

Yaseen M. Khayyat, Ph.D. (Cantab.)

Executive Biography



Yaseen M. Khayyat is a distinguished statesman, environmental strategist, scientist, and executive whose career spans more than four decades of public service, institutional reform, environmental governance, international diplomacy, and executive leadership. Widely respected for bridging science, public policy, and national strategy, he has played a leading role in advancing sustainable development, strengthening institutions, and championing evidence-based policymaking in Jordan and internationally.

A Chevening Scholar, Dr. Khayyat earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cambridge, where he was also awarded the prestigious **University of Cambridge Chancellor's Fund Award**. His academic journey began with undergraduate studies in General Science with an Oceanography focus through High Point University (USA) in cooperation with Florida Institute of Technology, alongside Associate-level studies in Petroleum Technology at Florida Institute of Technology. This multidisciplinary scientific foundation has shaped a career dedicated to transforming scientific knowledge into practical public policy and effective governance. On 8 October 2026, Dr. Khayyat was appointed as a Senator in the Jordanian Senate (Majlis Al-Ayan), returning to public service in a national legislative and consultative capacity.

Throughout his distinguished public service career, Dr. Khayyat has held many of Jordan's most senior public positions, including Director of Environmental Affairs at the Royal Hashemite Court, Minister of Environment, Senator, Director General of the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO), Director of the Industrial Chemistry Centre at the Royal Scientific Society, and, earlier, Head of the Air Quality Division. Across these roles, he consistently modernized public institutions, strengthened regulatory systems, advanced environmental policy, and supported sustainable economic development.

As Director General of JSMO, Dr. Khayyat led significant reforms that modernized Jordan's national quality infrastructure, strengthened standards and conformity-assessment systems, and enhanced the country's competitiveness in regional and international markets. Under his leadership, JSMO received the **King Abdullah II Award for Excellence in Government Performance and Transparency (Best Organization Award)**, recognizing the organization's commitment to institutional excellence, innovation, and public-sector performance. He also led Jordan's engagement in major EU-supported institutional initiatives, including the EU-Jordan Twinning Programme and the process toward the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA).

During his tenure as Minister of Environment, Dr. Khayyat advanced environmental policy as an integral pillar of Jordan's long-term development. He consistently emphasized that environmental sustainability, economic growth, industrial competitiveness, investment, water security, food security, public health, and climate resilience are mutually reinforcing national priorities that must be addressed through integrated policymaking. During both ministerial tenures, he also served as Chairman of the Board of the Environment Protection Fund. He led the amendment of Jordan's Environmental Law and initiated the development of the Kingdom's first dedicated Waste Management Framework Law, together with supporting bylaws and regulatory instruments.

Internationally, Dr. Khayyat represented Jordan in major multilateral and intergovernmental processes. He served as Jordan's political focal point for a wide range of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD), the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, and the Stockholm Convention. As Minister of Environment, he headed Jordan's delegations to UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn and COP22 in Marrakech, the Minamata Convention Conference, the One Planet Summit in Paris, and the Our Ocean Conference. He delivered Jordan's national statements at COP23 and the Minamata Conference, and at COP22 in Marrakech delivered a national address on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II. At the One Planet Summit and Our Ocean Conference, he personally represented Jordan as Head of Delegation. He also served as a Member of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), elected Member of the ISO Council, Regional Liaison Officer for the Arab Region, Member of ISO/DEVCO's Chair's Advisory Group, Member of the Codex Alimentarius Executive Committee, and Regional Coordinator for the Near East within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

From 2020 to 2022, Dr. Khayyat served as Director of Environmental Affairs in the Office of H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad at the Royal Hashemite Court. He coordinated and managed a strategic initiative launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II, under the leadership of H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, entitled ***Rights of Species and Ecosystems — a Charter for Recognizing the Right to Exist of Fauna and Flora Species and Ecosystems***. He managed the multidisciplinary team, coordinated the project's technical and institutional work, maintained direct engagement with relevant United Nations working groups during the COVID-19 period, and participated directly in drafting the proposed Charter and associated documentation. The initiative was subsequently postponed by decision of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Dr. Khayyat has long believed that environmental leadership must extend beyond government policy into public engagement. In 2017, he launched the nationally recognized **“One Dead Sea Is Enough”** initiative to raise awareness of the growing threat of plastic pollution to marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Through public outreach, educational initiatives, and documentary media, the campaign highlighted the environmental and economic consequences of plastic waste while encouraging responsible environmental stewardship. Over the course of his career, he has also chaired high-level national boards, councils, and steering committees responsible for sustainable development, environmental protection, metrology, green economy initiatives, and natural resource management.

Earlier in his career at the Royal Scientific Society, Dr. Khayyat served as Director of the Industrial Chemistry Centre, following his service as Head of the Air Quality Division. He authored and contributed to an extensive body of technical studies, reports, working papers, and policy documents and has served as a peer reviewer of scientific manuscripts submitted for publication in international journals. Among his early landmark achievements was the ***National Safety Code for Handling Hazardous Chemicals in Jordan (1987)***. In 1996, he presented Jordan's country paper, ***“Management of Chemical & Toxic Waste (CTW) in Jordan,”*** at an Intersessional Experts Meeting on Chemical and Toxic Wastes in Bern, Switzerland, within the Middle East Peace Process – Multilateral Working Group on the Environment. He subsequently served as a member of Jordan's National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and participated in Jordan's official delegation to the CWC in The Hague.

Although no longer in public office, Dr. Khayyat continues to contribute to national dialogue and professional discourse on sustainability, environmental governance, institutional excellence, and strategic public policy. His enduring commitment is to advancing evidence-based policymaking and strengthening the integration of science, governance, and national development. His career reflects a sustained commitment to translating complex environmental and technical challenges into practical policy and institutional reform, with a lasting contribution to environmental governance and sustainable development.

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