



SESAME

**Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East**

## **Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017**

**Statement by H.E. Ms Birgitta Maria  
Siefker-Eberle  
Head of the German Delegation**



Professor Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith,  
Professor Toukan,  
Professor Heuer,  
Esteemed Directors General of UNESCO, IAEA and CERN,  
Mr Commissioner,  
Excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Audience,

Let me state at the beginning that I am delivering the following remarks in my capacity as representative of Germany as an Observer to SESAME.

Today's opening of SESAME sends out a strong message for the entire Middle East – a message of peaceful cooperation between nations and world-class scientific research, and a message of education opportunities, jobs and prospects for young talent in Jordan, its neighbours and all the partner countries. We are gathered here today to officially open a facility that is the result of 15 years of joint international efforts. Great challenges can only be confronted successfully, if addressed jointly and systematically.

The countries involved in this project have joined forces under the patronage of UNESCO to provide their common scientific interest within a cooperation framework which is unique in the region and is modelled after CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva. Germany and German researchers working at CERN and DESY supported this outstanding project from the very start.

I am truly delighted that Germany has been able to make an important contribution to the success of the SESAME project by donating the BESSY I storage ring which now serves as an injector for the new storage ring that is being put into operation today.

Together with our excellent research community, particularly at DESY, we have been a close partner for SESAME for years and have helped shape and implement SESAME as an Observer on the SESAME Council. We will continue to be committed to this magnificent research centre and are ready to cooperate with all Members and Observers to the Council. I am therefore particularly pleased that

Professor Heuer will take over the presidency of the Council.

As the host country of SESAME, the Kingdom of Jordan has already made a great contribution to science and international cooperation in the region. We are convinced that Jordan will continue to act as an inclusive and uniting power in the Middle East. Thanks to the dynamic developments in research and innovation within Jordan, the Hashemite Kingdom will provide fresh impetus not only for SESAME itself but also for the promotion of young talent in the region and beyond, as well as for the development of research systems, particularly in the natural, materials and life sciences.

Germany has recognized this potential. Over the past years, we have engaged in further multilateral activities and expanded our bilateral cooperation with Jordan in the area of education and research. One example is the German-Jordanian University (GJU), which started its success story over ten years ago when it was established as an institution modelled after the German universities of applied sciences. We would like to continue and expand our deep and excellent cooperation with Jordan and the entire region in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cannot overstate the importance of SESAME for international diplomacy in these challenging times. Scientists and researchers are bridging political divides because they have a shared interest in new findings and because they know that the big questions in research can only be answered jointly. SESAME is a magnificent and inspiring counter-concept to unilateralism and isolation, distrust and conflict. Science responds to these concepts with cooperation and mutual understanding and is a trailblazer when it comes to striking the balance and striving for multilateral benefits in other policy areas. SESAME is also an outstanding example of freedom and science. Policy-makers around the world must feel responsible for protecting and fostering this freedom.

On this note, I wish SESAME every success in research and a fruitful international cooperation striving to reach a common goal.

Thank you!