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Foundations and Dimensions of Sustainable Development in Saudi Arabia for 2030

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Abstract

The creation of successful policies in the development process in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has gone through multiple stages according to well deliberated plans in a parallel direction among all targeted areas, therefore, this study aims to verify the hypothesis that the development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was not a sudden transition, rather, it is an extension of previous plans that were drawn up and developed with time and era variables, in a matter of fact it is a result of many comprehensive and continuous strategies, hence this study will use the historical method to present the historical process of development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the descriptive analytical method to study the results of those (nine) five-year development plans, inclusive of the economic and social reforms they achieved at that time (i.e. before 2015), These plans by their cumulative nature, have assisted to provide the necessary and basic capabilities along with programmatic and institutional elements for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which qualifies it to adopt more comprehensive and broad-based strategic plans targeting all aspects of life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Keywords:

Foundations, Dimensions, Sustainable Development, Saudi Arabia,2030

JEL Classifications: J11, F43

1. Introduction

Sustainable development is one of the concepts that emerged basically from human values and fears of the consequences of excessive exploitation of

natural resources in the past and the damage that could be inflicted on economic, social and environmental reality, as well as It is a kind of treatment for the problems of the emerging developing communities, by depending on policies and plans for the purpose of providing positive and effective progress to achieve specific goals in the future of human societies.

The development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has roots extending back nearly half a century "since the 1970s of the last century", where It has passed through multiple stages through comprehensive, deliberated and targeted plans and strategies, in our study entitled "Foundations and dimensions of sustainable development in Saudi Arabia for 2030It is necessary to be familiar with the stages of development plans that represented the real launch of what is known as "the Kingdom's Vision 2030", and what is the approach that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken in achieving its goals, In order to avoid the damage and crises that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has previously suffered as a result of its economy's dependence on a single source of income (represented by the export of crude oil), as the slightest decrease in global market demand for crude oil will lead to an economic crisis within the country, As a result, this led to intrench of the urgent need to adopt a comprehensive development strategy in order to benefit from the achievements of the (nine) five-year development plans and to sustain their momentum in the mind of the Saudi decision-makers.

2. Importance of Studying

The importance of the study lies in presenting and evaluating the stages that enabled the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to achieve its 2030 vision for sustainable development, and studying the plans involved in adopting public policies to manage state expenditures and revenues to raise the Saudi society's standard of living, and what it was able to achieve in terms of economic and social results in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the year 2030.

3. Problem of Studying

The problem of the study lies in the extent to which development plans are able to achieve the desired reality and the expected results for the decision maker, Where development plans require regulation and oversight, the regulation lies in the fact that these plans work to define the general objectives of the state's financial policies and what are the approaches and means that help to achieve them, As for surveillance, it is the verification of the distribution of national resources in a way that meets the satisfaction of public needs and ensures the best use of those resources, in addition to confronting the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving the desired results, From this stem the following sub-questions: a- What are the foundations and dimensions of sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

b- What are the results achieved by the five-year development plans adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the economic and social level?

c- What are the plans of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for sustainable development after 2015?

d- What are the indicators of sustainable development for the Kingdom's 2030 vision?

4. Hypothesis of Studying

The hypothesis of the study is based on the fact that sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was not a sudden transition, but rather an extension of previous plans drawn and developed with time and successive changes, as these plans qualified the Saudi decision-maker to blueprinting for more comprehensive strategies represented in the Kingdom's vision for the year 2030.

5. Methodology of Studying

For the purpose of verifying the hypothesis of the study, the methodology of scientific research necessitated relying on the historical method in explaining the historical path of sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we also relied on the descriptive analysis method to show the foundations and dimensions of the signs of sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its economic and social fields.

First Requirement: Signs of Development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before 2015

The reforms in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were embodied by the endeavors of King Abdulaziz Al Saud "Especially after entering the Hijaz in 1924" in an effort to consolidate security, as the pilgrimage convoys began to move in peace after the pilgrims were subjected to robbery and looting, In conjunction with other factors, including the financial returns resulting from the export of Saudi oil to countries around the world, In addition to the financial loans that the Kingdom obtained from companies and countries, especially the United States of America, And the inclusion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the American global support programs, which resulted from the visits of official Saudi delegations to many countries to benefit from their expertise, All the factors mentioned above helped create a transition in the general situation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the beginning of its establishment. The discovery of oil in the thirties of the twentieth century was one of the main factors that contributed to providing the requirements of modernization in all aspects of life (Al-Hamdi, 2014). The first attempts began in 1926 when King Abdulaziz Al Saud asked Charles Crane (1858-1939), (an American commercial and diplomatic figure), during a visit to Jeddah to send him a geologic team to search for water and minerals in the Hijaz, King Abdulaziz Al Saud saw the importance of developing his country, especially in the field of agriculture, This visit resulted in the presence of the American geologist Karl Twichell expedition (1968-1885) the in 1931, Twitchell believed that the Dhahran region on the Persian Gulf is the most important area for oil exploration, for that reason When he returned to the United States of America, he encouraged American companies to invest in Saudi Arabia, and an agreement was concluded giving Standard Oil of California the right to explore for oil in Saudi Arabia. This agreement was signed by the American side, Lloyd Hamilton, representative of the American company Standard Oil of California, and for the Saudi side (Abdullah Al-Sulaiman), the Saudi Minister of Finance at that time on May 19, 1933 (Al-Hamdi, 2014).

Development was one of the most important goals that were planned by the government of Saudi Arabia in order to avoid dependence on a single source of income, In the field of industrial development, the Saudi Industrial Fund has achieved a diversification of the state's economic resources with the aim of replacing imports, satisfying local demand and seeking to export products, Industry is one of the basic and important factors in promoting the process of economic development that countries are competing to develop and increase their contribution to the gross product. It has become common for the economic and social development of any country to be measured through the contribution of its industrial sector to its gross domestic product, because this means a greater ability to achieve sustainable development in the long term (Al-Sharari, 2018).

The rates of development from the 1970s to the end of the 1980s were a turning point in the structure of popular thinking in Saudi Arabia, the projects that were completed during that period were not just news reported by the Saudi media, but rather real projects that brings benefit to the Saudi society, because these projects were new to society, including universities, airports, highways, and major agricultural projects. the Saudi citizen was astonished when these projects were opened, in talking about development in Saudi Arabia, we are faced with a reality that witnessed huge changes and developments that moved society into the modern era, measuring and evaluating the performance of development projects that took place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not done through comparison with Arab countries, nor by comparison with developed countries, but rather by comparing these development projects with similar projects in other countries is more objective (Al-Khidr, 2010).

1. Five-year Development Plans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The first development plans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were issued pursuant to Resolution No. (812) issued by the Council of Ministers on 8/8/1970, which included six main points, Whereas the first point stated approval of the

plan, the second stipulated the formation of a ministerial committee to lay down the general foundations for its implementation, and the third and fourth have obligated government agencies to submit studies on the economic results of the projects, Fifth government agencies were obligated to initiate administrative reforms and create the appropriate atmosphere for the implementation of these projects, the sixth and last obligated government agencies to draw up their annual budgets on the basis of their respective development plans.

The five-year development plans issued every 5 years followed, and this continuity in adopting development plans aims to develop the Kingdom's economy, achieve a comprehensive strategy for development, and enhance the productive capacity of the national economy, and that the primary objective of these development plans is:

a- Raising living standards and providing the necessities of a decent life for citizens.

b- Focusing on creating structural changes in the structure of the national economy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

c- Giving a role to the private sector in economic and social activities, supporting and motivating it to achieve the objectives of development plans (Al-Marzouqi, 2014).

Where the Basic Law of Governance stressed the need to develop these plans in its twenty-second article It stated, "Economic and social development is achieved according to a just scientific plan using science and justice.", these plans involve drawing public policies in directing expenditures and revenues in a way that leads to an increase in national income, raising the standard of living of society and providing public services, the development plans combine the two elements of regulation and oversight, as regulation lies in the plans that work to determine the general objectives of the state's financial policies and what are the methods and means that help to achieve those goals. As for oversight, it is the verification of the distribution of national resources in a way that meets the satisfaction of public needs and ensures the best use of those resources (Sunitan, 2005).

During the past five decades, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has witnessed a major transformation, moving from a simple economy that relies mainly on trade and small traditional agriculture, to a modern, developing economy characterized by diversity in both production and sources of income, the existence of links between economic sectors, this shift has been achieved in conjunction with the increase in oil export revenues, the rise in crude oil prices and the increase in global demand for it, Since the seventies, the nature of the national strategies that benefited from this wealth in achieving social and economic development, embodied in development plans, which began with seven medium-term development plans (five years for the plan), these plans included the most prominent national goals and aspirations over the past fifty years, where the objectives of the development in Saudi Arabia aims to raise the standard of living of the Saudi citizen and improve the quality of life, Expenditures on human resources development increased from (20.6%) during the first development plan (1970-1974) to (51.5%) during the sixth development plan (1995-1999), and the increase in expenditures on health and social services more than doubled, as well as the contribution of the oil and gas sector to the national economy decreased from (55.8%) of the gross national product in 1970 to (33.6%) in (2000) (Arabia, 2002).

The following is a summary of the most prominent achievements made as a result of the implementation of those successive five-year plans, in 1974, Saudi Arabia's stake in the Saudi Aramco Oil Company increased to (60%), the average price of oil rose from (1.56) US dollars to (10) US dollars per barrel, in 1975 the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu was established in order to transfer oil revenues in the field of industrial development, the Saudi Industries Corporation (SABIC) was established as the largest joint stock company in the Saudi stock market, in 1980 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia managed to fully own Aramco In this year, oil revenues in the Kingdom rose to (375) billion Saudi riyals, in 1986 the Saudi rival exchange rate was pegged to the US dollar, which led to bringing benefits to the Saudi investment environment., in 1988 the name of Aramco was changed to Saudi Aramco, and the in 2000 the General Investment Authority was established, and in 2005 the Supreme Economic Council was established which is the same year that Saudi Arabia became a member of the World Trade Organization, and in 2008 Saudi Arabia became a member of the Group of Twenty, with a gross national product of \$476 billion (Habtoor, 2012).

2. Modern Administrative Structures

The need to carry out economic reforms has prompted the emergence of new administrative structures that can move towards reform. These structures and institutions have developed as follows, In August 1999, the Supreme Economic Council (KSA-SEO) was established, which took upon itself the responsibility of evaluating economic, industrial, agricultural and labor policies and their effectiveness, The Council also focused on opening the Saudi markets and attracting investments. The year 2000 witnessed a series of policies regulating the economy in Saudi Arabia, in addition to important areas within the economic reform process, the most important of these policies is the establishment of the Supreme Council for Oil and Minerals in January 2000, which assumed responsibility for setting policies regulating the exploitation of energy resources in Saudi Arabia, and working to attract international investments to this sector (Monica Malik, 2013).

In the field of tourism, the Supreme Economic Council worked to encourage tourism activity and international investments in new tourism projects, and not be limited to the annual flows of pilgrims to the holy places for Muslims (Mecca and Medina), in September 2003, a twenty-year plan in the field of tourism development was announced, this plan emphasized the employment of 2.3 million Saudis in the tourism sector by 2020, in April 2000, the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority was established, which undertakes the task of promoting foreign investment, serving business groups, and facilitating the process of obtaining immediate permits and administrative transactions related to the field of investments, the results of its work were to reduce the tax rate on foreign investments, Before 2002 the basic rate of taxes for foreign investments was 45%, as well as the issuance of the new corporate tax law in July 2004, which contributed to reducing the tax rate to 20%, despite these tax changes and improvement in the investment environment adopted by the General Investment Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the tax rates on foreign investments were much higher than in other Gulf countries, in countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, no tax was imposed on investment companies (Monica Malik, 2013).

These reforms are represented by the following numbers: the real GDP growth rate increased to more than (5.3%) in 2014 after it was less than (4.5%) in the previous year, and the growth rate of the non-oil sectors increased to (6%) compared to what it was before 2014, Oil production reached nearly (15) million barrels per day, supported by a number of geopolitical factors represented by the Kingdom's role within OPEC, the Saudi economy increased more than three times during this period due to the rise in oil prices, and its GDP jumped in 2014 to (476) billion dollars, As Saudi Arabia's exports of oil and petrochemicals amounted to (300) billion dollars, and the value of other non-oil fields reached (167) billion dollars (Fars, 2016).

Investment in education was also a high priority, In 2011, the rate of public spending on education was (24%) of the total government spending, thus being the highest at the global level, and many steps were taken to enhancing the educational system and its outputs, including the establishment of several major universities such as King Abdullah University for Science and Technology which was the largest scientific research-oriented university in the region, several plans and programs were also developed to raise the number of students on scholarships abroad from several thousand students to about 120 thousand students, most of these scholarships are directed towards scientific disciplines such as medicine, engineering, computer science, mathematics, and physics, and enhancing vocational training as a basis for the compatibility of educational outputs with the demands of the private and public sectors (Al-Khidr, 2010).

The increase in oil prices that witnessed in the years 2003-2014 resulted in a huge unexpected wealth, which led to a social transformation within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which led to an increase in expectations regarding the services provided by the government, as the GDP in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia doubled during this period. The household income increased by (75%), two million job opportunities were provided for Saudi citizens, especially women, and state spending rates increased, as (81) new hospitals were built in the last decade, and the number of Saudi universities increased from (7) universities in 2007 to (28) universities in 2015, as well as building schools, infrastructure, new roads and power plants, this expansion which is estimated at 450 billion dollars, was based on the investment of public capital by the government, The rate of public sector salaries and social aid, which include water, electricity, fuel, unemployment and health subsidies was increased, the policies focused on increasing investment in the basic sectors that attract Saudi workers and increase domestic demand (Tim Kalin, 2015).

Second Requirement: Sustainable Development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after 2015

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly set major goals to transform the world and build a better future by 2030, called the "Sustainable Development Goals", which mainly aim to provide a decent life for society, protect the planet, and move forward to fight poverty and hunger, preserve the environment, and promote health, education, Gender equality, peace and justice, the achievement of these goals included a set of aspirations and indicators and the reconciliation of three elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, Saudi Arabia has sought to be one of the first countries in achieving sustainable development, so that the development goals are in harmony with the Kingdom's vision of 2030 (Young, 2016).

As a result of the economic crisis that Saudi Arabia faced during the years (2014-2021), and the drop in oil prices, which is the main source of state income, in order to confront and contain this crisis, Saudi Arabia announced Vision 2030, which aims to establish and build a vibrant society and a prosperous economy and raise the level of awareness The economist through economic specialists publishing statistical data about the vision and correcting some economic terms, such as the budget, average per capita income, and the role of the Saudi citizen in achieving Vision 2030 (Statistics, 2018).

In December 2015, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud announced a set of economic reforms that aim to:

a- Diversifying sources of income and reducing dependence on oil in Saudi Arabia.

b- Emphasis on the economic growth of the non-oil sector and its impact on the development of the financial sector in order to promote economic growth in Saudi Arabia.

c- Determining the type of economic growth for policy makers (the total non-oil sector, the non-oil private sector and the non-oil government sector), which is affected by the development of the financial sector (Ghaida Al-Juwaiser, 2020).

1. Saudi Arabia Vision 2030

In April 2016, the Saudi Crown Prince (Mohammed bin Salman) and the Royal Court announced Vision 2030, as a plan aimed at diversifying the economy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and trying to reduce its dependence on oil, and in order to achieve this, the private sector had to become a powerful and influential engine in the process of economic growth In Saudi Arabia, and The public sector provides two-thirds of the gross domestic product, vision 2030 expressed the Kingdom's need to make a change to its national economic model, and to change the nature of the relationship between the ruling family (al Saud) and the citizens in order to build a better society, the vision represented a long-term strategic plan to meet the main challenges, which are summarized in reducing dependence on a single product in the economy, the vision also defines the general direction, policies, objectives and basic goals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Al-Ghafis, 2016).

Article 22 of the Saudi Basic Law stipulates that "economic and social development shall be achieved according to a just scientific plan." The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted the development approach as a way to raise the standard of living and quality of life for citizens, and to ensure a just and equitable distribution of development revenues, It linked its strategies to the contents of the right to development with development plans, as well as organizing work in accordance with annual and five-year programs, and ensuring that citizens and society benefit from development achievements, the development operations in Saudi Arabia adopted the planning approach and drew up its economic and social policies within comprehensive plans aimed at achieving sustainable development, this was followed by the issuance of Cabinet Resolution No. (308) on 4/25/2016 announcing the approval of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which includes schemes and programs that include broad economic and social sectors (Dissemination, 2022).

The vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030 development aims for the basic transformation in the economic and industrial field, and the dependence on the state's resources and optimal use of resources, the Saudi Crown Prince (Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud), Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Council of Economic Affairs of Saudi Arabia , explained that "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia uses only 10% of its total resources, and that industry is one of the main indicators of the progress of countries, and it is linked to increased national income, and that industry is one of the main indicators of the progress of countries in national income because it includes the best utilization of economic resources and that it needs specialization and production in proportion to the needs of the local and global market, and the possibility of using primary resources and a trained, qualified human element that plays a key role in raising the level of economic activity, Industrialization means social transformation that includes economic, political, social and cultural development" (Al-Sharari, 2022).

Public financial policy plays a crucial role in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as it is the main instrument through which the process of transforming the country's oil wealth into economic results takes place which benefits the citizens, so government spending on infrastructure, education and social programs, transforming the economy and raising the standard of living of the citizens has increased, despite the fluctuation of oil revenues, which poses a challenge to public financial management, Saudi Arabia has sought to achieve a balance between supply and demand in the global oil market. The fiscal policy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aims at three main goals, including development, achieving stability and justice between generations (Al-Sharari, 2022).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's vision for sustainable development 2030 was launched on April 25, 2016 by the Council for the Development of Economic Affairs chaired by Prince (Mohammed bin Salman), Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Where the leaders as well as the policy makers of the kingdom sought to develop a strategy that includes a set of goals and achieve them in various development fields, and the implementation of the vision is shared by the public sector, the private sector and the non-profit sectors, the vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for sustainable development 2030 includes a set of programs that aim to become a practical reality in the shortest possible period, to qualify the Kingdom for a leadership position of the sustainable development aspects in 2030, and what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has sought is not only to compensate for a lack of resources or to preserve the gains and achievements, but rather aspires to build a more prosperous homeland in which the citizen can find what he desires, Means and mechanisms have been adopted to achieve Vision 2030, and a number of programs have been launched, including the Government Restructuring Program, visions and Directions Program, systems review and performance measurement program, national Transformation Program, this vision was also directly related to human rights, as it included a set of rights such as the right to security, the right to health, the right to education, the right to work, the protection of the family, the empowerment of women, and the promotion of participation in political life and cultural participation (Tim Kalin, 2015).

2. Indicators of Sustainable Development for the Vision of the Kingdom 2030

The most important indicators included in the vision are raising the capacity to receive pilgrims from 8 million to 30 million pilgrims, Increasing the number of archaeological sites registered with UNESCO to double, raising the percentage of spending on culture and entertainment in Saudi Arabia from (2.9%) to (6%), and raising the percentage of sports practitioners at least once a week from (13%) to (40%) of Saudi citizens, classification of three Saudi cities among the top 100 cities in the world, raising the proportion of social capital from rank (26) to rank (10) in the world, increasing the average age from (74) to (80) years, raising the percentage of women's contribution to life The process from (22%) to (30%), developing the contribution of small enterprises to the GDP from (20%) to (35%), reducing unemployment rates from (11.6%) to (7%), moving

from the (25) position in the global competitiveness index to the tenth position, increasing the contribution of the private sector to the GDP from (3.8%) to (5.7%), raising the Saudi economy from rank (19) to rank (15) in the world, raising the contribution of local companies in the oil and gas sector from (40%) to (75%), raising the value of the Public Investment Fund from (600) billion to (7) trillion Saudi riyals, Increasing the volume of non-oil exports from (16%) to (50%) of GDP, moving from position (80) to position (20) in the government effectiveness index, raising non-oil government revenues from (163) billion to (1) trillion Saudi riyals, and the shift from rank (36) to rank (5) in the e-government index, raising the savings of the Saudi family from (6%) to (10%), reaching (1) million volunteers in the non-profit sector, compared to (11) thousand previously (Studies, 2017).

Data issued by the Saudi Monetary Agency indicated that most of the main activities in Saudi Arabia grew at varying rates in 2017, as the activities of financial services, insurance, real estate and business recorded the highest growth rates by (4.08%), the domestic product of the governmental and private non-oil sector also recorded a positive growth (1.05%) to reach about (104.43) billion Saudi riyals, The production of the governmental non-oil sector rose (0.70%) to reach (431.4) billion riyals, and the activity of the manufacturing industry recorded a growth of (1.3%), gas, water and electricity activity recorded a growth rate of (1.32%), As for the social and personal services activity, it recorded a growth rate of (1.36%), and the activity of agriculture, forestry and fishing increased by (0.5%), and the activity of wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels increased by (0.57%) (AI-Turki, 2018).

Conclusion

Development was one of the most important goals that were planned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the five-year development plans that included the adoption of public policies in directing the construction of modern Saudi Arabia, and there were nine development plans (1970-2015), which aimed to raise the level of real GDP to more than (5.3%) by 2014 and raise the growth rate of the non-oil sectors, in addition to increasing the contribution of the private sector and doubling government spending in the education and health sectors, focusing on social transformation within Saudi Arabia and expanding investment and infrastructure, as well as raising the standard of living of citizens and diversifying the economic base, These endeavors culminated in the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2016 of long-term development strategies called "Saudi Arabia Vision 2030" within the framework of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and this vision was based on three basic principles, which are "a vibrant society, prosperous economy, ambitious homeland, at the closure of this study we reached the following conclusions:

a) The discovery of oil in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1930s of the twentieth century was the main factor for development and modernization in all aspects of life in Saudi Arabia, and the main goal that the Kingdom sought is to avoid the risk of depending on a single source of income, which is the export of crude oil, and creating diversity in the economic base of the state and relying on industry as the main pillar to advance the economic development process in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

b) The Kingdom has been able to develop its economy and achieve a comprehensive strategy for development through its successive five-year plans, which are issued every five years, and to set its annual budgets on the basis of its own plans, in order to conduct a major transformation by moving from a simple economy to a modern and developing economy characterized by diversity in production and sources of income.

c) The need to carry out economic reforms prompted the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to build new administrative institutions aimed at improving the standard of living of citizens, achieving economic and social prosperity, these bodies were represented by the General Investment Authority, the Supreme Economic Council, the Supreme Council of Oil and Minerals, as well as the Kingdom's membership in the World Trade Organization and the Group of Twenty in 2008.

d) As part of its interest in social development, Saudi Arabia focused on the equitable distribution of wealth, raising the family's living income, providing job opportunities for Saudi citizens, enhancing women's participation in the labor market, and raising the state's spending rates on the health and education sectors. It made education a high priority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by taking steps necessary to strengthen its educational system and its outputs.

e) Saudi Arabia sought to confront the economic crises represented by the drop in oil prices by announcing the Kingdom's Vision 2030 as a strategy aimed primarily to diversifying the economic base in Saudi Arabia and trying to reduce the dependence of its total income on a single commodity represented by the export of crude oil, through a set of programs that aim to establish a practical reality as soon as possible to bring the Kingdom to a leadership position in 2030.

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