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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, the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, and would like to refer to the letter received regarding the call for inputs on the subject of human security of women and girls in the context of poverty and inequality. In that regard, the Permanent 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 Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, the assurance of its highest consideration.





The main measures taken by Saudi Arabia on the human security for women and girls in the context of poverty and inequality

The Kingdom has taken remarkable reforms in the field of human rights since the adoption of the “Saudi Vision 2030” under Council of Ministers resolution No. (308), dated April 25, 2016, as a methodology, which defines public policies, programs and initiatives, and activates the capabilities of the Kingdom across three topics: “an ambitious nation, a vibrant society, a thriving economy”. These topics included many fields, notably the women rights took the largest part of reforms and developments in the Kingdom’s human rights field. Below is a review of the most important measures taken by the Kingdom to eliminate all forms of structural discrimination, achieve justice, participate in the economic, social, general and political life and to have healthcare, safe environment, food security.

Main Measures Taken to Eliminate All Forms of Structural Discrimination

1. Driven by the Principle of Equality set out in Article No. (8) of the Basic Law of Governance entailing the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the Kingdom’s laws prohibit discrimination against women, which weakens or prevents the recognition of their rights. Under such laws, the legal prohibition includes all kinds of multiple and overlapping discrimination. In addition, several laws include provisions prohibiting other forms of discrimination such as; racial discrimination and discrimination on the basis of disability. These laws include the Civil Service Law, Labor Law, Health Law and Disability Welfare Law. Moreover, a number of criminal laws provides that heavier penalties will be imposed if the victim is a woman, such as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.
2. The Kingdom is a Party in a number of international human rights treaties addressing the prohibition of discrimination against women, including: the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) acceded by Royal Decree No. (M/25), dated 28/08/2000 and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) acceded by Royal Decree No. (M/12), dated August 20, 1997, . The Kingdom's accession to such Conventions makes such Conventions part of the Kingdom's national laws. The Kingdom’s commitment to any provisions grants such provisions the power of the Kingdom’s laws, as the legal tool issued such accession to the Convention (Royal Decree) is the same tool issuing the Kingdom’s laws, whereas. Article (70) of the Basic Law of Governance states that “laws, treaties, international agreements, and concessions shall be issued and amended by royal decrees”. Paragraph (1), Article (11) of the



Procedures for Concluding International Agreements issued by the Council of Ministers resolution No. (287), dated 26/07/2010 provided for the relevant entities shall take, when the Convention enters into force, the necessary measures to ensure the fulfillment of all the Kingdom's resulting obligations.

3. The Kingdom's laws prohibit the discrimination against women. The measures taken in the context of laws implementation adopt the prevention and avoidance of discriminatory practices to ensure the continuity of promoting and protecting human rights and keeping up with the updates and changes. The Kingdom's laws are subject to the periodic and continuous review of its development in line with the Kingdom's obligations under the international standards, including the CEDAW. The (Shura) Council as per its competence shall study the laws, and propose the appropriate measures in its regards, as it may deem. Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission shall express its opinion in relation to the existing laws related to human rights, and participate in studying the draft laws to ensure its consistency with international human rights standards.
4. The Labor Law issued under royal decree no m/51 dated 27/9/2005 amended by royal decree no m/134 dated 30/7/2019 to ensure the equality between men and women in rights, duties, and services conditions. Accordingly, citizens are equal in the right to work without discrimination based on gender, disability, age, or any other form of discrimination, whether during the performance of work, while hiring, or when announcing it in Article (3). Such amendments included also the equality between men and women retirement age once they reach (60) years old, unless the parties agreed to continue working after that age. Article (155) provides that "an employer may not terminate or threat to terminate the employment of a female worker while on maternity leave. The amendment included prohibition of the employment of women in mines and quarries, deletion of Article (149), which prohibits women work in dangerous and harm professions and jobs, and Article (150), which prohibits women work in night shifts. Furthermore, the Kingdom is a party on the International Labor Organization Convention (100), regarding to the provision of equal wages to male and female working at equal work 1951.
5. The relevant entities as per competence apply women human rights without any discrimination, and handle the discriminatory practices through monitoring and awareness measures and so on. Human Rights Commission ensures that the relevant government entities implement laws and regulations related to human rights and detects any breaches forming violations to women rights, and takes the necessary regulatory measures therefor. Human Rights Commission further follow up on the application of government entities to



share of the international human rights treaties to which the Kingdom is a party including the CEDAW and to ensure that such entities take the necessary measures to implement such treaty.

Right to Justice

6. The Kingdom's laws guaranteed the right of access to justice to every person equally, as Article (47) of the Basic Law of Governance provides "the right of litigation shall be guaranteed equally to citizens and residents in the Kingdom". The Judicial regulations, decisions, and instructions issued by judicial authorities included provisions that facilitate the right of access to justice and support the principle of equality. The Kingdom's laws guaranteed the women right in concluding agreements and managing properties equally with men. Article (18) of the Basic Law of Governance provides "the State shall guarantee private property and its inviolability. No one shall be deprived of his property except for the public interest, provided that the owner is fairly compensated." Adult women have full financial independence and responsibility as well as the right to use the movable and immovable money she has, manage her financial affairs, practice all commercial and economic activities and conclude contracts including sale, purchase, lease, mortgage, will and grant gifts directly. Furthermore, the women are also free to obtain government financing for commercial projects, open bank accounts, obtain financing, and establish and manage all kinds of companies. Moreover, a woman has the right to participate in the membership of chambers of commerce councils and committees throughout the Kingdom.
7. Every ministry, or any government entity must, according to competence, ensure justice for any person with violated human rights, and prevent the repetition of such violation. This shall not prevent any person from receiving the judicial remedy, as the Council of Ministers issued its resolution No. (662), dated June 16, 2020, which provides for the approval of all the human rights-related missions that are assigned to legal departments in government entities. Such missions include the detection of abuses and violations constituting human rights violations, and taking the necessary measures against such violations.
8. It is the right of every person to claim that he/she was discriminated against in any forms, and initiate and pursue a criminal lawsuit before the competent court in accordance with Article (16) of Law of Criminal Procedure, in addition to the Public Prosecution's power to initiate and investigate a criminal lawsuit by itself, if seems to serve a public interest in accordance with Article (17) thereof. In addition to the role played by the civil society institutions, including the National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) that receives



complaints relating to human rights, including racial discrimination complaints, and informs the competent authorities about such complaints for their legal action.

9. The Human Rights Commission, as a regulatory body of a complete independence, promotes and protects every person's human rights without discrimination, and receives complaints relating to human rights, takes legal action thereon, and undertakes monitoring and awareness-raising measures in this regard and the like. Human Rights Commission further ensures that the relevant government entities implement laws and regulations related to human rights and detects any breaches, and takes the necessary regulatory measures therefor.

Participation in Economic and Social Life

10. Several measures were taken to empower and support women contribution in the development. In the recent years, the Kingdom achieved huge progress in this regard, including: Increasing women's participation in the labor market from 22% to 30%, increasing Saudi females' economic participation from 17% in 2017 to 35.6% by the end of 2021, increasing women's management positions (high and middle) from 28.6% in 2017 to 39% in 2021, women's first contribution in security works during Hajj of 2021 in the Ministry of Interior, such as civil defense, passports, and public security. In addition, approval of various reforms supporting women's participation without any discrimination between both genders as obtaining financing services, salaries, jobs, working hours as well as the prevention of women dismissal during pregnancy and ensuring the payment of salaries during maternity leave, and participation in the sports system.
11. Several program to support women participation in economic and social life were established, such as: A program specialized in helping in the establishment of small enterprises for needy families at a total cost of 2 billion SAR. The Productive Families Program at a total cost of (one billion five hundred million riyals) to help such families to acquire the equipment representing the capital and other necessary materials to start their business. Moreover, the Social Development Bank (SDB) concluded (13) agreements with the service sector at more than SAR 12 million to provide the productive families with financial and non-financial services. SDB provided the support and empowerment to women through a number of programs and services, as the SDB provided more than SAR 13 billion to more than (300) thousand women. This contributed to an increase in the numbers of female beneficiaries to be (400%) during the last three years since 2019. The non-financial services included incubation, training and capacity building through the management of empowerment, development, business and product incubators, Dulani Business Center, as well as the



cooperation with the leading rehabilitation center, for the number of females benefiting from this program to be (60) thousand beneficiaries in the entire Kingdom. SDB also provides a package of social financing products, which are directed to an important segment of the population, i.e., low-income individuals. SDB offers such individuals an opportunity for individuals or families to obtain a concessional financing to fulfill their obligations resulting from their basic needs.

12. The Family Affairs Council launched Women's TALA Project (2020) aiming to the empowerment and support of women and find solutions through various projects in a number of fields by reaching all regions of the Kingdom, and the involvement of the society's segments in designing and developing solutions through developmental projects. The project, in its 1st session, recruited (430) project ideas from all regions and governorates of the Kingdom; (160) of such projects' owners were trained to develop such projects and (26) projects got opportunities to be funded by the SDB.
13. The Productive Families Program was established at a total cost of one thousand five hundred million riyals to help such families to acquire the equipment representing the capital and other necessary materials to start their business.
14. "Citizen Account" Program was launched to address the potential impact of adopted economic reforms as part of "Vision 2030", which provides cash transfers to low or limited income citizens. In this vein, the percentage of independent women reached 55% of the total independent beneficiaries; the percentage of women heads-of-household reached 7% of the total heads of household, whereas the percentage of females reached 25% of the total beneficiaries.
15. As a result of the measures taken to empower women, the percentage of issuing commercial register to businesswomen grew to 112% during the last 6 years (2015-2021), as the percentage of businesswomen registered with commercial registers in the Kingdom reached 817,930 women. The year of 2021 witnessed the highest percentage of businesswomen registration with commercial registers, reaching 139,754 registers, compared to 65,912 registers in 2015.
16. Sustainable Rural Development Program was launched with the aim to improve agricultural rural sector to promote the living standards of smallholder and rural households, as well as increasing sufficiency, productivity, and improving life quality and food security. In addition, the program endeavors to develop several sectors, with particular focus on designated rural areas, based on the comparative advantage of provinces.



17. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) launched initiatives that aim to protect and promote right to work, most notably: Job Saudization Program (Nitaqat 1); developed job Saudization program (Nitaqat 2); and wage protection program, with a view to following up their regular payment as agreed between the employer and employee. In respect of occupational risks, HRSD has developed Occupational Safety and Health Management Regulation, as implemented by the Ministerial Resolution, dated 26/04/2018; in addition to approving the organization of National Council for Occupational Safety and Health further to Council of Ministers' Resolution No. (379), dated 08/02/2022.
18. Moreover, interest to expand and increase the job opportunities for Saudi women as there are multiple decisions were issued to expand and protect women employment, including: The decisions related to regulating women's employment in factories and commercial complexes, feminization of certain shops and family parks; in addition to women's employment expansion initiative and available opportunities through direct employment, employment mechanism programs, and programs addressing the challenges of women's employment and assistant services; as well as developing and enacting legislations and regulations related to women's employment, and keenness on achieving equity between both genders in rights and duties at work place, including pay equity in jobs of similar nature. Therefore, modern employment patterns were developed, such as: Remote employment, freelancing, and flexible employment are programs designed to serve both genders. The three initiatives managed to create more job opportunities for women.
19. Furthermore, the Kingdom's laws guaranteed the right of women to conclude contracts and manage properties as equal to men. Article (18) of the Basic Law of Governance states "the State shall guarantee private property and its inviolability. No one shall be deprived of his property except for the public interest, provided that the owner is fairly compensated". Adult women have full financial independence and responsibility as well as the right to use the movable and immovable money she has, manage her financial affairs, practice all commercial and economic activities and conclude contracts including sale, purchase, lease, mortgage, will and grant gifts directly. Furthermore, the women are also free to obtain government financing for commercial projects, open bank accounts, obtain financing, and establish and manage all kinds of companies. Moreover, a woman has the right to participate in the membership of chambers of commerce councils and committees throughout the Kingdom. The Enforcement Law contains provisions to ensure the stability of rights.
20. Issuance of Social Insurance Pension Service by Royal Decree No. (M/32), dated 19/11/2020 that aims at establishing the means and measures required to treat poverty cases within



the society, and ensure a minimum income fulfilling the basic needs for each beneficiary by estimating the calculated minimum pension, providing the proper support, social support and protection to the beneficiary taking into account the most needy and most deserving beneficiary. It further aims at enabling the beneficiary from achieving financial independence and becoming a productive person through qualification and training, developing mechanisms that include provision of help to the beneficiaries in case of crises and disasters). The MHRSD cooperates with the Ministry of Economy and Planning to reform the social protection system depending on three main pillars; (equality between citizens in terms of social help, creating flexibility through social insurance, and promoting employment opportunities through labor market).

21. The Kingdom also gave great attention to the right of housing, as it sought to provide homes to all citizens. This is shown by the issuance of Real Estate Development Fund. This is confirmed by the “Saudi Vision 2030”, through which was the emergence of a program specialized in securing housing; “Housing Program” which works to provide housing solutions that enable Saudi families to own and benefit from suitable houses based on their personal needs and financial capabilities. The efforts in this regard have resulted in benefiting (210,000) Saudi families, and issuing more than (183,000) tax licenses, as well as reducing the interest margin for real estate loans to more than 18% in 2021 comparing to 2018. In support to the most needy families, the Housing Program contributed in providing 8,400 housing units. The value of real and cash contributions amounted to SAR (259.9) million in 2021.
22. Interest in the education in light of “Saudi Vision 2030” has led to a number of rapid developments and reforms, including; provision of sustainable education opportunities for everyone, promotion of equal opportunity, free education, and equality in education, development of curriculum, observation of teachers' performance and educational supervision, school buildings and equipment, development of evaluation and measurement tools and means, educational guidance and counseling programs, caring for people with visual, hearing, intellectual disabilities and autism disorders, and mandatory enrollment of males and females with disabilities in education. The budget allocated for the Ministry of Education, universities, and the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation reached SAR (192) billion in 2020, as the number of students reached (3,119,505) female students representing (49.4%) of the total students.



Participation in Political and Public Life

23. The participation in political and public life in the Kingdom is a right for every citizen whether male or female, through their contribution in making decisions or electing. With regard to the participation of women in political life, Article (43) of the Basic Law of Governance included the right of every citizen, without any discrimination, to address the public authorities. Saudi women gradually participated in the Shura Council, where they began by appointing (6) women as part-time chancellor, then the number increased, until the issuance of the Royal Order No. (A/44) dated 12/1/2013, whereby women became a member of the Council, and occupies (20%) of its seats as a minimum. Women have also assumed the presidency and membership of a number of specialized committees in the Shura Council, and the number of female workers in the Council is (97) women, and women in the membership of the Rights Committee of the Shura Council (one of the specialized committees in the Shura Council) occupy a percentage of 70%. Moreover, the Council of the Human Rights Commission includes (12) women. At a rate of (50%) in the membership seats of the Council.
24. Issuance of the Royal Order dated Sept. 22, 2022 appointing Dr. Hala bint Mazyad bin Muhammad Al-Tuwaijri as the President of Human Rights Commission, with the rank of Minister.
25. In addition, women were empowered to occupy senior positions, as they hold senior positions in government institutions, universities, etc., in addition to a number of leadership and supervisory positions in ministries and government entities. The percentage of women in senior and middle management positions has increased from 28.6% in 2017 to 39% in 2021.
26. The Public Prosecution is attracting qualified women to work as members in the Public Prosecution as the male public prosecutors. In Jan, 2018, the Public Prosecution announced vacancies for women to work as members under the same conditions applying to male applicants, as the number of female public prosecutors reached (200) women, in addition to (282) Public Prosecution employees and (238) trainees until the end of 2021. The General Directorate of Public Security has announced the admission and registration in a number of military jobs for women.
27. The number of female employees in the Ministry of Justice has increased, reaching 3782 until the date of September 14, 2022 . The number of female lawyers' licenses has also increased



compared to 2019, as their number was (618) to reach (1364) female lawyers at the beginning of 2021. Women were empowered to obtain notarization license to practice certain powers of public notaries.

28. The Kingdom's laws provide the Saudi women the opportunity to represent their government at the regional and international level through their role as an ambassador in the Kingdom's embassies, consulates and missions, and their participation in the Kingdom's delegations to regional and international conferences, forums and mechanisms. Furthermore, several women qualified to work in the Saudi embassies and representing entities outside the Kingdom joined the diplomatic corps, and participated in the regional and international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in addition to their participation in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and participation in the kingdom's delegations in the international and regional visits and forums in various fields, including the Kingdom's delegations that participated and contributed to the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

Healthcare

29. The Kingdom's efforts continue to raise the level of health service provided to the beneficiaries taking into account the principle of equality, and depending mainly on the principle of need. Such efforts focused on several fields, including: The fields of maternity care, childhood, immunization and health care programs for persons with disabilities, and the elderly, healthcare for males and females students, mental health, healthcare in accidents, emergencies, disasters, control of infectious and epidemic diseases, treatment of incurable diseases, and organ transplantation and other elements of comprehensive healthcare, in addition to the supporting infrastructure in this field. It is worth noting that the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health reached, in 2020, approximately (USD 20 billion). At the regional and international level, the Kingdom, in the field of humanitarian aid and relief, addressed the health sector in several countries, by providing various aids supporting the health field, where the total value of Saudi Kingdom's health programs' provided support reached, until Jan, 2022, an amount of (USD 8,125,082,717), including health aids provided through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center until Jan, 2022 with an amount of (USD 1,010,200,444) by 604 projects.

Right to Healthy Environment



30. The Water Law was issued by Royal Decree No. (M/159), dated July 02, 2020 which aims at preserving, developing, protecting, ensuring sustainability of, managing and organizing all matter of water resources and the rights thereof, the way they are used; ensuring the provision of water supplies in a safe, clean, reliable, high quality way and in reasonable prices; achieving justice among customers and providing each person with water to fulfill its needs; promoting the private sector's participation in the laws-subjected activities, as well as active governance; providing each person with clean and safe water conforming to the approved specifications to fulfill its natural needs on the basis of justice in accordance with the approved standards, plans and programs; and ensuring the provision of water supplies to the agricultural sector, including all means that would ensure the sustainability thereof.
31. The National Water Strategy was issued by the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. (277), dated 23/1/2018 aiming at ensuring the sustainable access to adequate quantities of secured water in both normal situations and emergency; improving the management of water demands in all kinds of usage; providing high-quality and affordable water and sewerage services to ensure the acceptance of prices; preserving water resources and improving their usages while maintaining the local environment in terms of the Saudi society's interest currently and in the future; and ensuring the competitiveness of water sector and its positive contribution to the national economy by promoting active governance and private sector participation and Saudization of capabilities and innovation. The National Water Strategy included 10 programs consisting of 47 initiatives with total estimated costs planned for the Strategy amounted to approximately (USD 95) billion.
32. The National Environmental Strategy was launched in 2018, which included 64 initiatives aiming to restructuring environment sector, which resulted in the establishment of five environmental centers specialized in developing vegetation, combating desertification, developing wildlife, monitoring environmental compliance, waste management, and meteorology, along with the establishment of an environment fund to support sector's financial sustainability. In addition, the Special Forces for Environmental Security of the Ministry of the Interior was established to provide security support to enforce the Environment Law.
33. The Kingdom provides programs and policies contributing in the reduction of emissions such as the approval of the e-government, implementing renewable energy project, establishing energy efficiency programs and developing public transportation. The Kingdom also promotes the cooperation with the non-profit sector in the provision of solutions and innovations through advanced programs and mechanisms whose implementation is



supervised by women. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince announced the launch of “Saudi Green Initiative” which targets Net zero emissions by 2060, and reduces carbon emissions by 278 tons a year by 2030. Green Saudi Initiative shall contribute to promote the efforts exerted within the scope of “Saudi Vision 2030”, by consolidating all plans aimed at achieving sustainability in the Kingdom, increasing the dependence on clean energy, reducing carbon emissions, fighting climate change, in addition to increasing the quality of life and protecting the Kingdom’s future generations. The Saudi Green Initiative brings together environment protection and energy transformation and sustainability programs aiming at the achievement of a set of initiatives aimed at building a sustainable future for everyone. The “Middle East Green Initiative” is an initiative supports the efforts of Saudi Green Initiative at the international level, in cooperation with the GCC and MENA countries and other international governments. The Middle East Green Initiative constitutes an incentive to work and a framework to lead the effort concerned with climate inside and outside the region, with the following objectives:

- Establishing an international fund targeting clean technology solutions investments that follow the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) such as carbon capture, usage and storage techniques, hydrogen and nature-based solutions in the MENA. The Kingdom has announced its contribution to approximately 15% of the total value of the fund amounted to USD 10 billion during 10 years by 2030.
 - Removing plastic materials from oceans and seas. This initiative aims to cooperate with the countries and international organizations to clean seas and oceans from the plastic materials by seeking the solutions of managing plastic materials recycling in the developing countries to prevent their leakage from the rivers to the oceans and seas.
 - Establishing a complex to capture, use and store carbon in the GCC to reduce carbon emissions in the region.
 - Promoting regional cooperation to manage the emissions through the CCE.
 - Providing cooking clean fuel to about 750 million persons around the world to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and reduce the emissions.
34. Furthermore, the “SUQIA” system was established to supply water to the citizens of poor rural areas. The program aims to achieve the strategic vision of the Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture (MEWA) by organizing the reception and disbursement of donations to establish water projects for irrigation of villages, deserts, desert resources and sites in need in all regions of the Kingdom, as well as organizing, facilitating and accelerating the water irrigation projects and finding proper environments for such projects’ establishment.



Food Security

35. The Kingdom taken several important steps to work at all levels of food systems and chain to ensure the food security, Through its national polices and strategies in agriculture for 2030, including:
- Increasing the productive efficiency in agriculture sector by encouraging the investment opportunities to promote the sector's production and raise the operational and productive efficiency, supporting the investments in the field of modern agricultural techniques and adopting research, technology and innovation in facing the challenges of food sustainability.
 - Expansion in the use of Saudi good agricultural practices, the application of food quality labels, and the increase of safety and quality in agricultural and food products.
 - Enabling the flexibility of value added chain, sustainability of food systems and application of "TumooH" program to reduce loss and waste in commodity and stages of supply chain.
 - Developing and updating re-export policies, and facilitating the establishment of services centers of agricultural marketing by the Private Sector.
 - Starting the activation of digital transformation, including experimenting the agricultural extension platform, trading platforms and e-marketing, as the digital transformation targets solving farmers marketing problems and protecting their local products.
 - Adapting the investment fund's strategy to the agricultural sector and increasing lending to more than 400% during the past four years.
 - Encouraging the investments in advanced greenhouses by facilitating licenses' procedures and providing all kinds of technical and logistic support from all the specialists in the MEWA.
36. The application of policies and strategies played a key role in securing food supply chains and achieving self-sufficiency rates in many goods, as the Kingdom's agricultural GDP during the past year of 2021 increased from USD 19.23 billion with a growth rate of 7.8% compared to the past year that achieved USD 17.84 billion, marking the highest growth rate in the last ten years. However, the agricultural production contributed to the Oil GDP with a growth rate of 3.6% by an increase rate of 0.2% compared to the past year of 2020 in which the agricultural production reached 3.4%. The Kingdom achieved increased rates of self-sufficiency in a number of agricultural products. The most important products of which are dates with a self-sufficiency rate of 122%, fresh milk with a self-sufficiency rate of 129%, eggs with a self-sufficiency rate of 103%, poultry meat with a self-sufficiency rate of 65%, green fodder with a self-sufficiency rate of 67%, and other agricultural products.



The most significant measures taken by the Kingdom in combating and remedying economic and social impacts of COVID-19

37. Several measures contributed to combating COVID-19 have been taken through two parallel tracks: Reducing the spread of this pandemic, providing high-quality healthcare to those infected, and addressing the economic and social consequences of COVID-19. The measures taken by the Kingdom are based on a Human Rights –based approach. This is manifested in the fact that these measures are based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination, and the practical realization of the principle that all human rights are indivisible and interdependent stipulated in the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action 1993, through the protection and fulfillment of other rights affected by the Covid-19. The social and economic reforms have not stopped during this crisis. The following is a review of the measures taken by the Kingdom in this pandemic:

- In December 2020, the Kingdom announced the start of providing free COVID-19 vaccine doses to all citizens and foreigners without discrimination. This service has been allocated to many locations in various regions of the Kingdom. The Covid-19 vaccination service has also been launched for patients in their homes through the Home Health Care in all regions of the Kingdom, in order to preserve the health and safety of all members of society and to reduce the spread of the Covid-19. On 30 of March 2020, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques issued a directive to treat people infected with or likely to be infected with Covid-19, whether they are citizens, foreigners or violators of the Residency Law for free and without discrimination.
- Positive measures have been taken to prevent the negative impact of this crisis on the Private Sector, including many working women and girls, including launching of a program costing USD 13.31 by the Saudi Central Bank, including financing for the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to support the Private Sector to play its role in promoting economic growth, in order to support the governmental efforts to combat the Covid-19.
- The State bears (60%) of the salaries of male and female employees in the Private Sector, in order to preserve jobs during this crisis.
- Supporting directly working individuals (whether men or women) who are not employees in any company and are registered with the Transport General Authority in passenger transit activities and have been suspended due to preventive measures by paying an amount equal to their salaries.



- A support package for SMEs has been provided as needed, amounted USD 47.11 Billion to enable them to grow, contribute to supporting economic growth and maintain hiring in supporting the efforts to mitigate the effects of precautionary measures to combat the pandemic.
- Reducing the value of the electricity bill for consumers in commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors by 30%.
- Issuance of the Council of Ministers' resolution related to disbursing an amount USD 133 thousand for the family of a worker who died as a result of Covid-19. This resolution includes employee in the public health or Private Sector, whether a civilian or from the army, Saudi or non-Saudi.
- The continuation of the process of depositing the benefit amounts into the Social Security. This account provides cash and in-kind aid to both women's and men's beneficiaries. The social security account has never been lower than previously in respect of the amounts deposited. A Ministerial resolution was issued (by MHRSD) providing that no beneficiary of the social security pension should be left out during this crisis. More USD 533 million, were deposited to social security beneficiaries (April 2020).
- To ensure the continuity of education under the COVID-19 pandemic, a "Madrasati" platform, an e-learning management system including many e-educational tools that contribute to the achievement of curriculum and courses educational objectives, has been established.

Proposed recommendations for the promotion of women's and girls' equality in the economic and social fields

1. Guiding efforts taken at legislative, policy and program levels towards increasing women's participation in economic and social activities.
2. Highlighting the policies and legal frameworks as well as social and cultural practices, which constitute discrimination against women and girls..
3. Increasing women's participation in all sectors and at all functional levels by investing their capacities and capabilities, improving employment options for women, increasing their participation to ensure the equal opportunities for both genders, and their accessing the senior structural leadership positions.
4. Ensure that, in all circumstances, girls' and women's access to schooling is not unduly curtailed.