



ازدهارُ البلدان كرامةُ الإنسان



مجلس التخطيط والإحصاء
Planning and Statistics Authority

National Workshop on

Enhancing Integrated Development Planning in the State of Qatar

October 2021 ,27-26 Doha, Qatar - JW Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel

Concept Note

General Background

The changes that the world has witnessed in recent years, especially those related to the spread of the Covid19- pandemic, have greatly affected the economic and social performance of the countries of the world, including the State of Qatar which was able to face emerging challenges and recover quickly from them, according to the results of a survey of economic and social developments in the Arab region prepared by ESCWA, where the real GDP growth rate for the State of Qatar is expected to reach %6.7 in 2022, and %3.7 in 2023, noting that the unemployment rate for both males and females did not exceed %1 at the end of 2020. ESCWA estimates that this percentage will drop to %0.1 in 2022. With regards to Human Development Index (HDI)¹, Qatar ranks second in the Arab region and 45th globally out of 189 countries.

There is no doubt that development planning plays a major role in Qatar's economic performance. Despite the sudden changes, the Qatari economy has shown resilience and responsiveness to changes. In 2008, the State of

Qatar launched its Qatar National Vision 2030, which is the basic document that defines the general framework and national development goals to be achieved by 2030. Qatar National Vision 2030 consists of four pillars: the human development pillar, the social development pillar, and the economic development pillar and environmental development pillar. Based on this Vision, plans and strategies are drawn up to translate its goals into a five-year national program of action. Accordingly, the First National Development Strategy 2017-2011 and the Second National Development Strategy 2022-2018 were developed.

However, there remain challenges that need to be addressed to achieve better results that can be taken to develop the integrated development planning process in the State of Qatar with the aim of improving the business and investment environment in the phase of recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic, as it has become necessary to work to restore business in a more dynamic way.

¹ Human Development Report 2020, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2020_en.pdf

General Framework of the Workshop

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the Planning and Statistics Authority in the State of Qatar, is organizing a national workshop on "Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the State of Qatar" on 26 and 27 October 2021 in Doha. This workshop falls within the framework of the activities of the Development Account project "Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region". This workshop also comes within the recommendations of the report "Legislative Frameworks for the Business Environment in the Arab Countries"², prepared by ESCWA in 2021.

To ensure best results from this workshop, the training themes have been selected based on relevance and influence in the development planning process. Accordingly, the first day training will focus on national development planning, specifically on ESCWA tools in this field, and on Qatar's experience in national development planning. On the second day, the workshop will focus on more detailed topics in the

development process. Since one of Qatar's strategic goals is to build a diversified economy, the focus will be on regulatory reforms, especially with regard to the business environment and foreign direct investment. As regulatory frameworks directly affect the development of the country, it is necessary to understand and introduce organizational reforms in public policies, and how to include them in planning and implementing goals. Thus, the themes of the workshop are essential and important for all planning agencies and bodies, given the possibility of their application by all stakeholders at all stages.

The workshop will focus on the following main themes:

1. Integrated planning tools and materials prepared by ESCWA.
2. Successes and challenges in national development planning in Qatar.
3. Public policies and regulatory reforms, especially in the field of foreign direct investment.

Workshop Objectives:

The workshop aims to introduce and engage stakeholders from ministries, government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, research centers, universities, and international and regional organizations, directly or indirectly, in the process of development planning and capacity-building. In addition, the workshop will enhance the participants' understanding of relevant opportunities and challenges in order to promote foreign direct investment in Qatar and develop knowledge of national and regional regulatory frameworks in foreign direct investment. The workshop also aims to provide participants with the skills, tools, and ideas necessary to consolidate the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and link them with national development plans.

● Integrated Planning Tools and Materials

ESCWA has prepared training materials and reports aimed at supporting and enhancing integrated development planning. ESCWA

issues research on ways to improve coordination of national development planning in the Arab region, in addition to preparing materials on integrated national development planning, including a toolkit on behavioral ideas, strategic plans and guidelines on good planning practices. ESCWA has also developed complementary planning tools, with the aim of forecasting goals and defining policies, as well as launching a portal on integrated national development planning to facilitate access and exchange of information.

● Successes and Challenges in National Development Planning in Qatar

The State of Qatar has developed its Second National Development Strategy 2022-2018 whose sectors are in line with achieving the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. The Second National Development Strategy is characterized by multiple strengths, including coherent planning, and the identification of

² Legislative frameworks for the business environment in the Arab countries "

<http://publications.unescwa.org/projects/ablif/sdgs/pdf/ar/L2100166Arab20%Business20%Legislative20%Frameworks-ArabicWEB.pdf>

annual key performance indicators related to the results of human, social, economic, and environmental development. It also identifies the authorities responsible for implementation, and links them to relevant programs and projects. This strategy has employed the experiences and successes achieved in the First National Development Strategy, and has improved performance based on lessons learned. However, there are still many challenges and methodologies that can be studied, discussed, and benefited from when preparing the Third National Development Strategy, and monitoring progress towards implementing the national development goals.

● **Public Policies and Regulatory Reforms, Especially in Foreign Direct Investment**

Regulatory reforms have a fundamental role in achieving economic growth and developing more effective and inclusive institutions. In the field of foreign direct investment, regulatory reforms also contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals, especially SDGs 10, 9, 8 and 16. The foreign direct investment mainly contributes to sustainable economic development, restoring activities and spinning the economic wheel after the Covid 19 pandemic. Therefore, countries seek to develop and attract foreign direct investment within their development and economic plans.

In 2020, the proportion of foreign direct investments decreased by 2.4\$ billion in the

State of Qatar, according to the Foreign Investment Report 2021, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development³. The State of Qatar, in line with QNV 2030, is implementing the necessary facilities and reforms to attract FDI. For example, in 2019, Qatar issued a law allowing non-Qatari investors to invest in all economic sectors with 100% of the capital. In addition, Qatar ranked 31st out of 178 countries globally, and third in the Middle East and North Africa region in the Index of Economic Freedom 2021⁴.

Since the process of collecting information and closely looking at structuring the planning process and identifying challenges is very important in order to increase the applicability of the national development plan and improve its chances of success, the workshop will include working groups that will discuss and analyze the current status of the development planning process, organizational reforms and mechanisms adopted in the State of Qatar. Then, they will extract the necessary actions for improvement, as well as identify the main motives in the decision-making process, which will affect the effectiveness of the planning process in the future. In addition, the working groups will identify the strengths and challenges facing the planning process in Qatar and how to benefit from them in the various planning phases (such as planning, implementation, follow-up, and evaluation).

Participants in the Workshop:

The workshop will be attended by those concerned with development planning at the national, sectoral, and institutional levels in state ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, universities, research centers and UN organizations operating in the State of Qatar.

Communication Language of the Workshop:

Arabic is the main language of communication in the workshop, with simultaneous interpretation from Arabic into English and vice versa.

³ Foreign Investment Report 2021 <https://worldinvestmentreport.unctad.org/world-investment-report2021/>

⁴ Index of Economic Freedom 2021 <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/qatar>