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Navigating Sustainability: A Comparative Analysis of SDG Performance in the GCC through the Lens of Social Capital Theory

Saeed Hameed Aldulaimi[1*], Ibrahim A. Abu-AlSondos[2], Rola Noun[3], Marwan M. Abdeldayem[4]

[1]College of Administrative Sciences, Applied Science University, Kingdom of Bahrain; Saeed.aldulaimi@asu.edu.bh (S.H.A.).
[2]Faculty of Business, Middle East University (MEU), Amman 11831, Jordan; i.abualsondos@meu.edu.jo (I.A.A.A.).
[3]Department of Business, Abu Dhabi Campus, Higher Colleges of Technology, United Arab Emirates UAE; rnoun@hct.ac.ae (R.N.).
[4]College of Administrative Sciences, Applied Science University (ASU) Kingdom of Bahrain; Marwan.abdeldayem@asu.edu.bh (M.M.A.).

Abstract. This study aims to review and analyze the progress of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) performance as per the UN dashboard. This approach seeks to bolster the necessary capabilities for the effective implementation of sustainable projects, enhance efficiency in resource management, and achieve environmental and social objectives. Employing a comparative study method, the research delves into various facets to scrutinize the challenges of implementing sustainability guidelines in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Drawing upon the dual perspectives of constraining and expanding egos rooted in social capital theory, the study aims to offer strategic assessments and policy implications regarding key sustainability issues. By aligning with the overarching objectives of National Vision 2030 and fostering long-term sustainable development in the region, this research scrutinizes pivotal indicators and correlates them with key strategies for national advancement, while analyzing significant events and shifts in strategy alongside associated challenges.

Keywords: GCC, Social capital theory, Sustainability guidelines, Sustainable Development Goals, UN dashboard.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability development has been integrated into nearly all project management approaches including those bit the GCC. This is in line with the aspirations of 2030 in the six states which motivates for economic diversification and alleviation from oil as the core economic driver where other sectors like energy are developed. Sustainability guidelines are the standards and practices that seek to achieve sustainable development by incorporating the environmental, social, and economic dimensions within the management of projects (Dalal-Clayton & Sadler, 2014). It also includes minimizing the ecological consequences of the projects, maximizing resources, and improving the welfare of the host communities. Nonetheless, the adoption and performance differ greatly between the GCC counties explaining why there is a need for a comparative research to examine the variation and their explanations, as well as the problems and prospects each country has in this respect (Al-Yami, 2023). The government's role is to set up the legal and regulatory provisions that control the gearing and actual carrying out of the projects and also ensure the environmental and social compliance during the process. These guidelines contribute to enhancing transparency and accountability, in addition to providing a legislative environment that supports innovation and sustainability. The directives focus on Sustainable development aims through its mechanisms to support the living conditions of all individuals, achieve a better life for them, develop their awareness of existing environmental problems, reduce the depletion of natural resources, provide rational use of resources, technical and economic growth, and bring about continuous change in the priorities and needs of society. Sustainable development seeks through its means to achieve a better life for individuals, and the role of education is highlighted directly in the development of human resources, which is concerned with the development of knowledge (Emas, 2015).

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries are similar to developed countries in terms of the provision of basic services to the people. The percentage of people who receive basic services has reached 100%, with some minor exceptions that should not be mentioned (Aldulaimi et al., 2023). Apparently, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries do not suffer from the existence of poor categories of living below the international poverty line (less than $1.9 today), and even the lowest-income groups entitled to pensions and social security.

Her average daily income is about 29 US dollars today, which is 15 times the amount of the poverty line referred to many basic services are provided in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, such as education and health care services, free or for a small fee. The laws of the GCC countries guarantee that the lowest-income groups enjoy the enjoyment of... Here, obtain these services in addition to the right to own land, dispose of it, and obtain humanitarian aid, easy housing loans, and interest-free loans. Or housing grants for construction on these lands, or through direct ownership of the housing units that governments are building. The data shows that the percentage of government spending on basic services in the GCC countries in 2019 ranged between 18.2% and 43.0% (Zaidan et al., 2019).

This paper objectives to review and assess how the implementation of SDGs according to the UN dashboard has progressed. This approach can help to create the requisite skills to carry out sustainable projects effectively, improve resource use and meet environmental and societal objectives. Such a comparative study aims at the achievement of the thorough and multifaceted appreciation of the discrepancies and difficulties of the implementation of sustainability criteria within the GCC. By providing such tenders-detail analysis and practical

* Correspondence: Saeed.aldulaimi@asu.edu.bh

recommendations and promote awareness and education on sustainability. Thus, the study addresses such ambitious objectives of Vision 2030 and assures long term sustainability of the countries. This requires investigating, among others: pertinent measures, and national development policies and pinpointing important developments, shifts, and issues (Modibbo et al., 2021).

The SDG Index and Dashboards provides an annual assessment of SDG progress in all 193 UN member states. It builds on a peer-reviewed, statistically audited, and transparent methodology (Schmidt-Traub et al. 2017; Lafortune et al. 2018; Papadimitriou, Neves, and Becker 2019). Basically, the main research questions are the following:

- What are the achieved levels of SDGs in the world map in the GCC countries?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of improvements on the dashboard of SDGs index?
- Where are the recommendations to improve the current position of GCC countries on the dashboard of SDGs index?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sustainable development calls for a continuous moral commitment to the well-being of all humanity and the preservation of the biosphere. This means working to find solutions to improve the quality of life without postponing problems for the future, or unfairly negatively affecting others (Emas, R. (2015). Sustainable development is based on the philosophy that humans have the right to live at a decent standard of living in the present and the future, without depleting natural resources. The success of this depends on their ability to organize the use of resources, as it is one of the most important community resources that must be focused on and developed as a main entry point to achieve and sustain development (Al-Azmal, 2020). Therefore, the science teacher must provide students with many values and skills, in addition to creating a balance and integration between the economic, environmental and social aspects to achieve the goals of sustainable development (Enders & Remig, 2014).

The social capital theory is one of the theories closest to directing our research towards the concept of sustainable development in institutions and confirms the existence of a relationship between social capital and the value of production. Social capital can be defined as the relational relationships and societal values that contribute to achieving societal production, which contributes to caring for human capital and considers it part of that relationship (Dubos, 2017). It provides an explanation of the individual's status as a part of society through the drawing of interactive social relations in terms of trust and achieving societal production through integration with social networks (Akdere, 2005). Which gives this the building of a society capable of achieving the requirements of sustainable development and indicates the drawing of the direct relationship between the individual and production within society.

Sustainable development is the comprehensive development model of the United Nations, and there are four intertwined dimensions to it: (society, environment, culture and economy), and sustainability is a model for thinking about the future, as interest is balanced by consideration In the pursuit of improving the quality of life, sustainable development refers to many processes and paths to achieving a better world in agriculture and sustainability. Forests, sustainable production and consumption, good governance, etc. (UNESCO, 2014), and this makes the concept difficult due to its breadth. This applies to a large number of models developed for the concept of sustainability, and returning to the origin.

The Earth's population is increasing in a way that affects its ability to support all forms of life on the planet. And everyone's requirements in terms of goods and services. The widening gap between people around the world in terms of access to resources and achievement of welfare is an affront to human dignity and a source of international and cultural instability. Because of this, there is an urgent and increasing need for a different way of development, both socially and economically, that enables everyone to live well, and within the land's ability to meet the demands of the present and the future (Scott, 2015, p. 216).

The dimensions of sustainable development are pivotal dimensions that contribute to determining people's way of life, and giving top priority to any activities that have been implemented, which lead to the greatest possible improvement in social welfare, while taking care of available natural resources, and with the least possible damage and abuse to the environment (Balakrishnan et al. 2020). The dimensions of sustainable development include the environmental dimension, and everything related to protecting the environment, the economic dimension, and everything related to achieving economic growth, and the social dimension, and everything related to achieving balance and justice in society. Sustainable development is based on collective responsibility; to enhance three interconnected pillars, namely: economic development, comprehensive social development, and environmental protection; to provide for the needs of future generations, use environmentally friendly green products, reduce energy consumption, and reduce the carbon footprint rates per capita; and in order to achieve sustainable development, there must be harmony, integration, and interconnection between the various dimensions of sustainable development, and it is possible Referring to three interacting dimensions, these dimensions are: (economic, environmental, and social) dimensions (Aldulaimi & Abdeldayem, 2022).

In the current era, the dimensions of sustainable development contribute to facing environmental challenges by reducing Economic, in addition to supporting the improvement of the individual's standard of living, as the

transition to a green economy allows for the creation of huge opportunities for work in green jobs and various economic sectors, in addition to performing all their duties. Also, greenhouse gas emissions, working to develop the efficiency of resource use, refining their management, and preserving biodiversity, and it also participates in stimulating growth (Aldulaimi et al., 2022; Dantas et al. 2021).

2.1. Review and Analysis of the GCC SDGs Score in 2024

Middle Eastern governments have long been promoting sustainable development by relying on renewable energy sources given the importance of renewable energy in addressing climate change. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), MENA can produce 80% of the electricity consumed around the world through renewable energy sources by 2050. This will help us reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change (Dhaoui, 2022). The Figure 1 demonstrate the World SDG results 2024 dashboards by region and it is illustrating the Middle East and North Africa results. The overall score measures the total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs.

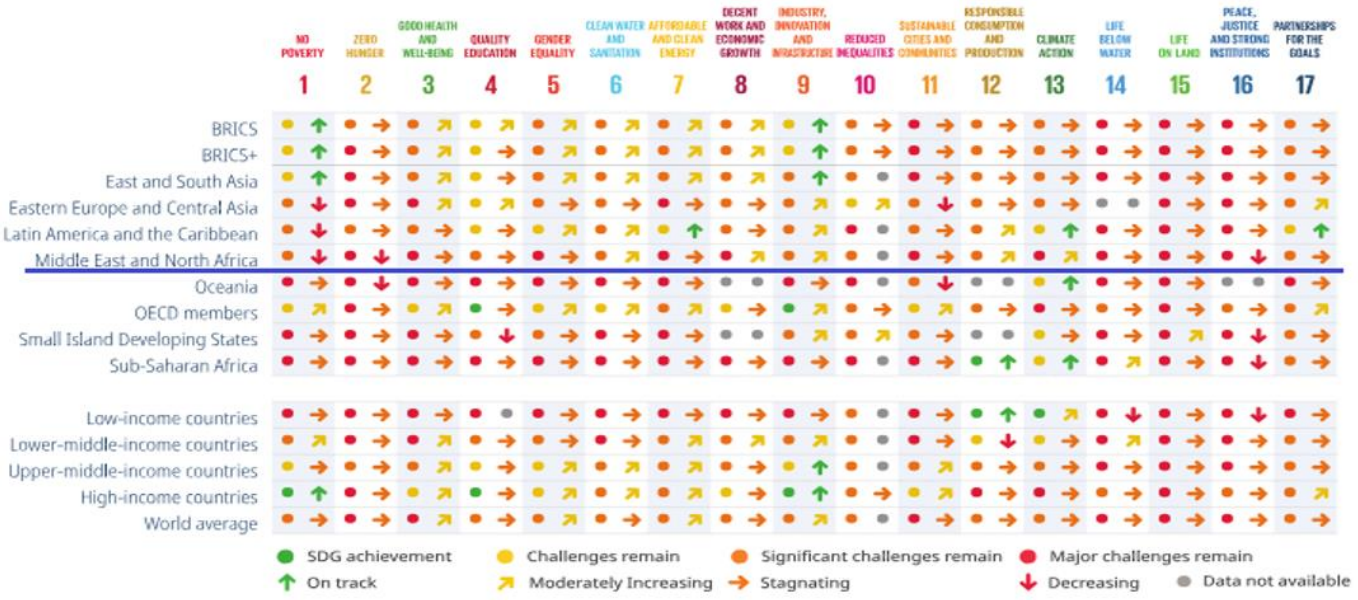


Figure 1: The World SDG results 2024 dashboards by region and income group (levels and trends)
Source: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/

The GCC courtiers adopted the United Nations goals for sustainable development, and included them in their future visions, national plans, and governmental programs. Its executive bodies were assigned to it, and even established ministries specialized in it, followed up on the implementation of these goals, and provided regarding the implementation of its national voluntary reports, and even created measurement indicators, and was keen on international interaction, regarding obstacles to implementation. The performance of the GCC countries in the SDGs can be observed from the SDG index and the dashboard shows the scores as shown in the figure 2. The higher level is UAE as they come in the 70 position out of 193 countries and scoring 70.5 out of 100.



Figure 2: the GCC score of SDG index in 2024.

All GCC countries have exceeded the international poverty line, which is set at $2.15 per day. The GCC

countries enjoy with the presence of social protection systems that target a wide segment of low-income groups in society. Countries also provide the Council provides many basic services, such as education and health care, as free services or for a nominal fee. National laws guarantee that the lowest-income groups in society receive special privileges, such as the right to own land. Without fees and access to housing assistance such as housing loans and direct ownership of housing units. Data from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries indicate that the proportion of the population who are they live above the international poverty line (less than $2.15 per year) is about 100%. The average daily income for these groups is about 29 US dollars about 13 times the international poverty line referred to. At the international level, the number of poor people has increased they live in extreme poverty in 2020, ranging between 75 and 95 million people. The social protection systems in the GCC countries cover a segment a wide range of societal groups, such as elderly people, widows, divorced women, needy families, people with disabilities, orphans, and the disabled about work, students at different levels of study, and those looking for he worked in a number of countries and were also laid off from their jobs (Chaaben et al., 2024; Abdeldayem et al., 2021). The figure 3 shaown the detailed results against each standard of every country.

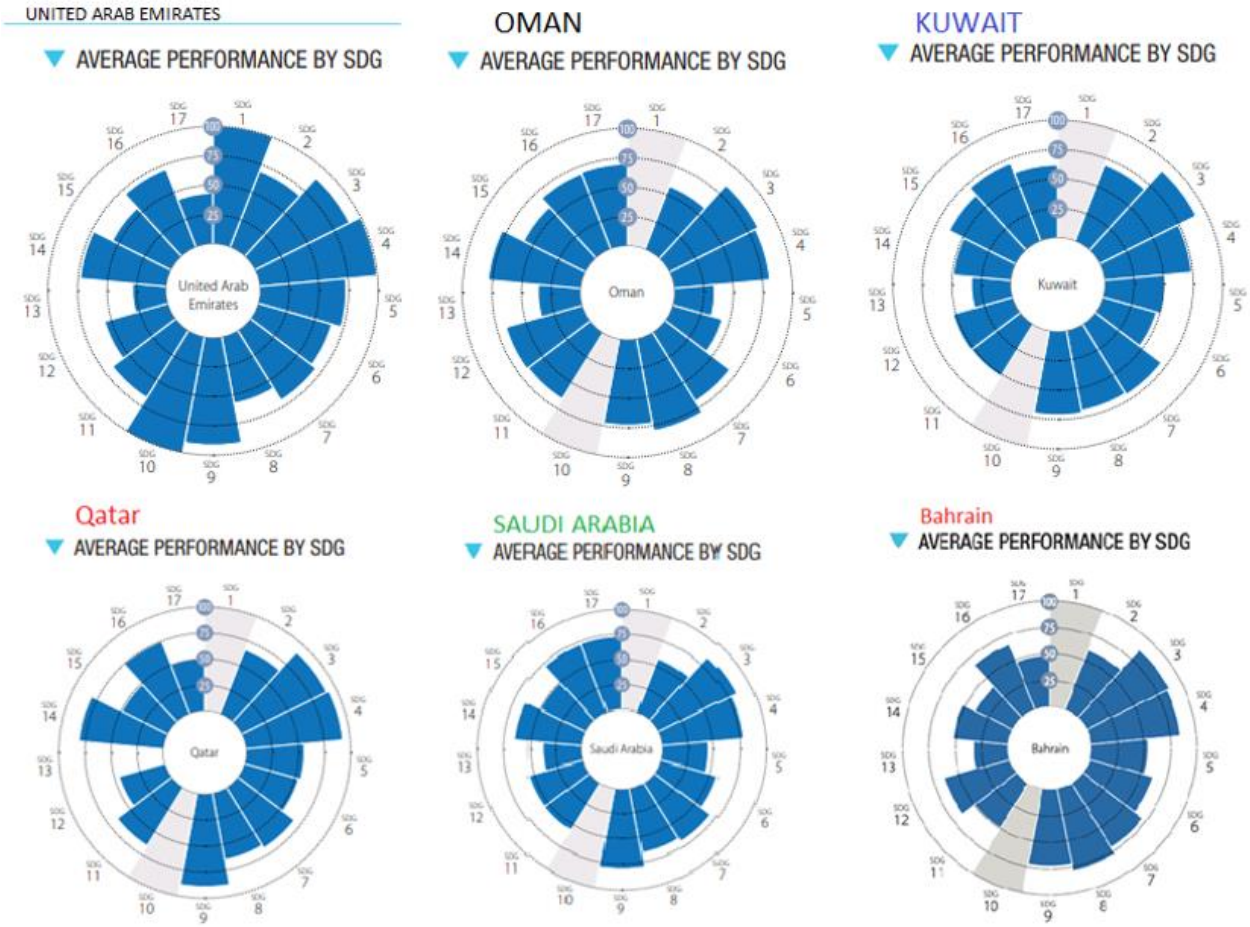


Figure 3: The GCC score on the map of SDG index in 2024.

The GCC countries achieved an advanced level in the index proportion of the population suffering from malnutrition, where data show that the value of this indicator does not exceed 3.6% of the total population at its highest levels, which places the Council in the ranks of its counterparts of the European countries whose index value was less than 2.5% in 2020, the GCC countries were able to exceed the global average amounting to 9.9% in the same year. The concept of sustainable agricultural practices refers to three dimensions for sustainable production, which are environmental, economic and social. In countries the Cooperation Council The percentage of agricultural area subject to change varies significantly sustainable agricultural practices, ranging from 3.0%, while almost all agricultural lands are subject to agricultural practices.

The GCC countries have achieved advanced rates of reduction maternal mortality rates per 100,000 live births compared the global target for this indicator, which seeks to reduce this

The rate will reach 70 maternal deaths by 2030 AD. Match the percentages of births that occur under medical supervision in GCC countries Cooperation, as this percentage exceeds a threshold in all member states 99.0% in 2020 AD. The GCC countries come The GCC countries' data reflects their progress in achieving the global development goal of significantly reducing the number of deaths and diseases resulting from exposure to hazardous chemicals. Then, after air, water and soil, by the year 2030 AD. It also recorded a comparative record advantage the global average is 11.7 deaths per 100,000 populations, and levels similar to the situation in some

regions such as Europe and America North, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

The GCC countries are committed to providing an appropriate educational environment provided with all basic services (electric power, the Internet, infrastructure for disabled students, drinking water, and health facilities are basic. It also takes care of preparing cadres qualified educational qualifications at all educational levels, which enhances the student's opportunities to obtain the required knowledge. And who in terms of gender equality in education, it ranges from complete parity between the sexes to a tendency towards females at times other. Enrollment rates in organized education vary a year ago from the official school entry age in the GCC countries cooperation, where these rates range between 37.2% and 99.2%, which indicates a wide gap in the trend towards this the field. By comparing these rates with global rates it is clear that only two of the GCC countries passed the global average of 75.3% in 2020. Other than that the rate in the United Arab Emirates is higher a rate recorded by world regions of 95.1% in Latin America and the Caribbean. Data indicate ICT skills that it is mastered by young people and adults in five Gulf Cooperation Council countries young people's knowledge of basic skills, such as using mail e-mail and the use of copying tools, but the percentage of literacy is low some other skills are still low, such as using languages programming, connecting electronic devices, and creating presentations

Electronic presentation. Indicators of gender equality in education in both the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of man tend towards to complete symmetry between them while tending these indicators are in favor of females in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, and the State of Kuwait.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries enjoy legal frameworks that enhance gender equality and equal opportunities, and laws that women are guaranteed the right to own land for its various uses, to participate politically and socially, and to hold office. High-level administration in the country. The percentage of women's representation in parliamentary councils varies and local in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Where these ranged percentage of seats occupied by women in parliaments -1.5 50.0% in 2021, while it appears to be declining women's participation in local councils, where this is not exceeded. The percentage is at best 25% in the same period. It is clear international data shows the percentage of seats occupied by women in Parliament globally, it reached 26.2% in 2017 -2022 AD, and this percentage rises to 39.1% in Australia and New Zealand.

The population in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries is increasing, and this is accompanied by an accelerated urban, industrial and cultural renaissance that leads to an increase in the demand for water to meet the growing needs of the population, agriculture, industry, energy, etc., as well as the need to provide safe and securely managed drinking water services has increased. As a result of these urgent needs, water stress rates in the GCC countries. Fresh water consumption rates are rising in the GCC countries cooperation due to several factors such as the hot geographical nature.

In the Arabian Gulf region, rainfall rates are low rainfall and the development boom that requires large amounts of the water that enters into production, irrigation and other operations, which leads to GCC countries being exposed to high levels of water stress (withdrawal of fresh water as a proportion of available fresh water as well as

This is shown in the data of Figure 2-6. International data for the year 2019 indicate that the level of global water stress reached 18.6%, and reached the highest the average for this indicator in North African countries is 120.5%, and the largest share of water consumption goes to the agricultural sector.

All residents of the GCC countries have access to electricity services, and almost all residents in the member states depend on it on clean fuels and technology, but the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption remains low in Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Almost the entire population in the GCC countries depends on it on clean fuels and technology, where it ranged percentage of the population dependent on this type of energy between 99.8% and 100%. The total aid provided by two GCC countries reached cooperation to support research and development activities in the fields of: Clean energy and renewable energy production approx. 249.15 million US dollars in 2021. And act this aid represents about 2.3% of the total global aid for this purpose.

The data of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries is clearer the noticeable improvement in the growth of real GDP per capita, and most of the GCC countries recorded positive growth during the year 2020 AD. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries are keen to raise employment rates for youth through the presence of a national strategy completed and implemented either as a stand-alone strategy or as a component of a national employment strategy. The improvement in growth is evident from the data of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries real GDP per capita, most recorded the GCC countries witnessed a slight positive growth during the year 2021 it appeared clearly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Manufacturing industries contribute to the gross domestic product in the GCC countries in varying proportions. Member states seek to support industries based on technology and innovation, enhance the field of scientific research and development, and develop stimulating policies for him. The labor force rate varied in the industrial sector transformational as a percentage of the total workforce in countries the Cooperation Council between 7.3% and 13.7%. By comparing the data of the GCC countries within their borders with the global situation, it turns out that it exceeds the average the global average reached 13.1% in 2020, while it reached a high the rate of this employment at the global level in the East

Asia by 17.8% in the same year. Indicate that spending on research and development in all GCC countries cooperation did not exceed 1.3% of GDP in his best condition. At a time when it reached the global average 1.9%

of the global GDP was recorded by countries

Such as Sweden, Belgium, and the United States of America rates exceeded 3.4% of its gross domestic product year 2020 AD.

2.2. The Share of Labor in GDP Ranged from Including Wages and Social Protection Payments

GCC countries: between 22.9% and 49.2%, and less this share in all GCC countries is about

The global average, which reached 52.6% in 2020, the highest rate was recorded in Australia and New Zealand at approximately 58.5% and North America 58.4%. In terms of customs tariffs on imports from least developed countries for the purpose of availability. The opportunity to reach markets. Country data indicate the Council indicated that the value of this indicator ranges between: 3.9% 80.5%. At the global level, the percentage of items customs tariffs applied to imports from least developed countries enjoying full exemption from customs duties for all products amounted to 63.9% the year 2020 AD, as for developing countries, has reached 53.2% in the same year.

During the period of the Covid-19 crisis, like other countries in the world, the GCC countries suffered from the accompanying closure policies. Which resulted in crises in the presence of open spaces for the population and the impact on public transportation systems, in addition to the inability to health systems are working to meet the health needs of the increasing numbers of people infected with this pandemic. The available data refer to three GCC countries cooperation depends on the proportion of the population that is available to them. Suitable public transportation ranges between 17.2% and 100%, according to the available data, benefited the State of Qatar Kuwait stated that the percentage of the population that is available they have public transportation at 100% which means achieving the desired goal of everyone's access to services public transportation before 2030 AD. And in comparison with Global indicators note that 51.6% of the population the world's urban areas have it easy access to public transportation, these go up the percentage reaches 85.7% in Australia and New Zealand 90.6% in Europe and North America. The available data indicated that for four GCC countries Al-Taawoun fully collects waste Solid to cities regularly and emptied permanently in a way enough. At the global level, 85% of solid waste of cities regularly rises. The percentage reaches 95% in Europe and North America and up to 95% 99% in Australia and New Zealand in 2021.

Steady population growth is accompanied by high rates of unsustainable consumption of natural resources, which undoubtedly it has a direct impact on climate change, natural disasters, and increased pollution rates. As a result of these factors, it loses the world's quantities of food. Resorting to setting stimulating policies to follow sustainable consumption and production patterns will achieve social, economic and environmental returns. The GCC countries have prepared national action plans for consumption and production sustainable. The GCC countries have joined many international agreements concerned with the environment, which reflects the extent of the GCC countries' keenness to take into account international obligations that contribute to achieving sound management environmentally friendly to chemicals and waste at all stages of their life.

The seas and oceans cover a wide area of the planet Earth. They are a source of livelihood, a crossing point for commercial convoys, and a source of income vital for food security. Despite this great importance, acidification rates and material pollution rates increase

Plastic is increasing, affecting life in this environment. According to the ocean acidity scale, countries score the Cooperation Council has an average acidity of less than 8.2 units. Fish stocks are considered low in the GCC countries cooperation for which data is available, and at the same time there is a noticeable discrepancy between the GCC countries in this indicator

The percentage ranges between 12.0% in the Kingdom of Bahrain and 59.0% in the State of Qatar. The global average is fish stocks are 65.8%, while middle countries record

The eastern Pacific Ocean had the highest rate of these stocks 86.7% according to the latest available data for the year 2017.

The deterioration of ecosystems and the loss of their biological diversity are environmental risks that threaten the lives of living organisms and programs development. 71 countries around the world sensed this danger and recognized the need to stop land degradation. He also incorporated values biodiversity in their accounting systems. Some GCC countries are suffering from land degradation that is reaching record rates. While advanced levels were recorded in the red list index. Due to the desert nature of the GCC countries forest spread may be severely limited. Except that data indicate that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and because of climatic diversity: forests constitute 1.1% of its area college, while this percentage is less than 1.0% in the rest member countries for which data are available. It is an area forests worldwide are 31.2%, and this is rising the percentage reaches 73.3% in some small island states and to 47.1% in Southeast Asia.

Peace is a global international demand, the spread of which leads to the stability of nations and peoples and achieves economic, social and environmental returns. Many countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council record advanced levels in achieving the goals of this goal through low casualty rates intentional killing, the spread of violence in all its forms, child abuse, human trafficking crimes, and the percentage of illegal detainees.

Convicted people. On the other hand, high satisfaction rates are recorded in the percentage of residents who feel safe when moving around their areas of living, the percentage of the population satisfied with public services, and the high percentage of children under the age of five who were register them in the civil registry. Data for

the United Arab Emirates and Qatar indicate and the State of Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman to the feelings of the population in this countries feel completely safe when moving around their residential areas. While international data indicate that 69.5% of the population the world feels this sense of security, and this percentage rises to 78.7% among the population of East and Southeast Asia during the period from 2019 to 2021 AD.

The world needs to build and activate global multilateral partnerships, enhance foreign investment flows, and activate cooperation in agricultural, food, industrial and pharmaceutical production to confront the crises it is experiencing and to support development paths. I have the GCC countries have made an active contribution to the financial and technical assistance provided to developing countries. And at the level internally, all member states sought to extend broadband Internet coverage and create legislation and national statistical plans that adhere to the basic principles of official statistics in order to enhance policy coherence sustainable development. Net foreign investment inflows ranged direct in three of the countries of the two councils 1.6% and 49.7% of the total budget. And at the level global foreign direct investment has rebounded in 2021 AD and grew by 7.0% over the year previously, it amounted to about $1.65 trillion. It appears that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries are attractive. For migrant workers more than being exported, it has been providing the percentage of expatriate workers' remittances out of the total gross Domestic Product. Where the data indicates that there is variation in the percentage of transfers abroad as a percentage of output the total domestic value among the GCC countries ranges between 4.9% and 10.8% in 2020.

2.3. Strengths, Challenges and Action Plan for Improvement

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ranked 70th on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) world map, reflecting its commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The establishment has been trying in several endeavors but still there are some gaps. Here's how it has fared on some of the important SDGs:

Strengths:

- Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8): They have sustained economic development courtesy of diversified economy made out of tourism, finance and technology.
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9): Substantial allocation of funds for the completion of various projects such as transport and renewable.
- Education Quality (SDG 4): There are measures being initiated for good education provision and high education attainment.
- Challenges:
- Inequality (SDG 10): Economical and resource based inequalities persist across segments of the population.
- Climate Change (SDG 13): Healthy fossil electricity is still often used even though the renewable energy transition is being embraced.
- Life Below Water (SDG 14): Pollution and over fishing are other adverse human effects to the oceans and other water bodies.
- Suggested Action Plan for Improvements

Looking at these several SDGs, UAE has performed satisfactorily and therefore there is room for improvement in order to perform better. The following action plan can be adopted in order to improve the level of SDG ranking as well as the level of sustainable development:

1. Improve social equity
   Objective: Narrow the inequalities in the access to resources and opportunities
   Actions:
   Set up specific programs to address the needs of marginalized and discriminated societies
   Encourage affirmative action in areas of education and employment.
2. Enhance Environmental Policies
   Objective: More actionable measures in respect to climate change and environmental Degradation.
   Actions:
   Continue construction of wind and solar facilities to generate renewable and alternative energy sources in the economic area.
   Employ reliable waste treatment methods in order to mitigate pollution.
3. Exploit Economic Self-sufficiency
   Objective: An economy that allows for development without compromising the environment.
   Actions:
   Provide support to businesses adopting more eco-friendly approaches and facilitate sustainable business growth through subsidies.
   Establish funding for innovations and technologies save money or resources.
4. Strengthen Interaction with society
   Objective: To create the public's awareness and to engage them in sustainability activities.
   Actions:

Organize educational programs targeting the general public regarding green solutions. Contribute to the integration of the public in the environmental policy framework.

5. Stress Monitoring and Evaluation
   Objective: Morph a coherent monitoring strategy to track SDGs progress.

Actions:

Design a country-owned mechanism for SDG data collection, analysis and reporting.

Regular monitoring and regular reporting of progress and limitations to the general public.

Therefore, based on these strategic areas, the UAE will reinforce her efforts towards sustainable development and further advance her position on the SDG map of the world enhancing welfare for her citizens as well.

In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) world map, Oman ranks 100th and got a score of 66.11. This ranking highlights both achievements in relation with some parameters as well as difficulties in sustainable city development. Here's how Oman fared on some of the SDGs:

Strengths: • Economic Growth (SDG 8): Oman has shown positive developments in relation to its other sectors apart from oil by focusing on areas such as tourism, fisheries, and other industries. • Quality Education (SDG 4): Enrolment rates at every level have increased tremendously in terms of numbers, hence access to Education has become better. • Infrastructure Development (SDG 9): There has been improvement in the connectivity and services as a result of large investments in roads, transports and urban structures. •

Challenges: • Inequality (SDG 10): There exists such income inequality within communities and regions. • Water Scarcity (SDG 6): Oman has very specific problems when it comes to locating and managing its freshwater resources. • Climate Action (SDG 13): The efforts have been satisfactory, however, there is a need for more vigorous action towards climate change and sustainability of the environment.

- Suggested Action Plan for Improvements To improve its SDG ranking and sustainable development in general, Oman should follow this action plan.

1. Address Economic Inequality
   Objective: Elimination of differences in the distribution of economic and other productive resources among regions.
   Actions.
   Target deprived regions with development programs that will provide economic activities to the people.
   Facilitate economic development by promoting policies that advance the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
2. Enhance Water Resource Management
   Objective: Increase the current level of sustainability of water resources in Oman.
   Actions:
   Formulate integrated water management plans which include both water supply and demand management approaches.
   Create plans for the synthesis of desalination equipment and systems for collecting rainwater.
3. Foster Climate Action Programs.
   Objective: Foster sustainable development and create the resilience needed to cope with climate change.
   Actions:
   Further develop energy projects based on renewable sources including solar and wind.
   Introduce programs that shift agriculture and land use to a more environmentally friendly pattern.
4. Enrich Teaching Quality and Skills Training Rehabilitation P.
   Objective: Cater education to the inclusive demands of the labour market and improve sprits.
   Actions:
   Update the curriculum with postgraduate skills of critical thinking, networking and smartphone skills.
   Deepen engagement in practical training /internships with the industries.
5. Video and Evaluation of an SDG Undertaking.
   Objective: Design an operational system to monitor and report the progress of SDGs.

Actions:

Establish a system for collecting, maintaining and updating the relevant database for SDG indicators and the evaluation process.

Carry out public evaluations regularly together with stakeholders to provide public accountability.

For the effective delivery of these strategic areas, Oman would be able to channel global and local resources towards the achievement of sustainable development and enhancement of the SDGs positioning of Oman on the world map which will invariably improve the living standard of all its residents.

Qatar's ranking is the 102nd out of 193 countries in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) scoring 64.9 on the world map. That ranking suggests both achievements but also problems ahead. Following are some key SDGs where the achievements were more than the challenges in Qatar:

Strengths:

- Economic Growth (SDG 8): Qatar has achieved high per capita income on account of its inborn natural gas and oil industry, and it continues to make moves to grow other sectors of the economy.

- Quality education (SDG 4): The increasing budgets allocated towards education has improved availability and quality especially in the higher education sector.
- Infrastructure Development (SDG 9): A lot of preparations have been done by Qatar in developing and enhancing facilities and infrastructure such as transport and urban cities for events like the FIFA World Cup.

Challenges:

- Inequality (SDG 10): Benefits of economic growth are not enjoyed evenly, with populations located in different strata of society inequitable distribution of wealth, and facilities.
- Environmental Sustainability (SDG 13): issues such as high carbon emissions and water shortage are the environmental issues that Qatar has to contend with.
- Health and Well-Being (SDG 3): Healthcare coverage is gradually improving but the problems of lifestyle diseases and mental health consciousness still exist.

Action Plan for Improvements should focus on improving the ranking within the SDG and overall sustainability of the country Qatar. The country can have the following action plan in this regard:

1. Foster Economic Inclusivity
   Goal: Achieve equity in the distribution of assets and create opportunities of access.
   Actions:
   Encourage the development of SMEs and self-employment within disadvantaged and unrepresented groups.
   Provide safety measures for those below the poverty line.
2. Increase Environmental Security
   Goal: Increase measures aimed at environmental protection and ensuring efficiency in all operations.
   Actions:
   Shift towards using alternative sources of energy with plans in the near future to have a greater proportion of energy from solar and wind energy.
   Enforce stricter emission pledges and use of mass transportation in order to diminish carbon dioxide footprints.
3. Advance Health and Well-Being
   Goal: Provide improved health care delivery and facilitate healthy behavior.
   Actions:
   Care and therapeutic intervention to the sick should be complemented by health promotion education concerning chronic disease management.
   Facilitate the Counselling services into PHC's and other community activities.
4. Strengthen Educational Relevance
   Goal: Link education with the labor market and support continuous education throughout one's life.
   Actions:
   Make sure the education is delivered in relevance to the current market needs along with how it evolves with time such as IT and environmental friendly jobs.
   Encourage businesses to provide internships and vocational training opportunities for students.
5. Putting A Strong Monitoring System In Place

Objective: Take steps to monitor progress towards the SDGs which is open and transparent.

Actions:

Develop a national SDG monitoring framework that incorporates the activities that bonk on them indictor and its progress.

Carry out periodic public reporting to maintain the interest and participatory aspects of the stakeholders in the SDG agenda.

If these strategic areas are concentrated upon, the country of Qatar will be able to deepen its dedication and contribution to sustainable development related efforts and improve its matrix position thus enhancing the wellbeing of all people who reside in the country.

As of 2019, Saudi Arabia was placed on the 103rd position on the SDG world map, with a mark of 64.9. This observation can be interpreted in terms of progress made but also challenges faced in the process of sustainable development. This is a summary of its achievements regarding some of the key SDGs:

Strengths:

- Economic Growth (SDG 8): There exists a vigorous economy in Saudi Arabia fully sustained by oil revenues, with plans in place to reduce this dependency through Vision 2030.
- Infrastructure Development (SDG 9): A significant amount of resources has gone into the execution of infrastructure projects relating, to transportation and urbanization.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5): There have been positive changes concerning women's rights as a result of these reforms such as almost half of the workforce being women.
- Challenges:

- Poverty and Inequality (SDG 1 & 10): It is paradoxical that so much wealth is owned by a few while the poverty level among others is frightening.
- Education Quality (SDG 4): Although participation in both primary and secondary education has increased, improvement on the educational quality and outcomes is needed so that labor market needs can be effectively met.
- Climate Action (SDG 13): The country is also faced with issues regarding environmental sustainability such as over dependence on fossil fuels and water scarcity.

Suggested Action Plan for Improvements is to uplift its SDG ranking and contribute to the overall sustainable development, Saudi Arabia may consider the following action plan: 1. Eradicating Poverty and Inequality Objective: To eliminate poverty and reduce income disparity. Actions: Target low income families and provide them with necessary social welfare benefits. Encourage economic growth by creating jobs for all economic inputs. 2. Improving the Quality and Relevance of Education and Training Objective: That the education provided is more appropriate to the needs of the labor market. Actions: Have the syllabus changed to emphasize fundamental, creative, and technical education. Allocate more resources towards the development and training of teachers. 3. Enhancing Environmental Sustainability Objective: To foster and practice sustainable and climate change adaptive actions. Actions: Increase investment in renewable energy and in energy saving initiatives. Formulate strategies that will satisfy and manage water requirements effectively. 4. Encouraging Equality and Empowerment of Women Objective: To increase women's participation in all fields of society. Actions: More of the business programs related to women and credit facilities need to be established. Promote gender equity in decision making positions in the government and corporations. 5. Progress Monitoring and Evaluation Objective: That comprehensively determines the level at which SDG developments have been advanced. Actions: Create a national target so as to follow up the progress of indicators related to the SDG programs. Reporting and evaluation of the progress made will be conducted regularly and information made public to ensure accountability.

In focusing on these strategical objectives, Saudi Arabia will be able to reinforce its sustained development purpose and upgrade its position on the SDG map globally benefitting all the citizens in the country.

According to the SDGs Index, specifically in SDG 111 Kuwait holds a position which ranks the country below many other countries with a score of 63.76. The scorecard speaks volumes, both in terms of progress and obstacles to sustainable development in the country. Following is a glimpse of the performance of Kuwait in several key SDGs:

Strengths:

- Economic Prosperity (Sustainable Development Goal 8): It has a high per capita income GDP primarily based on its oil incomes which helps support the economy very well.
- Access to Education (Sustainable Development Goal 4): Government leaders in the region have made several efforts and resources on education which has led to good literacy levels and schooling among the citizens in primary and secondary levels.
- Access to Healthcare (USDG 3): Citizens of Kuwait have access to a comprehensive healthcare coverage due to the developed healthcare system.

Challenges:

- Climate Action (SDG 13): other major issues affecting the country of Kuwait are the carbon emissions and water issues that satisfactorily need to be addressed.
- Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10): There are other economic issues among the local people and the non-Kuwaitans who may be discriminated against certain services and parts may be, disadvantaged.
- Sustainable Cities (SDG 11): The movement of people to cities has resulted in challenges of developing and maintaining sustainable environments regarding urban planning, and construction and management of solid waste.

Suggested Action Plan for Improvements is that to First promote the residual sustainable development goals, the ranking of Kuwait in SDGs and its general development may be boosted in the following suggested action plan:

1. Prevent Destruction of Environment

Goal: Reduce the harm and the effects and enhance the sustainable methods.

Actions:

Develop new energy sources based on renewable rather than depleting of such inexhaustible resources, such as solar energy and wind pass to producing different types of energy.

Set regulations on the emissions that are produced into the atmosphere and also enhance the use of energy efficiently in the buildings and industries.

2. Improve Social Equity

Requirements: Help in the elimination of economic inequalities and guarantee the fair distribution of materials and services.

Actions:

Create and implement programs that will offer help to the needy and marginalized people which as well includes non-Kuwaitis.

Encourage policies aimed at stimulating growth that ensures involvement from all groups in terms of their demographics.

3. Focus More on Urban Planning and Sustainability

Requirements: Ensure that urban areas, which are rapidly expanding, while meeting the global challenge of climate change, can withstand and survive stresses while remaining functional.

Actions:

Explore the existing and the new forms of city development through focusing on parks, public transport systems and solid waste disposal systems.

Investigate the smart city developments that involve technological improvements of the built environment and services.

4. Improve Education and Workforce Development

Requirements: Enable, formal and 'informal', education to meet the needs of the labor market and that of the economy as a whole to improve on individual employability on a permanent basis.

Actions:

Modify the topics taught to include ways that build the mind such as creativeness, novelty and technical skills for the new markets.

Encourage the private sector to facilitate practicum and vocational placements to students.

By concentrating on these strategic pointers, Kuwait will be able to strengthen its orientation towards the sustainable development and improve its status in the global map of achieving SDGs towards betterment of each and everybody in the country.

According to the National report of SDGs Bahrain's rank is 113 in scales of 167 countries in performance of SDG's achievement." Bahrain's overall plungers towards growth again s apostolical score of 63.6 and that the Region average is 65.6 for the Mena Area. Country has made considerable achievements toward SDG 1 and 10. This achievement indeed delineates our direction towards social policies. The health of each of the residents of the island nation is at the center of such policies. Decreasing poverty and disparity is a step towards achieving righteous and wealthy Richard society, as a nation, we are prepared to up swaddle with such initiatives while fighting for enhancement of many such opportunities for all. Bahrain interactional progress concerning achievement if SDG 1 and SDG 10 shares our embedding of social protection and equity in the SDGs. Growth in these milestones emphasizes the importance given to access and equity in health at the national level in the progress towards improvement in health SDGs. New sags would help these statistics and therefore mark new 3, 4, and 8 sags issued in these papers have to be considered as personal narrative structures and characters. These sags are not just numbers; they represent progress, innovation, and the commitment of Bahrain to excellence.

Bahrain's limitations on SDG 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16 suggest we are committed to going green. Yet, even in these we have progressed, there are things that still need to be done to achieve the optimum level in the region. 'ghyb Pu Femeg Is Lagrak Tn-Jahr C, Singapore may not be agog 'Igno , ng Judith *Y 6th-n GI, Judith V Marek Agi Sabuh 7 Devices, Singapore taiwan '

From an NGO standpoint, 'There are enough resources available, therefore these core SDGs can be efficiently achieved. Although we are making some progress, certain improvements must be made in order to make progress for all our citizens equally.

Community Leader Statement.

'Although we see progress in such trends, we must address the issues which do not appear to be changing. The role of the stakeholders in the further realization of these goals will be paramount.

Challenges.

Food Security (SDG 2)

Stagnation of domestic agricultural practice coupled with dependency on imported food can jeopardize food security.

Gender Equality (SDG 5)

The situation has improved but issues of gender inequality and discrimination and gender representation continue to present challenges.

Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

Water scarcity still exists and needs improving on management and efforts to conserve.

Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) Obstacles in terms of infrastructure and finance limits the shift to clean energy sources. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9) Greater attention and resources need to be directed towards innovation and green infrastructure. Responsible Consumption

and Production (SDG 12) more needs to be done to enhance waste management and sustainability efforts. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16). The issue of transparency and accountability in governance remains a challenge. Recommendations Enhance Food Security Initiatives Encourage community based agriculture and enhance healthy food production in order reduce imported foods. Strengthen Gender Equality Programs Promote women's engagement in workplace leadership through more effective policies and tackle workplace discrimination. Improve Water Management Invest in water conservation and water usage technologies as well as awareness efforts

Campaign strategies.

Get a Better Pace in the Haste of Handling the Changing Energy Advanced

Promote renewable sources of energy to the business sector and the home.

Encourage Innovative and Offer Research Work

Support and finance the research and development of renewable energy systems and technologies.

Practice Circular Economy

Promote sustainable design and production practices to companies and enhance their waste handling practices.

Supporting Expected New Function

Reinforce the governance of the society through systems of accountability and public participation in governance processes.

Comments on Below-Average Advancement

Comment made by a Government Official "Considering where we have come with SDGs 13, 15 and 17, more needs to be done with regards to climate change, biodiversity and even partnerships. There are indeed opportunities to still expand in making progress, but those measures have to be more vigorous and better attuned to regional benchmarks."

Statement by an Environmental Advocate "The present position of these SDGs in Bahrain illustrates the status quo. Dealing with climate change and conserving ecosystems is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development in real sense."

Community Perspective "At this point, it is important for Bahrain to address environmental problems and encourage collaboration. This will ensure that the community exercises these objectives with a view to building a better tomorrow."

Challenges

Climate Action (SDG 13) People's attitudes towards Climate Change activity are low. People do not seem to have the preparedness to manage the impacts of Climate change like extreme weather events.

Life on Land (SDG 15) Environmental degradation including loss of habitat and loss of biological diversity and the resources thereof caused by urbanisation including industrialization.

Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)

Processes related to the land use planning development were not carried on collaboratively involving government, the private sector and the civil society with regard to resources mobilization and the sharing of information.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhancing Climate Action Policy

Formulate, legislate and implement measures for national climate change adaptation that places people and development at the core including communication activities on climate change.

Improve the Process of Biodiversity Conservation

Strengthen laws that seek to prevent destruction of locations where plants and animals living use and help foster sustainable land uses for effective biodiversity conservation.

Engage Public-Private-NGO Partnerships

Improve existing as well establish new creative efforts to enable government, business and non-profit entities to collaborate, integrate resources and address sustainable development.

Provide Capital for Alternative Energy Projects

Deploy increased funding towards the generation of energy from renewable sources and energy technologies that emit less carbon and improve energy efficiency.

Encourage Sustainable Practices

Promoting ecologically secure practices such as soil conservation, water conservation and better management of tree crops as well as fishing practices that do not eradicate resources and soils for tomorrows' generation.

Involve the Community

Apply local communities during trying activities and deliberate on issues about environmental protection to be accountable and feeling the need to protect the environment.

Bahrain has made remarkable strides in the attainment of certain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly with regard to No Poverty (SDG 1) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10). However, the limited improvements in the remaining goals, among which are Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), as well as the underwhelming achievements relating to Climate Action (SDG 13),

Life on Land (SDG 15) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) present both achievements and challenges.

3.1. Opportunities for Improvement

1. Enhancing Policy Frameworks
   Bahrain is lagging behind in SDG endeavors and policy making geared towards sustainable development can be improved. This entails embedding SDG targets within national development plans and ensuring resources are allocated in the right manner.
2. Making the Community Aware and Involved
   Sustainability is one area that has to be improved on by creating awareness and getting people to participate more. The involvement of the public in some decision-making initiatives and teaching the people how some practices are beneficial for society will help promote the sustainability agenda.
3. Allowing the State Support for Advancement of New Commercial Practices
   The provision of green technologies and other new innovations can have a great impact on the ability of Bahrain to achieve the SDGs. This includes the formulation of bio-fuel energy methods, urban farming with high yields and bio-fertilization as well as resource conservation.
4. Advancement of the Multilateral Action
   More money has to be distributed in order to encourage certain measures and share information among the triadic system which includes private, governmental and civilian figures. Connections will help to utilize the knowledge and promote the ideas to tackle the hard issues.
5. Evaluation and Follow-up
   If the key results in monitoring and evaluation are adhered to then Bahrain will be able to measure progress and make decisions based on evidence. In this regard, regular reviews will assist design interventions geared towards the response of the identified challenges.
6. Strengthening International Cooperation and Establishing Synergic Linkages**
   Why does Bahrain need to work with international organizations and with other countries? Working with global institutions can provide Bahrain some much needed resources and learning. Encouraging learning from the best practices as well as sharing practices may actually consolidate one's own vision of how to address the SDGs.

4. CONCLUSION

Generally speaking, although the GCC countries have made some achievements in relation to the specific SDGs, there is still a huge gap, especially with respect to environmental and partnership aspects. By harnessing the available opportunities and overcoming the challenges identified. The GCC stands to improve performance in all the SDGs, thereby making a lasting impact on the sustainability of civil liberty.

One of the most important conclusions of this work is the viability of the following pragmatic proposition. And this proposition is all about enhancing cooperation between the public and the private sector regarding sustainability. It is in this light that the report suggests measures for the two sectors at improving knowledge and sharing the best practices in sustainability. Such relations may consist, for example, of collaboration in-situ, or conference calls for inter-institute exchange of ideas/systems/applications to cope with sustainable innovations in their respective societies. Similarly, there may be formation of functional groups that will be responsible for analyzing the sustainability framework and come up with appropriate measures suitable for the two sectors. Joint collaboration in this manner would help save time while achieving environmental, social and economic objectives in a more efficient way.

Information technology and innovation change the project management profession and foster development. For this reason, it becomes apparent that companies and other public organizations should make investments in modernization in order to meet their sustainable goals. Such technologies may involve smart project management systems, deploying artificial intelligent to analyze data and aid decision-making, and the Internet of Things for increasing resource efficiency and curtailing wastes. It is also possible for innovation to help foster the need for efficient and sustainable building materials and building technology that have minimal environmental impacts. It should be supported that new enterprises working in the field of sustainable technological innovation will focus on the development of such solutions that will help tackle existing environmental and social issues.

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