Prince Hassan**. WANA deserves our applaud.
- (5) Distinguished speaker **Mr. Batir Wardam**. A warm welcome to you as representative of GIZ. We need your great solutions.
- (6) Distinguished Rapporteur **Mr. Raouf Dabbas**, I trust you will rap us up well.

**Permit me to admit some of my failures:**

6. In 1999 the UNSG assigned to me the Chair of a TF for drafting accounting standards on environment. Together with a team of world experts we made it. Yet it was voted down! You cannot manage what you cannot measure!
7. As co-chair with the UNSG in the establishment of the UNGC, and leading it for two terms (with Kofi Anan and Ban Ki Moon) we forged the ten principles for global governance. The goal on environment remains a goal!
8. As chair of UNGAID, we focused on ICT for development, i.e. climate friendly ICT-based development. Again, we had small success!
9. As chair of UNICT TF, I fought for ICT use as enabler for climate change. Again with only some success!
10. WHY? Because of the lack of global political will. Yet I am not discouraged. All great challenges need perseverance and persistence.
11. The UN is currently engaged in the formulation of the post 2015 development goals. How will climate figure out in the expected documents?
12. Will the UN adopt a binding agenda on climate to be policed by an organization with teeth to observe compliance with standards in accordance with measuring mechanisms?

13. My little self, I am at it again. On May 28, 2015 the UN organized the UN-Private Sector partnerships day. One resolution was adopted: to establish a partnership between the UN represented by UN-Habitat and TAG-Org, co-chaired by the heads of the two organizations:

### **The Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization Network (iTSUN)**

To contribute to the achievements of the following main objectives:

- (1) Provide a forum for collaborative activities that can add value to existing initiatives;
  - (2) Help develop capacities of countries and cities for using digital technologies in policy-making and planning for sustainable urbanization;
  - (3) Develop knowledge sharing platforms and collaborative training on digital technologies being used in the development of cities;
  - (4) Strengthen public-private partnerships in cities to deliver sustainable urban development activities;
  - (5) Provide recommendations and ideas for achieving the objective of sustainable urbanization, including the proposed SDG8 to “make Cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, as a follow-up to the post- 2015 Agenda to be adopted in September 2015;
  - (6) Propose priorities and key elements for the digital dimensions of the New Urban Agenda as a contribution to Habitat III, to be presented during the third session of the Preparatory Committee;
  - (7) Launch a Decade on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization to promote a holistic and integrated approach to addressing the dynamic challenges of sustainable urbanization.
14. Smart urbanization is the practical agenda for smart climate. We shall keep trying. We have no other choice but to strive to succeed.
  15. Bon Conrage France on leading the world this year “on the road to Paris world climate conference 2015”.
  16. Bon Conrage your Excellency, Monsieur Gompertz.