

Speech

Dear His Excellency Mr. Eng. Mousa Maaiteh,
Dear honorable guests,
Dear partners and friends,
Dear representatives of the media,
Dear participants,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all here today to the Closing Ceremony of our project: Jordan Youth Vision 2030.

Developing this vision was no easy task; it entailed undertaking a great amount of hard work and responsibility that our team, the coordinators, the organizers, the partners, and participants did not shy away from. Finally, today, as a unified team, we present to you our results.

I am truly proud of what we have achieved. Actually, I am even more proud of how we got there. As the project developed, those involved in the project flourished too, their commitment steadily increased and their sense of ownership grew and grew and as a result, today, we stand as a strong alliance that is ready to work together to bring about substantial change.

The Jordan Youth Vision 2030 that we present to you today is exactly what we wanted to achieve from the very beginning. We wanted to give Jordanian youth a positive outlook for a better life: with job-opportunities, a state-of-the-art education system and chances for political, as well as social participation.

At the same time, we wanted the participants to realize that they are not alone, but that there are other actors that are also striving for profound change. This project was designed to build bridges between all these actors and to unite them behind one common and shared goal – the Jordan Youth Vision 2030.

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In developing the Jordan Youth Vision, we never provided the participants with any ready-made solutions or outcomes. Instead, we gave them opportunities;

- The opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. There was exchange between participants from different backgrounds, as well as opportunities for exchange with stakeholders from different sectors.
- The opportunity to learn new skills and to understand the interdependencies of the driving factors for development.
- The opportunity to take on responsibilities within the project, to feel like they were making decisions for themselves.
- However, most importantly, we gave them the opportunity to think outside the box.

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Thinking outside the box is easier said than done. More often than not, we tend to stick to the limitations of the status quo. Many of us are not used to expressing our unconventional ideas or opinions, and very few of us have actually tried to share these with others to envision something together. We often hesitate to think outside the box – out of the fear of sounding “crazy”, or appearing too different... not realizing that doing so is an actual resource for real innovation.

So what we did to escape the boundaries of the status quo and to set free the creative potential of our participants, we created a simulation game. A simulation game is a model of reality that includes the general coherences and interdependencies that we know from real-life. The participants take on a role of one of the stakeholders and within that role they try to solve a certain problem.

The method of simulation gaming is a very powerful tool in setting free creative potential, as it provides the participants with a safe space to try out new ideas. Furthermore, it does not have any preset goal or ending; the outcome of the simulation game totally depends on the input of the participants. That’s exactly why simulation games are so suitable to create alternative solutions, because they allow the participants to experiment without the fear of any real consequences.

In short: a simulation game is a political laboratory that gives the participants the chance to test their own problem-solving approaches and to gain greater certainty about the impact and the scope of their ideas.

In our case, in the simulation game of “Ard El-Azm”, the participants had to develop inclusive projects for the people living in the fictitious city of “El-Maamoula”, in order to find ways to improve their life conditions.

After implementing the simulation game “Ard El-Azm” in four different governorates, we gathered the different results, compared and clustered them, in order to then develop one common and shared vision.

The Jordan Youth Vision is a positive outlook of how life in Jordan could look like one day. It is a utopian version of Jordan that focuses on three main topics: Employment, Education and political and social participation.

However, the greatest additional value of our project is the roadmap that we have developed in order to achieve the Jordan Youth Vision. The roadmap leads to the realization of the vision, by combining the milestones of the Jordan National Youth Strategy 2019-2025, as well as the SDGs of the United Nations, as well as our own thoughts.

The roadmap of the Jordan Youth Vision is a point of reference that enables us to work together. The moment we unite behind a common goal, in our case the Jordan Youth Vision, and we understand how our actions can support one another to allow for everyone to contribute in their own way, we become empowered to use our limited resources much more efficiently. By harmonizing our individual and collective strengths, as well as our financial resources, there will be a greater leverage for change.

By developing the National Youth Strategy, the Jordanian government took the first big step; now the time has come for all of us to join in working towards the strategy and to support it until 2025 and beyond. We sincerely hope to have made a valuable contribution to the great endeavor of creating a more youth friendly environment here in Jordan.

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I would like to finish off by thanking His Excellency Mousa Maaiteh to take over the patronage of our project and to support us the whole way through. I have worked in many different countries and it is seldom to receive such unconditional support as we have received here in Jordan.

Many thanks to our team and the partners who constantly kept their motivation high and remained resilient and committed throughout the entire project.

However, my biggest thank-you goes to the participants. Those that are here today, but also to those who helped in developing the simulation game “Ard El-Azm” and those who participated in the numerous simulation games that were implemented this year. You have clearly shown that you are ready to take over responsibilities to shape the future of the country, your own future and the future generations.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming journey and please receive my most sincere encouragement to start realizing **your** Vision for Jordan 2030 – may you always have enough force and never forget to believe in the power of youth – inshallah.

Thank you.

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