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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, and would like to refer to the letter received regarding the call for inputs on **“Human Rights Thematic Report on Best Practices in the Contribution of Development to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic”**. In that regard, the Permanente Mission has the honor to attach herewith contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the afore-mentioned 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, the assurance of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
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Highlights of the Kingdom's Best practices in the contribution of development to the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic

- There are numerous of measures taken by the kingdom to address the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. And all measures incorporated a human rights-based approach, a fact that emerges clearly from the focus on equality and non-discrimination, and the effective insistence on the interdependency, interrelation and indivisibility of human rights as recognized in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Below is an overview of the measure taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:
- **rebuild in the context of business:**
The Ministry of Commerce has worked on many initiatives that would rebuild in the context of business, including the following:
 1. The initiative to establish an e-commerce development program, which aims to facilitate business exercise, by coordinating the efforts of all relevant parties influencing the development of the e-commerce industry, and developing solutions to eliminate obstacles to progress for all parties to the e-commerce process, including shoppers, shops, and legitimate government entities.
 2. The initiative to raise consumer and merchant satisfaction and awareness, which aims to ensure the interaction of citizens and the business community with government communication channels (interaction), by strengthening communication with the business community and the media and raising awareness of influencers to enhance confidence in the services provided by the Ministry of Commerce, and raising consumer and merchant awareness of regulations, rights and obligations.
 3. The initiative to develop and raise the quality of stores in the retail sector, which aims to raise and develop the quality of retail stores in its various sub-sectors and to work on defining specifications and standards that guarantee the quality of stores and products offered in them to ensure the safety of the supply and consumer protection to provide better services to the customer.



positive initiatives including policies, legislation and plans through which Saudi Arabia has contributed to:

a. Creating and strengthening an enabling environment for businesses to respect human rights in their operations during challenging times and when emerging from a crisis;

B. Mitigating negative human rights impacts evident during the pandemic and likely to present during future crises;

c. Ensure effective access to remedy for business- related human rights abuses caused during times of crisis.

Urgent initiatives have been adopted to support the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises, and economic activities that are most affected by the consequences of this pandemic. These initiatives amount to more than (70) billion SAR, which is represented in exemptions and postponement of some government dues to provide liquidity to the private sector so that it can use it in managing its economic activities, in addition to the support program announced by the Saudi Central Bank for banks, financial institutions, and small and medium enterprises in the amount of (50) billion SAR during the first phase of the pandemic. These initiatives aim to mitigate any financial and economic impact that the private sector may experience. These initiatives have provided the following:

1. Extending the grace period and rescheduling loans to the neediest facilities, with amounts amounting to more than (6) billion SAR.
2. the value of direct and indirect loans to finance working capital are (1) billion SAR.
3. Employment support by allocating sums of (4) billion SAR aimed at supporting more than (300,000) beneficiaries to work in the private sector by providing employment and training support programs.
4. Increasing the direct lending portfolio for micro and small enterprises to reach (2) billion SAR, benefiting (6,000) entrepreneurs.
5. Allocating (2) billion SAR to finance indirect lending programs through financial institutions.



6. Postponing the payment of some government and municipal service fees due on private sector institutions, for three months, and setting the necessary criteria to extend the postponement period for the most affected activities as needed.
 7. With regard to ensuring access to remedies, the Kingdom's systems have guaranteed the right to a remedy for all citizens and residents, foremost of which is recourse to the judiciary for citizens and residents on an equal basis, as Article (47) of the Basic Law of Governance stipulates that "the right to litigation is equally guaranteed to citizens and residents." The judicial systems, decisions, and instructions issued by the judicial authorities included provisions that facilitate resort to the judiciary and enhance the principle of equality before it, in addition to the role of the Human Rights Commission - an independent monitoring entity - in promoting and protecting human rights for all without discrimination, and receiving complaints related to human rights violations by business. It takes legal measures regarding them and addresses practices that may constitute a violation of their rights through monitoring, awareness-raising and other measures. The Human Rights Commission also works to ensure that the relevant governmental authorities implement the laws and regulations related to human rights, detect abuses, and take the necessary legal measures in their regard. It also monitors government entities to implement the relevant international human rights treaties ratified by the Kingdom, and to ensure that those entities take the necessary measures to implement them.
- **the most prominent areas of international cooperation:**
1. The Kingdom channelled over 10 million riyals in aid to the Palestinians to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. Saudi aid consisted of medical supplies and equipment to support the capabilities of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, thereby allowing it to protect the Palestinian people and limit the spread of COVID-19.
 2. The Kingdom launched a \$25-million anti-COVID-19 plan in Yemen to support displaced, stranded, and refugee Yemenis and their adoptive societies. The 3-phase plan is being implemented in coordination with the WHO and the Yemeni Ministry of Housing to provide medical equipment, supplies, and masks. It also supports health facilities and provides the tools to support pandemic tracking operations at land, sea, and airports. It further supports quarantine facilities at ports of entry and helps bolster preventive and treatment measures.



3. During its chairmanship of the G20, the Kingdom called for a virtual summit to discuss consolidating efforts to limit the spread of the virus. The summit was held on March 26, 2020. It concluded with a closing statement in which the G20 members made pledges and promises to battle the pandemic and limit the spread of the virus. Saudi Arabia gave the WHO \$10 million in response to the WHO's urgent call for donations to fund global measures to battle the pandemic. As the G20 chair, the Kingdom pledged \$500 million to various international organizations in support of anti-COVID-19 efforts.

