



**Keynote Address by the President of the Senate of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

H.E. Faisal Al-Fayez

Your Excellency, Mr. President,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

ALLOW me by express my sincere to thanks for the organization of the Parliamentarians for Global Action for their kind invitation to participate in their 46th Annual Forum, as well as in the fourth meeting of the Consultative Assembly addressing Oceans' issues.

This meeting is set to discuss various problems relating to Parliamentarian's role in the protection of Marine environment, and the preservation of Marine and Ocean biodiversity. That is in addition to other issues relating to sustainable development and marine protectorates.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Protecting oceans and seas is no longer a merely humanitarian and moral duty; it is in fact a necessity for the continuation of life as such. Oceans cover two-thirds of our planet's surface and are a primary source of food for humanity at a time when famine and hunger are spreading as a result of brutal wars.

Moreover, preserving marine environment is no longer an internal matter for each state alone; rather, it has become a living embodiment of the concept of the "common heritage of humanity" as stipulated in the 1982 Law of the Sea, in recognition of the central role of the environment in the life and the existence of human kind.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to announce that Jordan has joined the “United Nations Convention on Marine Biological Diversity”, based on its belief in the importance of cooperation among member states in preserving marine biodiversity, protecting marine natural resources, and reducing marine pollution.

As part of Jordan's efforts to protect the marine environment, His Majesty the King has emphasised in international forums (including UN Climate Conferences and the UNOC3 in 2025) that oceans are a shared global resource upon which billions of people depend, and that their protection requires collective action grounded in science, innovation, and cooperation.

Despite its limited resources, Jordan has made marine conservation a key priority. In 2020, the country established its first national marine protected area to protect its resilient coral reefs and thriving marine biodiversity, while strengthening integrated coastal zone management. Today, nearly 30% of Jordan's coastline is designated as a protected area, contributing to the global target of protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

The Aqaba Marine Reserve has received international recognition, including inclusion in the IUCN Green List for effective management of protected areas, several international environmental certifications, and placement on UNESCO's Tentative List for potential World Heritage inscription.

Jordan also supports advanced scientific research on the corals of the Gulf of Aqaba, whose exceptional resilience to warming waters, gives them global importance in efforts to understand and protect global coral ecosystems under climate change.

At the same time, conservation efforts are closely linked to protecting fisheries resources and supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Jordan is therefore promoting sustainable fisheries management, supporting local fishermen, and developing pilot initiatives for aquaculture to restore fish stocks, enhance food security, and create opportunities within a sustainable blue economy.

Building on this vision, Jordan is establishing the Aqaba Marine Park initiative under the guidance of His Majesty King Abdullah II, with support from an international advisory board of eminent scientists and environmentalists. The initiative aims to establish a global destination combining applied marine research, conservation, eco-tourism, and educational awareness.

It includes the Aqaba Blue Innovation Hub, a public aquarium offering immersive learning experiences, and the Aqaba Marine Reserve as the ecological core foundation of the project. The initiative seeks to position Aqaba as a global destination for innovation in coral reef conservation, and applied solutions to ocean challenges under climate change.

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenge of preserving oceans and seas, protecting marine environment and its natural and animal resources, and achieving proper balance between environmental protection and sustainable development requires parliamentarians and parliamentary institutions to enact effective legislation to limit seas and oceans pollution, facilitate the establishment of marine protected areas, support scientific research in ocean and marine sciences, and adopting policies that contribute to protecting the marine environment and achieving the sustainable development goals: "Life Below Water" and biodiversity protection.

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, allow me to express my sincere thanks to the President of the Mexican Senate for the warm hospitality and gracious reception, and to all those responsible for organizing this conference. I wish Mexico continued progress and prosperity, and I hope that our meeting achieves its desired goals.