

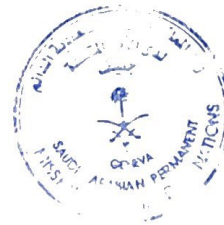


Ref. No. 413/2140

Geneva, 28 February 2024

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, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and would like to refer to the note verbal dated January 02, 2024 regarding contributions to the thematic report, that will look at "Revisiting migrants' contributions from a human rights-based approach: a discussion on facilitating and hindering factors." In that regard, the Permanent Mission has the honor to attach herewith contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the aforementioned report.

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 the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the assurance of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva
Email: hrc-sr-migrants@un.org - registry@ohchr.org

الرقم : التاريخ : الموافق : المرفقات :



This document has been prepared in response to decision request related to the human rights of migrants, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution No. 52/20, about the request for countries interventions and contributions to the preparation of its report on "Reconsidering the Contributions of migrants through a human rights-based approach: Discussion of facilitating and inhibiting factors", to be submitted at the (56th) session of the Human Rights Council. Below are the Kingdom's contributions in response to questions related to the aforementioned report:

1. Please provide examples of migrants' contributions to various sectors of society and any relevant statistical or disaggregated data based on age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, migration status, or other categories.

The contributions of the expatriates to the Kingdom are represented in their participation in the economic, educational, cultural, media, entertainment development, and other activities in the Kingdom; in addition, the opportunity for work has been granted for non-Saudis, whether by contracting with them from abroad or contracting with them from within the Kingdom according to their categories, to contribute to new businesses and projects in accordance with the ambitious vision of the Kingdom 2030.

2. What positive measures are taken by States at the local, national, regional and international levels that facilitate, maximise and optimise migrants, their families and communities' contributions in origin, transit and receiving societies? Please provide details, which may include, but are not limited to, development and/or implementation of legislative, policymaking, and institutional frameworks; regularization mechanisms and integration programs; social integration and social cohesion efforts; material and/or financial support; recruitment opportunities, education and/or training; access to health, social welfare, justice and reparation.

- The Kingdom has provided many services, facilities and aid to people who left their country or are unable to return to their country of origin due to war, conflict or persecution, as the Kingdom is considered one of the most supportive countries to them. Among the most significant of these actions and contributions is to open the way for those who remained or came to the Kingdom because of conflicts in their countries to learn in schools and universities, give scholarships, and free treatment like nationals. Moreover, the government of the Kingdom also provided unprecedented support to visitors, as thousands of Syrians and Yemenis were hosted during the security crisis in Syria and Yemen. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques issued directives to grant them visitor IDs that enabled them to integrate into society, search for job opportunities, education, and obtain treatment opportunities, etc.

- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Highness the Crown Prince - may Allah protect them - issued a directive to host our brothers in the Republic of Sudan because of the complex humanitarian crisis facing the region that has caused the displacement of large numbers.

- The Basic Law of Governance, guarantees the protection of all persons from any form of discrimination, particularly in article (12), which states that "Promoting national unity is a duty, and the State shall prevent whatever leads to disunity, sedition and division.", and article (47), which stipulates that "The right of litigation shall be guaranteed equally for



both citizens and residents in the Kingdom. The Law shall set forth the procedures required thereof.”

- The Kingdom carried out a corrective campaign for the conditions of workers violating the residency and labour law from 25/5/1434 AH until the end of 1434 AH, in which violators of all nationalities benefited from.
 - Enabling some categories to obtain premium residency in accordance with the laws and instructions governing the same.
 - Enabling The disadvantaged categories to obtain financial support through charitable organizations.
 - Providing health care for non-Saudi employees in government jobs and obliging companies to provide health insurance for their employees.
 - The competent authorities in the Kingdom exert much effort towards violators of the residency and labour law and border security so as to improve their conditions and help them. However, some of them commit illegal acts. The applicable laws in the Kingdom have guaranteed the protection of all rights and that no person may be arrested except by virtue of a reasoned and determined-term order signed by the competent authority. Whoever violates that shall be punished; these laws include, for example, the Law of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Royal Decree No. (M/2) dated 22/1/1435 AH, and Imprisonment and Detention Law issued by Royal Decree No. (M/31) dated 6/1398 AH. Arrest or imprisonment shall only take place in places designated, therefore, in accordance with humanitarian standards. They shall receive all services such as (subsistence, health and medical care, and they shall be examined medically to ensure that they are free of diseases before leaving for their country).
 - On 18/3/1442 H, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched "Improving the Contractual Relationship" initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence.
 - The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, in partnership with the relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, has prepared national policy to eliminate forced labour in the Kingdom.
 - The concerned authorities in the Kingdom receive reports and complaints from expatriates concerning crimes or violations, as the laws stipulate the provision of security for everyone residing in the Kingdom.
 - Mechanisms have been enacted to address the situation of those who do not hold any nationality in accordance with the nature of each category, in order to correct their situation in order to be present in a lawful manner.
 - The Kingdom carries out humanitarian and development projects in upstream countries.
- 3. What positive measures are implemented by civil society organisations and non-governmental stakeholders in maximising and optimising migrants' contributions? If so, please provide details.**

Civil society organizations contribute to enhancing the capabilities of young men and women, developing their skills and enriching their experiences by training, rehabilitation, guidance, empowerment, studies and consultations to participate in practical life with confidence and competence.



4. What obstacles are there in law and practice which hinder the realisation and/or recognition of migrants' contributions in communities of origin, transit and destination? Please provide details, which may include, but are not limited to, the development and/or implementation of legislative, policy and institutional frameworks as well as public discourse.

There are no obstacles since the Kingdom has taken a number of measures aimed at enhancing the right to work to create an ideal environment based on a human rights-based approach. The Kingdom has also worked on updating labour laws and regulations to preserve the rights of business parties. Among these measures is the launch of the Labor Rights Insurance Product Initiative, which is a mandatory product for private sector enterprises to insure the rights and entitlements of their non-Saudi workers. This is in accordance with specific benefits covered by an insurance policy through which the worker in those enterprises or go bankrupt obtains their rights, as well as obtaining a ticket to return to their country if they or he/she desires so.

- The amicable settlement program was also launched with the aim of maintaining the continuity of the friendly labour relationship between the two parties of the conflict, contributing to improving the contractual relationship, enhancing compliance in the labour market and raising awareness of rights and duties.

- The Ministry of Human Resources also launched an initiative to improve the contractual relationship between the employee and the employer, which aims to build an attractive labour market, empower and develop human competencies, and develop the work environment. The initiative provides three main services: Job mobility service, improvement of exit mechanisms, return and final exit. The initiative's services include all expatriate workers in private sector enterprises within specific controls that consider the rights of both parties of the contractual relationship.

- All expatriate workers enjoy legal protection. The Labor Law, through its provisions, emphasizes the preservation of the dignity of the worker and the creation of a healthy work environment and clarifies the rights and duties of each party of the labour relationship towards each other. One of the employer's duties towards the employee is to refrain from employing forced labour, withholding the worker's wage or part of without judicial basis, treating them with appropriate respect, and refraining from any word or action that violates their dignity or religion.

5. What obstacles are there in law and practice which hinder the realisation and/or recognition of migrants' contributions in communities of origin, transit and destination? Please provide details, which may include, but are not limited to, the development and/or implementation of legislative, policy and institutional frameworks as well as public discourse.

In addition to the measures referred to in the answer to question (3), the Kingdom, through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), has provided a number of services and programs, as follows:

- The Kingdom, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, provided humanitarian aid in various services to Yemeni and Syrian visitors inside the



- Kingdom. The support provided in educational services only amounted to more than (5) billion dollars. The support provided in medical services only amounted to more than (6) billion dollars.
- Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the Kingdom has received hundreds of thousands of Syrians and has been keen to deal with them as visitors and integrate them into members of society in order to preserve their dignity and safety and grant them complete freedom of movement. Many necessary measures have also been taken to help them settle inside the Kingdom, including granting those who want to stay in the Kingdom legal residency like the rest of the residents with all the rights that are included, like free health care, which total cost approximately (3) billion US dollars, and engaging in the workforce and education. The costs related to education have been estimated at approximately (2) billion US dollars. In addition to the provision of services related to expatriates at the cost of more than (one billion) US dollars, in addition to supporting and caring for millions of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries in Jordan, Lebanon and other countries in coordination with the governments of their host countries, as well as with international humanitarian relief organizations, whether through material or moral support.
 - With regard to the community from the State of Myanmar, who are among the most persecuted minorities in the world. Their suffering began through their displacement and persecution since 1950 G. In response to the humanitarian call, the Kingdom has taken the initiative to host refugees from the State of Myanmar since 1957. After that, the influx of refugees to the Kingdom continued until their number reached more than one million people. Their conditions were corrected by granting them legal residencies without financial fees and enabling them to access all social, health, and educational services. In addition to providing them with job opportunities. The institutions and companies also received the necessary incentives through the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development to encourage such institutions and companies to employ such refugees. The value of the aid provided to them amounted to more than (186) million US dollars. In 2015, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) praised the experience of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard, confirming that it is a pioneering experience that can be used and circulated to other countries.
 - The Kingdom plays a major role in alleviating the problem of asylum that many regions in the world suffer from. Its efforts were not only limited to receiving and hosting them within its territory but also extended to include the care of millions of refugees around the world in coordination and cooperation with the governments of their host countries as well as international humanitarian relief organizations. The total cost of aid provided to refugees outside the Kingdom amounted to more than (1,149,961,052) US dollars, in addition to the humanitarian aid provided to displaced people outside the Kingdom, where its cost amounted to approximately (2) billion US dollars.
6. **How can we raise awareness, rethink and change the way migration is spoken about, especially when harmful narratives on migration are inserted into the public discourse and politicised?**



- This can be done through solidarity and cooperation between States of origin and competent international organizations in raising awareness to address the political, social and economic aspects of illegal migration and to counter crimes of trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime networks.
 - It is worth noting that Saudi universities have contributed to the establishment of many scholarship students to be leaders and experts upon their return to their country.
 - There is a recent initiative supervised by the Ministry of Media with the participation of the Ministry of Interior, which is the initiative to promote the integration of expatriates into Saudi society within the Quality of Life Program. Such initiative aims to raise awareness locally, stress the importance of accepting the cultures of expatriates, correct the mental image internationally regarding their conditions in the Kingdom, and create positive impressions and a sense of belonging between Saudi society and expatriates.
- 7. What practical recommendations would you propose in order to effectively address these ongoing challenges and protect migrants' human rights in origin, transit and host communities?**
- Enhancing the contributions made by expatriates to society and overcoming the difficulties that hinder their integration and adaptation into society due to the difference in their cultures and languages from the local community.
 - Supporting the economies of the countries exporting violators by granting job opportunities for their citizens and supporting their security and stability.