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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, and would like to refer to the questionnaire received from the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, regarding the SR's reports in 2023, to HRC on "reinvigorating the right to development", and to the GA on "the role of business in realizing the right to development". In that regard, the Permanente Mission has the honor to attach herewith the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's respond to the aforementioned request.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, the assurance of its highest consideration.





MOST PROMINENT EFFORTS TAKEN BY KSA TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

This document was produced to contribute to the preparation of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development on his "Future Vision in Revitalizing the Right to Development", which is to be submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2023, as well as his Thematic Report to the General Assembly on "Role of the Business Sector in Implementing the Right to Development" in the context of 2023 Sustainable Development Plan as well as other relevant international human rights instruments.

Saudi Arabia works towards sustainable development goals that are consistent with its values and constants, and enhances capacity to benefit from human, financial and natural resources while preserving the wealth of future generations, and not fully depending on natural resources by adopting the best mechanisms and methods, including:

At the national level:

- The Kingdom's Vision 2030, approved by the Council of Ministers in its Resolution No. (308) dated April 25th, 2016, was issued. It is consistent with international standards related to the right to development as a human right. It is a qualitative evolution in terms of development. It should be noted that improvement in living standards as well as various services provided, including health, education and social services, and economic prosperity, are all based on the successive developments that the Kingdom is witnessing in all fields.



- The Kingdom's Vision 2030 is the road map towards sustainable development, ensuring that everyone enjoys equal economic, social, cultural and other benefits, which are fundamental rights, such as education and health, while others are best practices. The Kingdom guarantees the social protection of its citizens and its regulations contain many provisions to that end. Articles 10, 21, 22 and 27 of the Basic Law of Governance guarantee that the State shall endeavor to strengthen the family's ties, preserve its Arab and Islamic values, take care of all its members, and provide appropriate conditions for the development of their talents and capabilities. In addition, it shall ensure that Zakat shall be collected and disbursed for its legally specified purposes, and that economic and social development be achieved in accordance with a methodical and equitable plan. The State shall guarantee citizens' and their families' rights to emergency, sickness, disability and old age, supports the social security system and encourages institutions and individuals to contribute to philanthropy. The State shall guarantee the right of the citizen and his family, in cases of emergency, illness, disability, and old age. Moreover, it shall support the Social Insurance Law and encourage organizations and individuals to participate in philanthropic activities. The Social Insurance Law also included pensions, and occupational hazards. It should be noted that occupational hazards apply mandatorily to all workers, without any discrimination on gender, nationality or age. Moreover, pensions apply mandatorily to all Saudi workers with no discrimination of gender. Pensions are applied voluntarily to Saudi citizens who are freelancers, self-employed, or partners with others in a commercial, industrial, agricultural or service activity. It also included provisions related to compensation for work injuries, their types and amounts.
- Article (22) of the Basic Law of Governance stated that economic and social development shall be carried out according to a fair, wise plan. The holistic view of



the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and its consistency with international standards related to the right to development as a human right are deemed to be qualitative evolution in terms of development. It should be noted that improvement in living standards as well as various services provided, including health, education and social services, and economic prosperity, are all based on the successive developments that the Kingdom is witnessing in all fields.

- In Articles (9), and (10), the Social Insurance Law stated that this Law shall be applicable to Saudi nationals residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who meet the conditions set forth therein, a foreign woman married to a Saudi national, a widow or divorcee with children of a Saudi national, children of a Saudi widow or divorcee from a foreign spouse, persons with disabilities and widows with orphans, who do not have Saudi nationality papers and hold movement cards, according to the conditions set forth in the Regulations. The Cabinet Resolution No. (31) dated 18/1/2010 added children of unknown parents who are over the age of eighteen. It further included the unemployment insurance (Saned). Moreover, it guarantees compensation for the unemployed participant, and protects employees who have lost their jobs due to circumstances beyond their control.
- A number of government institutions are responsible for social welfare, including: (i) MHRSD; (ii) GOSI, which disburses pensions, according to the civil and military retirement laws as well as the Social Insurance Law; and (iii) Saudi Development Bank (SDB) which is established under Royal Decree No. M/34 dated 27/6/2006. SDB aims to provide interest-free loans and non-financial services to micro-enterprises, to encourage their owners to engage in businesses and professions on their own and for their own account. It further aims to develop and nurture the microenterprise sector, enhancing its role in economic and social development, and to promote savings for individuals and institutions in the Kingdom. It is noteworthy



that SDB reports to the National Development Fund (NDF) which was established by Royal Decree No. A/13 dated 03/10/2017, to raise the performance level of development funds and banks in the Kingdom to achieve the desired goals of their establishment, and to serve development priorities, economic needs and others, based on foundations and objectives set out in the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

- Social welfare institutions include: (i) General Authority of Awqaf, which is established under Royal Decree No. M/11 dated 08/12/2015, which aims to regulate Awqaf in order to enhance their role in economic and social development and social solidarity, in accordance with the purposes of Islamic law; (ii) Human Rights Commission (HRC); and (iii) civil society institutions. The Kingdom has a large number of charities that provide cash and in-kind assistance, training programs, and support small productive projects.
- The State adopts various social welfare strategies and seeks to ensure engagement of all members of Saudi society in comprehensive development programs and transformation of social security beneficiaries into productive groups. As part of developments in this area, the government provides comprehensive financial and in-kind assistance programs for several groups, including: Orphans, people unable to work, old people, and women without a provider (divorced women, widows, widows with orphans, and those who have never been married), the families whose breadwinner is absent, the families that have no breadwinner, categories excluded from Saudi nationality requirements, and children of unknown parents who reached the age of eighteen. In addition, civil society institutions provide social services, and government agencies engage in meeting the needs of the society.
- The Government of the Kingdom has also paid great attention to the right to housing and has endeavored to provide it to all citizens. This is demonstrated by the establishment of the Real Estate Development Fund (REDF). This is underscored



by the Kingdom's Vision 2030, from which the "Housing Program", has emerged. It aims to provide housing solutions that enable Saudi families to own or use suitable homes according to their needs and finances.

- As part of developments in housing, the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. (292) dated 13/02/2017, stating that a lease contract that is not registered on the electronic network shall not be a valid contract with administrative and judicial effect. In addition, the Ministries of Justice and Housing shall set the conditions and requirements that must be met in the contract, so that it can be considered registered in the electronic network. It shall cover cases including where a party to the contract fails to register the same. This is a guarantee of the tenant's and landlord's rights. It further aims at reducing the number of rental issues, improve the performance of the rental sector, increase its contribution to domestic product and other goals.
- Development plans and strategies for social development, foremost among which is the Kingdom's Vision 2030, are founded on methodological grounds, including human rights standards and sustainable development. Legislative and executive measures have been taken, including:
 - Establishing a program called "Emergency Aid" for poor families exposed to critical emergencies causing increased suffering or problems such as breadwinner's death, imprisonment, or illness; children's illness; fire accidents at home; or natural disasters, etc. The ceilings of such assistance are determined by the situation and degree of suffering.
 - Increasing the financial support allocated to charities.
- The "Citizen's Account" program was launched to address the potential impact of the economic reforms undertaken under the "Kingdom's Vision 2030" through cash payments to both middle and low-income citizens. This is considered a best practice in the field of the right to development.



- Article 4 of the Saudi Development Bank (SDB) Law stated as follows: The Bank provides interest-free loans and non-financial services to micro-enterprises, to encourage their owners to engage in businesses and professions on their own and for their own account. The bank determines the classification of these projects and the ceiling of their capital as well as the number of their workers”. The Bank has initiated this through several initiatives and programs, notably:
 - A. Programs for productive families and the empowerment of self-employment:
It aims to provide support, care and financing for micro-enterprises, productive families projects, and handicraft industries in the Kingdom through various financing segments.
 - B. Professional House Program: The Regulations of the Professional House Program have been approved by the Bank's Board of Directors. It should be noted that the Program aims to provide a number of non-financial services to develop and organize the economic activities of individuals and families who own micro-projects and productive family projects (home-based projects). This includes providing qualification and support services, developing and marketing products with innovative models commensurate with the local and international markets, qualifying human cadres specialized in implementing projects, activating the role of relevant authorities and supporting coordination between them.
- The Kingdom has taken a number of measures to protect the environment and reduce the effects of climate change. These measures would preserve, protect and develop the environment and prevent pollution. Moreover, it has taken many legislative and executive measures since the launch of the "Kingdom's Vision 2030" in 2016, in order to enjoy a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all. The most prominent measure is the launch of: (i) the Saudi Green Initiative (SGI), which



aims to unify all plans aimed at achieving sustainability in the Kingdom, increasing reliance on clean energy, reducing carbon emissions and combating climate change, and (ii) Middle East Green Initiative (MGI), which enhances the efforts of SGI at the international level, and acts as a catalyst for action and a framework for leading climate-related efforts inside and outside the region.

At the international level:

- On the level of contributions and humanitarian support, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports specialized institutions, organizations and programs that receive the attention of the international community, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East "UNRWA", the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF), the Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (AFTAAC), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been and still is supportive of the least developed countries, afflicted and affected countries, and refugees. It has spared no effort to provide development and humanitarian assistance, including health, education, shelter and food provision. The Kingdom provided more than (94 billion US dollars) in relief and humanitarian aid during the period (1996 -2022), from which (164) countries benefited. Since its establishment in 2015 until 2022, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has supported more than (2300).