



هيئة حقوق الإنسان
Human Rights Commission

A Brief Report on the Most Prominent Reforms and Developments in the Field of Human Rights in KSA

2023

Introduction



Over the past few years, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has witnessed several reforms and historical developments in the field of human rights, including legislative and institutional frameworks, human rights-related procedures, remedy development and enhancement, and foremost of which is the judiciary, which is the main guarantor of human rights protection and promotion. Such reforms, developments, and the short period in which they were achieved, express a proactive responsive political desire to all elements aiming to safeguard human rights. These reforms and developments are represented in the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and the leadership and supervision of HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense.

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, approved by the Council of Ministers by virtue of Resolution No. (308) dated 18/07/1437 AH corresponding to (April 25, 2016 AD), was promulgated to be a roadmap that defines the Kingdom's general policies, programs and initiatives, and benefits from the Kingdom's capabilities and wealth that Allah has bestowed upon it. That methodology consists of a framework of three pillars: "A vibrant society, a prosperous economy, and an ambitious nation." Each pillar consists of several objectives that are directly and indirectly connected to human rights. Further, it also addressed –explicitly and implicitly– with a number of human rights, the most prominent of which are: The right to security, health, work, the rights of women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, the right to development, the enhancement of participation in public life, and the formation and support of associations." According to this ambitious vision, several programs, procedures and executive measures have been launched for the Kingdom's Vision 2030. That vision confirms that humans are the center, subject and beneficiary of development.

This report presents a summary of the most prominent reforms and developments achieved in the areas of judiciary and criminal justice, the enhancement and protection of human rights in the context of combating terrorism; the space for civil society; freedom of opinion, expression and the press; the right to privacy; the right to education and training; the right to health; the right to work; the right of workers; combating human trafficking; the right to participate in cultural life; the right to development and social care; women's rights; children's rights; the rights of persons with disabilities; the rights of the elderly; relief and humanitarian work; as well as regional and international cooperation and solidarity.

First: The Judiciary and Criminal Justice

As previously mentioned, the Judiciary represents the main guarantor of respect and protection of human rights and establishment of the same in reality. In addition, Justice is one of the principles on which governance is based in the KSA, as stated in the Basic Law of Governance (Article 8). On this basis, the judiciary and its facilities have been given great attention, evident in the historical and unprecedented reforms that have been achieved in that field. The following are the most prominent reforms and developments in the field of the judiciary and criminal justice:

1. The issuance of the regulation of the Saudi Bar Association pursuant to the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. (317) dated 08/07/1436 AH corresponding to (April 27, 2015 AD), which includes several provisions that support the role of Lawyers in promoting and protecting human rights.
2. The issuance of the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 289 dated 04/07/1437 AH corresponding to (April 11, 2016) approving a new regulation for the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice; through which the powers of the Association were defined, and the procedures and measures to ensure their exercise were developed, in coordination with the criminal investigation agencies.
3. The issuance of Royal Decree No. A/240 dated 22/09/1438 AH corresponding to (June 17, 2017 AD), amending the name of "The Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution" to become the "Public Prosecution" and granting it complete independence in the exercise of its duties, and its direct association with the King.
4. The issuance of the Circular of the Minister of Justice, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council in 2018, activating the pleading proceedings before the courts of appeal.
5. The issuance of the Supreme Judicial Council's Resolution No. (40/11/441) dated 16/04/1440 AH corresponding to (December 23, 2018), stipulating that the court must, before deciding on the criminal penalty, establish that the accused person is convicted, state the criminal description of his/ her act that gives rise to the penalty, on condition that the charge or suspicious act should not be one of the descriptions of which the accused is convicted.
6. The issuance of the executive regulations for the appeal proceedings pursuant to the Minister of Justice's Resolution No. 5134 dated 21/9/1440 AH corresponding to (May 26, 2019), which is considered a development in the field of litigation, by dealing with the appeal proceedings in terms of editing and pleading.

7. The abolition of the disciplinary punishment of flogging by virtue of the issuance of the General Authority of the Supreme Court Resolution No. 40/M dated 24/06/1441 AH corresponding to (February 18, 2020), in which it decided by majority that courts should only, in terms of disciplinary punishments, impose imprisonment, a fine, or both of them, or alternative punishments, as decided and regulated by the guardian in this regard.

8. The issuance of the royal order in March 2020, stopping the execution of the death penalty for persons who were sentenced to death before the issuance of the juvenile Law for crimes they committed while they were under the age of (eighteen), and to apply the juvenile Law to them.

9. Activating the principle of public hearings and facilitating the proceedings relating to pleadings, by documenting trial sessions with audio and video in the Criminal Court.

10. Informing judges of the national capabilities, through the Judicial Training Center affiliated to the Ministry of Justice, which has held several training programs for judges and Lawyers, including training on the basis of provisions contained in human rights conventions to which the Kingdom is a party.

11. The General Directorate for Prisons of the Ministry of Interior launched the “Fu-rijat” service; an electronic service through which payments for financial rights’ prisoners are made by their families or benefactors, which contributed to addressing the overcrowding in prisons.

12. Establishing specialized courts to unify the litigation bodies. Commercial courts, labor courts, and personal status courts were initiated in various governorates and regions of the Kingdom, in addition to specialized departments within the system of general courts, and specialized appeals circuits in a number of cities in the KSA.

13. HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, announced in February 2021 a regulation of specialized legislation that includes a draft penal law that reinforces the principle of legality of criminalization and punishment, guarantees and rights of the accused person, and the establishment of the general rules of criminal justice, etc., which facilitates the prediction of judgments, and the draft Law of civil transactions that regulates legal relations between individuals, and regulates methods of resolving civil disputes, and the personal status Law, which regulates family affairs, including the rights of spouses, the rights of children, and finally the evidence Law that defines the considered methods of legal proof.

14. The issuance of the Law of Evidence pursuant to Royal Decree No. (M/43) dated 26/05/1443 AH corresponding to (December 30, 2021 AD), including provisions that define regular methods of legal evidence, which contributes to protecting rights and limiting disputes.

15. The issuance of the Personal Status Law on March 9, 2022 AD, which deals with the provisions regulating the family relationship, and aims to preserve the stability of the family as the basic component of society. It controls the discretionary power of the courts in a manner that enhances the stability of judicial rulings and reduces the contradiction of rulings, and frames the relations between family members and protects their rights and expedites the settlement of family disputes.

Second: The enhancement and protection of human rights in the context of combating terrorism

Terrorism and extremism are considered among the factors that undermine the enjoyment of basic human rights. Therefore, combating them by various means is one of the aspects of promoting and protecting human rights. On the other hand, any measures taken to combat terrorism and extremism should not affect the enjoyment of human rights, which is what the Kingdom has sought through the reform measures it has taken in this regard, the most prominent of which are as follows:

16. The establishment of the “Intellectual Warfare Center” on April 30, 2017. It is specialized in confronting the roots of extremism and terrorism, and consolidating the correct concepts of Islam. It also protects young people around the world from extremism through preventive and therapeutic programs. The Center aims to form a deep and rooted understanding of the problem of extremism through defining the causes and underlying the extremist tendencies, understanding the tools and methodologies used by extremist groups, identifying target groups by those groups, and cooperating effectively with national and international institutions.

17. The establishment of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology, also known as “Etidal”, which was inaugurated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on 25/08/1438 AH corresponding to (May 21, 2017 AD). It is an institutional development for combating terrorism, as it is concerned with monitoring and analyzing extremist ideology with the purpose of confronting and protecting people from it, in cooperation with relevant countries and organizations.

18. The issuance of the Law on Combating Terrorist Crimes and its Financing by virtue of Royal Decree No. (M/21) dated 12/02/1439 AH corresponding to (November 1, 2017 AD). It defined the terrorist crime, and the procedural aspects relating to arrest, detention, attorneys’ appointment, temporary release, and the court competent to hear relevant cases, and defined crimes and penalties. The Law on Combating Terrorist Crimes and its Financing was amended by Royal Decree No. (M/142) dated 19/10/1441 A.H. to ensure the strengthening of criminal safeguards.

19. Developing detention centers and prisons affiliated with the Presidency of State Security. During his visit to the Kingdom in 2017, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in the context of combating terrorism, praised a number of prisons affiliated with the Presidency of State Security.

20. Compensating the accused and convicted persons that are affected, in accord-

ance with the Law on Combating Terrorism Crimes and Its Financing, which is considered an enhancement of the means of remedies.

21. Teaching the human rights course in the subject of regulations taught in prison training centers. Further, the human rights course has become one of the basic requirements in training programs for prison workers.

22. Approval of the basic individual program. The approved courses include a course relating to the development of communication skills, which are concerned with self-development and raising the level of human performance of the trainees, as well as legal courses enabling workers to know their rights and duties while performing their jobs.

Third: the space available to civil society

The Kingdom's Vision 2030 aims to enhance the role of civil society through its objectives, programs and initiatives, which is an acknowledgment of the role played by civil society institutions in the development, promotion and protection of human rights. The most prominent reforms in this regard are as follows:

23. The establishment of the National Center for the Development of the Non-Profit Sector pursuant to Council of Ministers' Resolution No. (618) dated 20/10/1442 AH corresponding to (June 1, 2021 AD) with the aim of organizing, activating and expanding the role of non-profit sector organizations in development fields. That will enhance the space available to civil society and supports the work of civil society organizations in many fields.

24. Establishing an association support fund in accordance with the civil associations and institutions regulations; with the aim of supporting and developing the associations' programs to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of their activities.

25. The issuance of the Civil Associations and Institutions Law by virtue of Royal Decree No. (M/8) dated 19/02/1437 AH corresponding to (December 1, 2015 AD), including provisions that facilitate the procedures for forming civil associations and institutions. Article (8) of the Law provides that the application for the establishment of the association shall be submitted by a number of not less than (ten) natural or legal Saudis. The previous number of applicants for the establishment was (twenty) people. Further, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development must respond to the application to establish an association within (sixty) days from the date of completion of the justifications of the application, and the non-receipt of a response during this period is tantamount to approval of the establishment of the association.

26. The Voluntary Work Law was issued by virtue of Royal Decree No. M/70 dated 27/05/1441 AH. The Law aims to regulate and develop volunteer work, spread the culture of volunteer work among members of society and its institutions, and regulate the relationship between the parties to volunteer work.

27. The number of civil associations and institutions has increased in the Kingdom, as their number has reached (2816) associations and institutions.

28. Formation of a special council for associations, and another council for non-governmental organizations, which contributed to strengthening and activating the role of civil society institutions.

29. The Signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and the Human Resources Development Fund, to contribute to enabling non-profit organizations to achieve a deeper impact, and to attract and retain job competencies in non-profit sector organizations through initiatives and tools provided in partnership between the two parties, to improve the work environment in the sector in order to achieve the targeted Saudization rates.

30. The King Khalid Foundation, the King Saud Foundation, and the Women's Renaissance Association obtained consultative status as a non-governmental organization by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

31. Launching of the national platform for volunteer work, which is considered a safe environment that serves and organizes the relationship between the various sectors and volunteers, and the registration of more than (575) thousand volunteers and (3,750) entities from the government and non-profit sectors.

32. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched a development project (legal and legislative incentives for social investment), which aims to enact legislation that stimulates the social investment market and overcomes the legislative obstacles facing it.

33. Initiating procedures for establishing several social investments in partnership between the Ministry, the non-profit sector and the private sector, with the aim of stimulating the injection of funds into social investments that have a positive social impact and financial sustainability.

34. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has worked to expand the establishment of specialized associations and created several methods with the aim of expediting the establishment of civil associations. Accordingly, more than (700) civil associations have been established in various specializations all over the KSA, all of which serve developmental priorities and needs.

Currently, the following is underway:

- Draft development plan to cover development needs.
- A project to raise awareness and introduce the community to development areas in the non-profit sector.
- A project to establish socio-economic empowerment associations.
- Maximizing the societal impact of the work of non-profit organizations

Fourth: Freedom of opinion, expression and the press

The Kingdom's Laws and regulations guarantee freedom of opinion, expression, and the press in accordance with international human rights standards, which permit subjecting these freedoms to several legal and necessary restrictions in order to protect a number of interests, namely: Public order, public morals, public health, and the rights and reputation of others. Several positive measures have been monitored to be taken in this regard, most notably:

35. The issuance of Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 713 dated 30/11/1438 AH corresponding to (August 22, 2017 AD) stipulating that government agencies shall publish projects, rules, regulations or internal decisions within their jurisdiction on their website, enabling the concerned authorities and individuals to express their views and observations about the same.

36. The Audiovisual Media Law was issued pursuant to Royal Decree No. (M/33) dated 25/03/1439 AH corresponding to (December 13, 2017 AD), which emphasized in Article (5) thereof that freedom of opinion and expression shall be maintained in a manner that does not contradict the relevant regulations and controls.

37. The King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue provides a suitable environment for discussing many problems and issues that concern citizens, while enjoying independence in choosing its topics and practices, through national meetings, conferences, seminars and panel discussions.

Sixth: The right to education and training

The Kingdom's Vision 2030 and its programs and initiatives have contributed to the development of education and training and the achievement of advanced levels in the quality of education and its outputs, in line with the needs of the labor market. The following are the most prominent reforms related to the right to education and training:

39. Ministerial Resolution No. (89263) dated 17/10/1438 AH corresponding to (July 11, 2017 AD) was issued, by virtue of which the Ministry of Education launched the Physical Education Initiative to enhance the health of female students. This initiative aims to establish and prepare (500) gyms annually.

40. The issuance of approval to form the first Council for University Affairs in the KSA in February 2020, after the issuance of the new University Law, and the application of the same to (3) universities as a first stage. The said University Affairs Council undertakes a number of specializations, most notably: Approving policies and strategies for university education, developing regulations for universities, private colleges, and branches of foreign universities in the KSA and oversight over the same, as well as approving financial, administrative, and academic regulations regulating investment and self-revenue for universities, and managing endowments. It shall also be responsible for approving the regulations governing scientific societies, research chairs, research, innovation and entrepreneurship centers in universities, as well as other related specializations.

41. Launching the “Lifelong Learning Initiative” (Estidama/ Sustainability), which is one of the initiatives of the National Transformation Program emanating from the “Kingdom’s Vision 2030”. It seeks to eradicate illiteracy and enable individuals to benefit from various learning and training opportunities. It targets adults of both genders (15-50 years old).

42. Activating distance education during the Corona crisis and launching a number of initiatives to enhance distance education, including the “We are all Givers/ Atta” initiative, which included providing many students with free SIM cards and tablets.

43. Increasing the number of universities, as their number in the KSA reached (29) public and (35) private universities and colleges by the end of 2020, which indicates interest in enabling citizens to continue university education.

44. In September 2021, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz launched the Human Capacity Development Program, which is one of the programs to achieve the KSA Vision 2030. Its objectives include building an integrated educational journey, improving equal access to education, improving basic education outcomes.

Seventh: The right to health

Several measures have been taken to achieve the best levels in the field of the right to physical and psychological health within the framework of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. The most prominent reforms in this aspect are as follows:

45. The establishment of the Saudi Patient Safety Center in 2017, which represents the national reference for all matters relating to patient safety and the reduction of medical errors and related damage. It shall develop the national strategy for patient safety in line with the initiatives of the National Transformation Program for the health sector.
46. The inauguration of the Health Communications Center (937) on 22/06/1438 AH corresponding to (March 21, 2017 AD) to provide a number of services, including receiving and monitoring patients' reports, and providing medical consultations around the clock.
47. The issuance of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention and the Rights and Duties of Infected Persons Law by virtue of Royal Decree No. (M/41) dated 16/04/1439 AH corresponding to (January 3, 2018 AD), and the issuance of the executive regulations thereof.
48. The establishment of the National Center for the Enhancement of Mental Health in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. 685 dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to (July 30, 2019 AD) with the aim of creating national programs that contribute to promoting mental health, creating a better life for community members, promoting positive participation, and supporting the most vulnerable groups for mental disorders.
49. The issuance of the executive regulations for the amended mental health care Law 1441 AH, by virtue of Cabinet Resolution No. 838102 dated 20/4/1441 AH.
50. The issuance of Cabinet Resolution No. 401 dated 18/7/1441 AH, establishing the Public Health Authority, which aims to protect and promote public health.
51. The issuance of directive of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on 06/08/1441 AH corresponding to (March 30, 2020) to provide health care to all citizens, residents, and even violators of the residency Law that are infected with Coronavirus or who are likely to be infected with it, free of charge.
52. Increasing the number of primary care centers spread across all governorates and administrative regions of the KSA to reach (2257) health centers until October 2020. These centers are concerned with providing primary care to beneficiaries.
53. Launching the new national pathway for health care services for pregnant women, and the National Drug Prevention Project (Nebras)

54. Building (36) new hospitals and two medical cities with a clinical capacity of (11,300) beds.

55. Launching the (Priority) initiative to facilitate the target groups' access to health services. The target groups include: People with disabilities, the elderly over (60) years, home health care patients, in addition to cases approved by a specialized medical committee.

56. The intensive care and emergency development initiative that ensure the speed and quality of these services (MOH 0013) linked to the strategic objective (facilitating access to health services) included increasing the availability of intensive care beds throughout the KSA by operating and equipping additional beds in intensive care departments in centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health, in addition to making further improvements to systems and processes and developing the personnel. The scope of the project also includes the development of emergency department services throughout the KSA by expanding emergency departments and operating additional beds in order to reach the required target. Further, (9) intensive care departments have been operated in (9) hospitals distributed in different regions, and (7) projects have been completed and intensive care departments expanded, and several projects covering various regions are underway.

57. Establishing a hospital rehabilitation and operation unit in the General Administration of Hospital Affairs to supervise the operation of new hospitals. A number of (12) hospitals have started operating, and the operation of (15) hospitals is currently followed up.

58. The opening of (Tetamman) and (Ta'akad) clinics concerned with conducting tests related to the Corona epidemic for all residents without discrimination.

59. Disseminate all information relating to the Corona epidemic on a daily basis, and enable all residents to access it, in addition to developing health awareness related to this epidemic.

Eighth: The right to work and Labor's rights

Several historical reforms have been achieved in the field of labor rights and workers' rights, and the Kingdom's Vision 2030 has contributed to providing many jobs, reducing the unemployment rate, enhancing the work environment, etc. The following is a review of the most prominent reforms related to the right to work and labor's rights:

60. The issuance of Royal Decree No. (M/134) dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to (July 30, 2019 AD), including the amendment of several articles of the Labor Law, the most prominent of which is Article (2), where the definition of a worker was amended to be: "Every natural person - male or female - works for the benefit of an employer and under his management or supervision in return for a wage, even if it is far from his supervision," and Article (3) to be: "work is a citizen's right, and no one else may practice it except after fulfilling the conditions stipulated in this Law. Citizens are equal in the right to work without any discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, age or any other form of discrimination, whether during the performance of work or when hiring or advertising it."

61. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development receives complaints from migrant workers on the unified number (19911) in several different languages, which is considered a development in the field of activating the means of remedy.

62. Expanding many measures aiming to promote the rights of domestic workers, such as the awareness-raising measures undertaken by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Human Rights Commission, the National Society for Human Rights and other relevant civil society institutions, and the actions taken by the Saudi National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, such as monitoring the causes leading to the commission of exploitation crimes, as well as the supervisory role played by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and the Human Rights Commission. These measures also include the development of recruitment mechanisms, the development of monitoring and supervision of practitioners, and the development of support and protection mechanisms.

63. The introduction of the Flexible Work Law in August 2020, which aims to increase the chances of job seekers to obtain flexible jobs, as well as to enable them to engage in the labor market and raise their skills and experience.

64. The issuance of the unified regulation of the work environment in private sector establishments in September 2020, which aims to create an attractive and safe work environment and keep abreast of labor market developments.

65. Employing more than (400) thousand people during 2019 and 2020 AD through sectoral saudization programs and agreements with the supervising authorities.

66. Raising the minimum salary for Saudis working in the private sector to (4) thousand riyals in 2020.

67. Launching the (Marn/ Flexible) platform in 2020, which provides jobs with flexible work schedules and connects companies with job seekers in selected jobs using advanced technologies.

68. Launching the (Madad) platform in 2020 to enable establishments to organize and manage workers' wages according to integrated and advanced processes.

69. Launching the (Digital Tracking) platform in 2020, which contains a package of electronic services relating to the employee's work in the public sector, since the date of his/ her appointment until he reaches the end of service stage.

70. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has re-engineered recruitment procedures and raised the quality of recruitment to achieve several objectives, including transparency, raising competitiveness, and preserving the rights of the parties to the contractual relationship. Cabinet Resolution No. 73945 was issued regarding the adoption of the platform (Musaned) for the issuance of electronic visas. It is an electronic platform and a new and integrated system that facilitates contracting procedures with domestic workers to guarantee the rights of all parties to the contractual relationship.

71. Expansion of monitoring visits to offices and companies involved in recruitment; to monitor violations relating to the use of visas for purposes other than those for which they were issued. The total of those visits in 2020 reached (12,369) visits, and the number of violations monitored was (2,199).

72. Launching three projects related to the right to work, namely: "work consciously" with the aim of disseminating knowledge of the initiatives and programs of the Vision Realization Office and raising awareness internally in the Ministry and externally in the labor market, and launching the Labor Culture website, which was developed to disseminate knowledge about rights, duties and regulations within the framework of labor culture and the provision of electronic services, and finally the launch of the labor law training project on the (Doroob) platform; a project concerned with developing a training program on the labor law on the Doroob platform. It targets job seekers.

73. Several measures have been taken to address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in the context of the right to work and workers' rights, the most prominent of which are as follows:

- [Activating remote work.](#)
- [Postponing the collection of municipal fees from private sector establishments.](#)
- [Exempting expatriates whose residencies have expired from this date until June 30,](#)

2020, from the financial fee, by extending the period of their residency for a period of three months without charge.

- The Central Bank of Saudi Arabia launched a program worth 50 billion Saudi riyals. The said program includes support and financing for small and medium enterprises, in support of the private sector to play its role in promoting economic growth to support government efforts in combating Covid-19.
- Allocating government support by the human resources and social development system for the sector's establishments at the amount of (17.3) riyals in order to enable them to be developed, contribute to supporting economic growth and maintaining employment within the framework of supporting efforts to mitigate the effects of precautionary measures to combat this epidemic.
- The State bears 60% of the salaries of employees in the private sector, in order to preserve the jobs.
- Reducing the value of electricity bills for consumers in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors by 30% for a period of two months (April-May), with the possibility of extension, if needed.
- Supporting individuals (men or women) working directly who are not under the umbrella of any company and registered with the Public Authority for Transport in passenger transport activities and were stopped due to preventive measures, by paying them an amount equal to the minimum salary.

74. Launching the "Improving the Contractual Relationship" initiative. It is one of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 initiatives aimed at improving the labor market, increasing employment rates, improving the level of productivity, and assisting in attracting international talent, in addition to promoting and protecting human rights. The initiative provided a number of services, as follows:

- Career Mobility Service: It is a service that allows the expatriate to move to another facility after completing 12 months from the first entry into the KSA without requiring the approval of the first employer in accordance with the controls that protect both parties to the contractual relationship.
- Final Exit Service: It is a service that allows the expatriate to submit a final exit request during the validity of the employment contract or after its termination automatically in the Absher system. The worker has the right to leave the Kingdom without requiring the approval of the employer in accordance with the controls that protect both parties to the contractual relationship agreed upon with the work team.
- Exit and Return Service: It is a service that allows the expatriate worker to submit a request for exit and return during the validity of the work contract automatically in the Absher system. The worker has the right to leave the KSA without requiring the approval of the employer according to the controls that protect both parties to the contractual relationship agreed upon with the work team.

75. Launching the “vocational examination” program on March 7, 2021 AD, to ensure the competence of professional workers in the Saudi labor market.

76. The human capacity development program - referred to in the Right to Education and Training Clause - launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz in September 2021 AD, included, among its objectives,: Ensuring compatibility between education outputs and the needs of the labor market, improving youth readiness to enter the labor market, expanding vocational training to meet the needs of the labor market, and promote and support a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Ninth: Combating Human Trafficking

The KSA has taken advanced steps in the field of combating crimes of human trafficking, by taking several legislative, institutional, procedural and judicial measures aimed at combating and preventing these crimes. These measures have resulted in raising the Kingdom's classification in Human Trafficking Index in the reports of the US State Department from (Tier 3), which is the lowest level, to (Tier 2 - Watch List) in 2020, and from (Tier 2 - Watch List) to (Tier 2) in 2021. The following is a review of the most prominent reforms and developments in the field of combating human trafficking crimes:

77. The National Mechanism for Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking was launched in August 2020, aiming to document cases of human trafficking, starting from the stage of monitoring them to their adjudication by the competent courts, and guiding workers in the concerned authorities regarding the procedures that should be followed at each stage in accordance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Crimes Law. The development of an electronic system has been completed and coordination is underway to train liaison officers in all relevant authorities, and electronic linking procedures are being completed with the authorities concerned with the national referral mechanism.

78. Launching the “Contractual Relationship Improvement” initiative (in November 2020). It is one of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 initiatives that enhance the rights and freedom of workers. Details of this initiative will be referred to in the work section of this report.

79. Allocating criminal chambers in the concerned courts to hear cases of human trafficking.

80. Establishing departments in the Public Prosecution Office specialized in investigating cases of human trafficking in all branches of the Public Prosecution Office.

81. The Ministry of Interior has prepared several models with the aim of ensuring that international humanitarian standards are met in arrest and deportation operations, ensuring that the principle of non-refoulement is not violated, detecting possible cases of victims of human trafficking, applying basic standards and principles for the treatment of prisoners, and enabling detainees to access the mechanisms of remedy and reporting cases of abuse or allegations of abuse.

82. The National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2021-2023 was approved on 25/12/1442 AH, corresponding to July 25, 2021 AD. The plan was prepared in coordination with the Committee-concerned authorities and international organizations (UNODC-IOM). The plan includes four strategic axes (prevention, protection and assistance, prosecution, partnerships and cooperation). Further, strategic objectives, activities and initiatives related to each objective were built in detail and according to achievable objectives.

83. Ensure to establish labor attachés in the Kingdom's embassies in the countries from which workers are recruited.

84. Training of more than (2,234) trainees by the Standing Committee on Trafficking in Persons in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Tenth: The right to participate in cultural life

Several measures have been taken that have contributed to the consolidation of the right to participate in cultural life for all with no discrimination, including the following:

85. The establishment of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property under Resolution No. 496 dated 14.09.1439 AH corresponding to (29/05/2018 AD) by the Council of Ministers. The Authority undertakes intellectual property activities in the Kingdom.

86. The approval of license issuance for cinemas and the issuance of the executive regulations for the Audiovisual Media Law on 04/03/1440 AH, corresponding to (November 12th, 2018), including detailed provisions that regulate audiovisual media activities, including cinema and its services.

87. The launch of the cultural scholarship program and the launch of its e-platform in January 2020.

88. The establishment of Thunaiyat Ad-Diriyah Foundation in May 2020, which is a Saudi cultural foundation concerned with contemporary arts.

89. The issuance of the Saudi Cultural Development Fund Law by Royal Decree (M/45) dated 23/05/1442 AH.

90. The establishment of (11) cultural bodies in February 2020, which have a public legal personality and financial and administrative independence, and are organizationally linked to the Minister of Culture. The new bodies are the Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission, the Fashion Commission, the Film Commission, the Heritage Commission, the Architecture and Design Arts Commission, the Visual Arts Commission, the Museums Commission, the Theater and Performing Arts Commission, the Libraries Commission, Music Commission, and the Culinary Arts Commission.

91. Among the pioneering initiatives in this aspect is the launch of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a plan for a journey through time, inspired by the nature and heritage of Al Ula, to responsibly and sustainably revitalize and rehabilitate the main archaeological area in Al Ula.

92. The expansion in the establishment of cultural, artistic and entertaining activities and events in the Kingdom's various regions and guarantee access for all citizens and residents without any discrimination.

Eleventh: The right to development and social welfare

The adoption of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 is a historic reform in the field of the right to development, as the commitments and targets it contained, and the programs and initiatives that developed through it, combine to achieve sustainable development that people enjoy. Many measures have been taken to enhance social welfare, and the following is a review of such reforms in this aspect:

93. The adoption of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and the programs and initiatives that developed through it representing a qualitative leap in the development field, as it is in total harmony with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

94. The establishment of the General Authority of Awqaf by Royal Decree No. (M/11) dated 26/02/1437 AH corresponding to (December 8, 2015 AD). It aims to organize endowments (Awqaf) to enhance their role in economic and social development and social solidarity, which will have a positive impact on the human rights situation.

95. The issuance of Sovereign Ordinance No. (24535) dated 25/05/1438 AH corresponding to (February 22, 2017 AD), approving the methodology for calculating the absolute poverty line to measure the poverty problem in the Kingdom.

96. The approval of the National Environment Strategy in accordance with the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (454) dated 22/08/1439 AH corresponding to (May 8, 2018 AD).

97. The approval of the Food Security Strategy in accordance with the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (439) dated 15/08/1439 AH corresponding to (May 1, 2018 AD).

98. The approval of the National Water Strategy in accordance with the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (227) dated 06/05/1439 AH corresponding to (January 23, 2018 AD).

99. Among the best practices observed in this area is establishing a “Citizen’s Account” program to support Saudi families in facing the expected direct and indirect impact of various economic reforms by redirecting the benefits of the government to eligible groups.

100. The Private Sector Partnership Reinforcement Program (Shareek) is one of the Saudi Vision 2030 programs. It was inaugurated by His Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on March 30th, 2021 AD, to reinforce the partnership between the private and government sectors, which contributes to supporting the sustainable growth of the national economy, enhancing the resilience and capabilities of major companies regionally and globally, and enabling major national companies to achieve investment goals and opportunities.

101. The issuance of the new Social Security Law by Royal Decree No. (M/32) dated 04/04/1442 AH, which aims to (establish the necessary means and measures to address cases of poverty in society, and ensure a minimum income that meets the basic needs of each beneficiary by estimating the calculated minimum pension limit, providing appropriate support, providing support and social protection to beneficiaries, taking into account the neediest and most deserving, enabling the beneficiary to achieve financial independence and transform into a productive person through rehabilitation and training, and setting up mechanisms that ensure assistance to beneficiaries in case of crises and disasters). The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Planning, is currently working on a plan to reform the Social Protection Law through three basic pillars (equality between citizens in social assistance, creating flexibility through social insurance, and enhancing job opportunities through the labor market), which will contribute to reducing poverty and ability to manage economic crises and contribute to economic growth, by working to enact facilitating legislation and laws to achieve them. This is

achieved through the adoption of non-traditional programs to address poverty.

102. The establishment of the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank in February 2021, as one of the development funds and banks affiliated with the National Development Fund, which aims to increase financing provided to the small and medium enterprises sector and bridge the financing gap.

103. The establishment of the National Water Efficiency and Conservation Center on February 3rd, 2021 AD, which is a Saudi governmental center that aims to consolidate efforts to raise the efficiency and conservation of water, improve the efficiency of the water supply chain, and achieve sustainable development within the framework of the objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

104. The formation of the Supreme Committee for Research, Development and Innovation (a Saudi national committee) on March 9th, 2021, which is concerned with developing the research, development and innovation sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and is associated with the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.

105. The launch of the "Made in Saudi" Program, which is a Saudi national program launched by the Saudi Exports Development Authority on March 28th, 2021 AD, in partnership with the industrial system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is a national project and one of the initiatives of the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program that aim to transform the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into a world-leading industrial destination.

106. Among the evolutions achieved in the area of development is ensuring that all children, boys and girls, have access to education, reducing under-five mortality rates, maternal mortality rates, HIV prevalence rates and other major disease prevalence rates, and achieving progress in empowering women to participate in the labor market.

Twelfth: Women's Rights

The area of promoting and protecting women's rights and women empowerment is considered the area most affected by reforms and developments, and this is asserted by the quantity and quality of the measures taken in this context and their results. Among the most prominent reforms and developments are:

107. The Family Affairs Council was established by Council of Ministers Resolution No. (443) dated 20.10.1437 AH corresponding to (July 25th, 2016 AD), to undertake the task of caring for family affairs. One of its committees was allocated to undertake women's affairs and another committee was concerned with family protection. This is an important development in the institutional framework for promoting and protecting the rights of women and the family, where the Women's Committee works on discussing all issues related to women, and proposes strategies and legislation that would empower women in all aspects of their lives. The Women's Committee is currently working in coordination with the relevant authorities to prepare a national plan of action for women and align it with the goals of the National Transformation Program and its initiatives and the global objectives for sustainable development concerning women.

108. Royal Ordinance No. 27808 dated 16/06/1438 AH corresponding to (March 15, 2017 AD) was issued to study the domestic violence cases and the optimal procedures for addressing cases related to guardianship and custody. The most prominent provisions in this Decree are: reviewing the relevant laws, proposing appropriate amendments to them, preparing a code that provides guidance and awareness of domestic violence issues in general, custody and other related issues, and organizing some programs for judges in all regions of the Kingdom, with the participation of the relevant authorities. Several measures have been taken to enforce this Ordinance.

109. The amended Law of Protection from Abuse was issued in March 2022, which is considered an enhancement to the legal framework to combat violence against women and other groups covered by the Law.

110. The issuance of Royal Ordinance No. 905 dated 06/01/1439 AH corresponding to (September 26, 2017 AD) approving the application of the provisions of the Traffic Law and its executive regulations, including the issuance of driving licenses, for both males and females. Women started driving cars following the Sovereign Ordinance dated 10/10/1439 AH corresponding to (June 24, 2018 AD).

111. The regulation of the Alimony Fund was issued pursuant to the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (679) dated 15.11.1438 AH corresponding to (07.08.2017 AD). The Fund aims to ensure that alimony is paid to beneficiaries without delay, in accordance with the provisions contained in the regulation according to Article (3) of its regulations. Following Article (4) of the regulations, the Fund undertakes the disbursement of alimony for those who have been issued a court judgment on their entitlement to it but has not been implemented, except in cases of insolvency, disbursement of alimony for those who have been issued a court order on their entitlement to it but the claim is still considered before the court, and disbursement of alimony for beneficiaries before an alimony judgment is rendered, provided that the Fund recovers it from the amounts due to the beneficiary under the alimony judgment, and if a judgment was rendered dismissing the alimony, the beneficiary must return the amounts it received to the Fund within two months from the date of the judgment becoming final and conclusive.

112. The issuance of Royal Ordinance No. 33322 dated 21/07/1438 AH (corresponding to 18.04.2017), which affirmed that all concerned authorities must not require women to obtain the guardian's approval when providing services to them or finalizing their procedures.

113. The Minister of Education issued a decision on 17/10/1438 AH corresponding to (11/07/2017 AD) to start implementing the physical education program in girls' schools starting from the academic year (1438 AH / 1439 AH) corresponding to (2017 / 2018 AD). This decision is given in the implementation of one of the objectives of the "Kingdom's Vision 2030", which includes increasing the percentage of sports practitioners in society.

114. The Anti-Harassment Crime Law was issued by Royal Decree No. (M/ 96) dated 16/09/1439 AH corresponding to (May 31, 2018).

It aims at combating and preventing the crime of harassment, applying punishment to its perpetrators, and protecting the victim, thus safeguarding the privacy, dignity and personal freedom of the individual guaranteed by the provisions of the Islamic Sharia and laws.

115. The amendment of the unified form of the work regulation by virtue of Decision No. 84447 by the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development dated 27/04/1439 AH corresponding to (January 14, 2018), where Article (34) of the form provided for general controls, including prohibiting any discrimination in wages between male and female workers at work for their equal value.

116. The issuance of Royal Ordinance No. 25803 dated 29/05/1439 AH corresponding to (February 15, 2018) regarding the provision of legal assistance to women and children in cases of abuse, which includes the directive of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development in coordination with the Saudi Bar Association to

obtain a periodic list of the names and addresses of advocates donating to provide judicial aid, and to cooperate with them, pursuant to Paragraph (11) of Article (13) of the Saudi Bar Association Regulation.

117. The issuance of Circular by the Chief of the Supreme Judicial Council No. 1049 / V dated 20/06/1439 AH, which includes establishing the child's custody to the mother without the need to file a case in an indisputable matter.

118. The establishment of the Women Empowerment Department under the umbrella of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. The Department aims to create initiatives and projects that support the empowerment of women in the Saudi labor market and work to implement them with to achieve the goal of increasing women's participation in the labor market to achieve justice in the labor market opportunities in both public and private sectors.

119. Amending the Travel Document Law and its executive regulations to ensure that women obtain a passport and travel abroad on an equal basis with men (following Royal Decree No. (M/134) dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to July 30, 2019 AD).

120. The amendment of Article (30) of the Personal Status Law by deleting the phrase "The place of residence of a married woman is the place of residence of her husband if they continue to live together...", Article (33) by granting women equal rights to men with regard to reporting births, Article (47) by making the husband or wife responsible for reporting the state of marriage, divorce, remarriage, court divorce, or legal separation (mukhala'), and the same may be reported by the husband's father, the wife's father, or one of their relatives, and amending Article (50) by granting both husband and wife the right to request a record the family record from the Civil Status Department, Article (53) to allow women to report the death of their ascendants, descendants, husband, or any of their relatives equally with men, and Article (91) to read as follows: "The household head, in the field of applying this Law, is the father or the mother "for minor children" (pursuant to Royal Decree No. (M/134) dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to July 30, 2019 AD).

121. The amendment of the Labor Law to ensure equality for all in terms of rights, duties, and conditions of service, as the amendments included the amendment of Article (3) to affirm that work is a right for citizens and that no discrimination may be caused on the basis of gender, disability, age, or any other form of discrimination in the work context, and the amendment of Article (155) by stipulating the prohibition of dismissing a female worker or warning her of dismissal while she is pregnant or on maternity leave including the duration of her sickness arising from either of such cases (according to Royal Decree No. (M/134) dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to July 30, 2019 AD).

122. The amendment of the Social Insurance Law, including the amendment of Article (38) of the Social Insurance Law to achieve equality between men and women at the retirement age, so retirement for both genders is (60) years old (according to Royal Decree No. (M/134) dated 27/11/1440 AH corresponding to July 30, 2019 AD).

123. The issuance of the regulation on tourist accommodation facilities, which includes not rejecting accommodation of (citizen or resident) women, taking into account the submission of the original proof of identity or legally approved residence.

124. The empowerment provided by the Saudi Sports for All Federation for community members, including women and girls, to practice sports activities.

125. Enabling women to participate in the Olympics.

126. The launch of the “Women’s Empowerment” initiative by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, which aims to increase the women qualitative participation rate in the public and private sectors and at all job levels through women assuming senior structural leadership positions, investing in their energies and capabilities, expanding their work options and increasing their participation to achieve the balance between the two genders and reducing the gap in quantity and quality between men and women, and overcoming the obstacles facing such matter to advance human, economic and social development.

127. The launch of the “Qurrah” program to support the childcare service for working women, the “Wusool” program to support the transportation of working women, the “Self-Employment Support” program that expands opportunities to increase women’s income according to their skills, and the “Part-Time” and “Remote Work” programs that enable women to achieve the balance between work and family, and to enable women in rural and remote areas to engage in the labor market.

128. Complete equality between men and women in obtaining a job-seeking subsidy, as women receive the same amount of subsidy as men, as well as with regard to training and employment support provided by the Human Resources Development Fund to women and men who are employed in the private sector, both in terms of the amount or duration of the support for training costs and wages.

129. The launch of the initiative to train women leaders in cooperation with “INSEAD International University”, as 958 women have been trained to date. The “National Program for the Preparation and Development of Administrative Leaders” has also been launched within the initiatives of the Institute of Public Administration, aiming for empowering women leaders in the civil service through building their leadership potential and capability and increasing their participation in decision-making positions.

130. The launch of the “National Platform for Saudi Women Leaders”, which is an interactive national platform under the umbrella of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development in cooperation with Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University. The platform contains a database of women national leaders in order to facilitate expedited access to leaders, whether in the public sector, private sector institutions, and civil society institutions.

131. The participation of Saudi women increased, as their participation rate was 17% when the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 was first adopted in 2016, and it reached 35.6% in 2021.

132. The appointment of (30) women in the Shura Council, at a rate of (20%) of the total number of Council members.

133. The appointment of (13) women in the Council of the Human Rights Commission, at a rate of 50% of the Council members in 2020 AD.

134. The Ministry of Justice launched the initiative to implement the judgment of custody, meeting and visitation “Shaml”, after setting up 19 specialized centers in all regions of the Kingdom, being part of its initiatives in the National Transformation Program 2020 that achieves the Kingdom Vision 2030. The initiative aims to promote children’s rights and preserve family privacy, and facilitates implementing judgments for the beneficiaries in cooperation with the non-profit sector. It also generates job opportunities in the area of community service.

135. The Attorney General issued instructions to treat female advocates as male advocates and to enable them to view their clients’ papers, and to attend the investigation with them in accordance with Article (70) of the Law of Criminal Procedure.

136. Paving the way for women to occupy judicial, security and military positions, including the Public Prosecution’s announcement of jobs for women as members of the Public Prosecution on an equal basis with male members of the Public Prosecution, and on equal conditions for both genders applying for work. The number of female members of the Public Prosecution has reached (200) members, and (282) female administrative employees, and the number of female trainees is (238) trainees. In the field of security sector work, the total number of female workers in the security and military authorities reached (2%) of the total number of the government sector female employees, as the total number of female employees in the security and military sectors reached (8,377) women, and (9,976) female workers in the Ministry of Interior and its affiliated emirates.

Thirteenth: Child Rights

Many reforms have been achieved in child rights, and it is worth mentioning in this context that these reforms were largely consistent with the Kingdom's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which it is a party. The following is a review of these reforms:

137. Establishing the Family Affairs Council, as Article (6) of its regulations stipulates that it forms the necessary technical committees, including the Children Committee, the Elderly Committee, and the Women's Committee.

138. The issuance of the Juvenile Law by virtue of Royal Decree No. (M/ 113) dated 18.11.1439 AH corresponding to (July 31st, 2018), which included the provisions and procedures necessary to deal with juvenile delinquents and their cases, including procedures for suspension, arrest, investigation and trial in a way that is consistent with their age and that achieves the interest by correcting their behavior. In Article (51) of the Law, if a juvenile commits a crime punishable by death, it is sufficient to place such juvenile in a house designated for juveniles for no more than (10) years.

139. The launch of the early childhood initiative "Quick Wins", which takes advantage of the material, human and financial resources to achieve an increase in enrollment in primary classes by entrusting the teaching of boys and girls to female teachers at the beginning of the academic year 1441 AH.

140. The issuance of Royal Decree No. 46274 dated 29.07.1441 AH corresponding to (March 24th, 2020) to stop the execution of the death penalty for those who were issued final death sentences before the issuance of the Juvenile Law for crimes they committed while they were under the age of (eighteen), and apply the Juvenile Law to them.

141. The launch of Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initiative in 2020 to protect children in the cyber world to provide a safe digital environment for children.

142. Some further necessary measures have been taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that all families and children have access to the digital environment, the most prominent of which are:

- Providing (40,000) free internet SIM cards, in cooperation with the Digital Giving Initiative, to enable the neediest groups to access the Internet and educational platforms, at a value of 5 million riyals.
- Providing free access to educational platforms for students through websites.

- The initiative to provide discounts on Internet and telecommunications services through service-providing companies.

- As some families need technical assistance, guidelines have been printed on ways to use educational digital platforms, in cooperation with the educational efforts of the Ministry of Education.

143. The launch of the Kindergarten Development Initiative, and the expansion of its services to cover all regions of the Kingdom, to achieve the strategic goal of “ensuring quality, equitable, inclusive education for all, and enhancing lifelong learning opportunities for all” through the indicator “gross enrollment rates in kindergartens”, one of the most important objectives of which is raising the child enrollment rate in kindergartens from 17% to 95% in 2030.

144. Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University launched awareness and preventive programs for the child, in partnership with the competent authorities in the University, such as the College of Education (Department of Early Childhood), Humanities and Health Colleges, Child Literature Research Chair, Health Sciences Research Center, and King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz University Hospital.

145. Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Islamic University of Madinah regarding preventive immunizations for children and adults, preventive programs, monitoring of confirmed disease cases through the “Hosn” program, and taking the necessary measures regarding the same. Children’s health awareness programs will be activated and launched in the medical center, in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

146. The Audiovisual Media Commission launched the age classification of electronic games, which is a classification and evaluation system that determines the suitability of content for different age groups.

147. The issuance of the National Policy to Prevent Child Labor in the Kingdom pursuant to the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 493 dated 24/08/1442 AH corresponding to (April 6, 2021 AD), which aims to provide a safe environment that supports childhood in order to create a community where children enjoy all their rights guaranteed to them by Islamic Sharia and the legislations in the kingdom.

Fourteenth: Rights of persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities are among the groups that have received special attention from the Kingdom, and this interest was crystal clear in the Kingdom's Vision 2030 inclusion of commitments, goals and initiatives that come together to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society. Among the most prominent reforms achieved in this aspect are:

148. The Ministry of Education adoption of the concept of inclusive education, which began to be applied at the beginning of the academic year 1436/1437 AH corresponding to (2015/2016 AD) in public education schools, which serves students with disabilities within the framework of activating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

149. The establishment of the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities pursuant to the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (266) dated 27/05/1439 AH corresponding to (February 13, 2018 AD), to care for persons with disabilities, ensuring that they obtain their rights related to disability, and enhancing the services provided by government agencies to them, in a way that helps them obtain the necessary care and rehabilitation, raising the level of prevention, taking the necessary procedures for the same in coordination and cooperation with the relevant authorities, defining the roles of agencies with regard to the care of persons with disabilities, and issuing a kind directive to adopt the term persons with disabilities in all official correspondence and media statements.

150. The Kingdom's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (2013 AD), by virtue of Royal Decree M/109 dated 05/11/1439 AH corresponding to (July 18, 2018 AD).

151. Launching the Special Education Development Initiative by (building the national strategy document for the education of people with disabilities) at the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Education Evaluation Commission, charities, and the King Salman Center for Disability Research.

152. The launch of the "Yaseer" program, which is an educational program for people with marginal intelligence, which began at the beginning of the academic year 1437/1438 AH, corresponding to (2017/2018 AD).

153. The Ministry of Education launching an initiative concerned with providing educational services to students residing in oncology centers and hospitals, by opening (5) classrooms and an early intervention program for (20) government kindergartens in (5) educational departments.

154. The initiatives of the National Transformation Program to enable the integration of people with disabilities into the labor market contributed to raising the percentage of employed persons with disabilities who are able to work from 7.70% in 2017 to 12% by the end of 2020.

155. The formation of a committee in the Ministry of the Interior on 03/04/1442 AH, to study a questionnaire that includes the conditions and specifications that must be fulfilled in the buildings of the Ministry and its affiliated sectors and the services that are provided, which ensure easy and facilitated access for persons with disabilities. The competent authority in the Ministry re-evaluates all buildings and prepares them to be a suitable environment for the use of persons with disabilities.

156. The formation of a committee with members from the following ministries: (Education, Human Resources and Social Development, Health, and Media) and the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities, with the aim of activating awareness programs for families on the importance of treating and educating their children with disabilities, supporting the access of persons with disabilities to their rights from those entities, and launching and circulating a simplified guideline on the comprehensive access standards so that all government entities follow such standards.

157. The Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities works in cooperation with the ministries of (Human Resources and Social Development, Education, and Health) to adopt the Unified Register of Persons with Disabilities to be a complete base for all data on persons with disabilities in the Kingdom.

Fifteenth: The Elderly Rights

The Kingdom is one of the first countries to take all procedures of supporting and protecting the elderly, based on its values that requires preserving and caring for the rights of this age group. The Kingdom has called on the international community to adopt an agreement on the rights of the elderly similar to the agreements on the rights of specific groups, and the following are the most prominent reforms taken in this area:

158. The issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 167493 dated 18/11/1441 AH, which includes approving the regulatory controls and licensing the elderly's civil centers by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, supervision, providing and developing their technical work models. Also, work is ongoing on the national project for social clubs, which aims to achieve elderly welfare by providing appropriate social, sports and cultural services. The Elderly Committee in the Family Affairs Council is concerned with reviewing the regulations, laws and legislation for services provided to the elderly.

159. In 2020 AD, the General Presidency of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque allocated two lanes for the elderly and people with disabilities in the Holy Mosque of Mecca.

160. In 1442 AH, the Ministry of Health launched the (Awlawia) service, through which rapid vaccination with the emerging coronavirus vaccine is made available to all citizens and residents over the age of 75 years old directly without registration or appointment.

161. The launch of transportation services for elderly pilgrims and worshipers at the Grand Mosque on February 4, 2021 AD.

162. On January 3, 2021, the Ministry of Justice announced the expansion of mobile notaries to serve the elderly including those aged 65, instead of 70, and above to serve the largest possible age group of society and save their time and effort.

163. The Law on the Elderly People Rights and Care was issued by Royal Decree No. (M/47) dated 03/06/1443 AH, and it stipulated in Article (2) thereof that the Ministry of Human Resources, in coordination with the relevant authorities, shall enable the elderly to live in an environment that preserves their rights and dignity, raise awareness and educate them about their rights, support voluntary activities for their service, and rehabilitate public, commercial, and residential facilities to be suitable for the elderly needs.

Sixteenth: Relief and Humanitarian Work

The Kingdom is one of the world-leading countries in the field of relief and humanitarian work, as it has not hesitated to provide aid, assistance and relief to countries and societies that are in crisis. The following are the Kingdom's most prominent efforts in this aspect:

164. The establishment of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre on 24/07/1436 AH corresponding to (May 13, 2015 AD). It is a center dedicated to international relief and humanitarian work, and it works through a set of programs designed according to the latest international models to be an extension of the vital role of relief and aid programs provided by the Kingdom for communities that are in humanitarian crises, to help them and alleviate their suffering so that they live a decent life. It aims to unify the Kingdom's relief work abroad, and to coordinate between all (governmental and non-governmental) parties related to relief work.

165. The issuance of the kind directive to establish the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen in May 2018, which was a strategic initiative aimed at assisting the Yemeni government, and providing a comprehensive and organized development plan in Yemen during and after the conflict. The Program executed (91) programs in the different governorates of Yemen, including security, transportation, health, education, water, oil derivatives, energy, agriculture and fisheries sectors.

166. The Kingdom, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, has provided health aid to Yemen, including medicines and medical supplies for prevention and treatment valued at USD 59,496,540 to face the emerging Corona epidemic. The Kingdom has also provided aid to China, represented in securing medical devices and supplies through several international companies, to fight the coronavirus (COVID 19).

167. The number of (completed and in progress) projects of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre until February 28, 2022 AD is (1919) projects, with a total cost of (SAR 5,646,961,563).

Seventeenth: Regional and International Cooperation and Solidarity

The Kingdom is a founding member of the United Nations and a member of many regional and international organizations. It has spared no effort in providing cooperation with international bodies and mechanisms concerned with human rights, and solidarity with international partners to combat global challenges. The following are the most prominent efforts of the Kingdom in this area:

168. The issuance of Royal Decree No. (M/31) dated 27/05/1434 AH approving a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation between the Kingdom represented by the Human Rights Commission and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance activities and programs and train national capacities in human rights.

169. The issuance of Royal Decree No. (M/109) dated 24/10/1438 AH corresponding to (July 18, 2017 AD), approving a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation between the Kingdom, represented by the Human Rights Commission, and the International Organization for Migration. This memorandum aims to enhance cooperation in issues related to combating and preventing trafficking in persons, assisting, caring for, protecting and sheltering victims, developing activities and programs, and developing national capabilities.

170. In 2017, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism visited the Kingdom within the framework of the Kingdom's cooperation with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

171. The issuance of Royal Decree No. (M/91) dated 12/08/1440 AH corresponding to (April 17, 2019 AD) approving a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Human Rights Commission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State in the United States of America.

172. More than (85) programs and activities were held to raise national capacities within the framework of the memorandum of understanding concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Human Rights Commission, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

173. The Kingdom submitted all its reports on human rights conventions, and has become one of (36) countries committed to submitting its treaty-specific reports among the (197) states parties to the treaties.

174. In light of the Kingdom's presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), the Kingdom called for an extraordinary, virtual, summit meeting to discuss ways to unite efforts to confront the spread of the Corona epidemic. The meeting was held on Thursday, March 26th, 2020, where a final statement was issued and included the undertakings and commitments of the leaders of those countries, to combat and limit the spread of this Epidemic.

175. The Kingdom provided financial support to the World Health Organization amounting to USD113 million, in response to the urgent call by the WHO on all countries to intensify efforts to take global measures to combat the spread of the Coronavirus.

176. In light of the Kingdom's presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), the Kingdom announced its pledge to provide USD 500 million to international organizations for the sake of supporting global efforts combating this epidemic, calling on countries, non-governmental organizations, charities and the private sector to contribute to these international efforts to bridge the financing gap necessary to combat the Corona epidemic (COVID19), which is estimated at more than USD 8 billion, according to the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board.

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THANK YOU