

**Recommendations and proposals from the National Workshop
held in Amman on 31 January 2016 in collaboration with
the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

***Towards a participatory framework for implementing
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

1. The institutional framework for sustainable development (the Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development):

- It is important to reform the Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development so as to represent the views of non-governmental organizations in the committee, and to have greater representation in its technical sub-committees, relying on direct participation rather than via government interlocutors, and drawing from the following sectors: youth, women, professional associations, research and academic institutions, the private sector, community organizations, local authorities, the chamber of deputies, etc.
- In order to better serve the aims and objectives of the Higher National Committee, it is important that the sub-committees and technical committees are equipped to address cross-cutting themes of sustainable development.
- It is important to engage all actors in achieving the SDGs at the national level, and in a way that ensures clarity, transparency, sufficiency, promoting further integration, and non-duplication.
- It is important to implement the oversight mechanism through which non-governmental institutions can be selected for membership in the Higher National Committee and its technical sub-committees.
- It is important to establish focused working groups to promote dialogue around the SDGs and raise awareness vis-à-vis the Higher National Committee.
- It is important that the Higher National Committee, as a multi-stakeholder entity, be the responsible authority for all issues related to integrating the SDGs into strategies, regulations and mechanisms for national action.
- It is important to promote the role of the Secretary of the Higher National Committee, in administering its work through the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, in line with these recommendations, to guide and support the work of the Higher National Committee itself, including through liaison with all its members. This would be especially important for NGO representation such that the Secretary would act as an officer of the Committee in facilitating coordination between parties around national policies and strategies.

2. The enabling environment for developing this partnership:

- It is important to better distribute the dividends of development to regions and not concentrate solely on the needs of larger municipalities, and to find appropriate means of strengthening the role of non-governmental institutions working in the provinces.
- It is important to strengthen national frameworks that support micro-finance and small-scale projects as one of the main tools to enhance the role of non-governmental institutions in achieving the SDGs at local and national levels.
- It is important to ensure transparency and credibility in the publication and dissemination of information relevant to achieving the SDGs at national level for those actors wishing to access it, including non-governmental institutions.
- It is important to establish mechanisms to attract funding and manage financing of national and non-governmental institutions working to achieve the SDGs in line with national priorities.
- It is important to review financing and banking policies with a view to lowering interest on municipal borrowing and increasing the number of borrowers.
- It is important to further build civil society capacity to submit funding proposals projects.
- It is important to build institutional capacity for administrative and financial sustainability of projects.
- It is important to reconcile the results of the Jordanian education system and the actual human resources requirements that will be instrumental in achieving sustainable development.
- The education of Syrian refugees must not be forgotten, as their numbers surpass one and a quarter million, which threatens to condemn an entire generation and hamper national efforts achieve the SDGs.
- It is important to increase awareness of sustainable development concepts and the multiple dimensions of its successful implementation.
- It is important to have mechanisms, means, and incentives (provided by the government and UN organizations) to catalyse the role of non-governmental institutions in the achievement of the SDGs at national level.
- It is important to support programmes that build capacity for non-governmental organizations to enhance their role in decision-making mechanisms and follow-up and implementation of the SDGs, in harmony with national efforts.
- It is important to have a web platform that is open to all non-governmental institutions for disseminating information about national mechanisms and progress achieved by national institutions as well as NGOs.
- It is important to review legislation and remove legal obstacles, if any, to expanding the role of NGOs in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as introduce new legislation to strengthen this role and expand the space available for non-governmental institutions.
- It is important that a governmental entity is in charge of coordinating external financing oriented toward non-governmental institutions, in order to ensure

coherence with national priorities, and it is furthermore important that this the availability of such funding be announced publicly for the use of non-State actors.

- It is important to find an objective division of labour between government, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions, and scientific research centres within national frameworks for achieving the SDGs, at all levels.
- It is especially important to work from a national road map, mutually agreed with non-governmental institutions, to integrate the 2030 Agenda into strategies, policies, plans, etc., and that mechanisms contain concrete review stages to examine existing legislation and determine coherence with efforts to achieve the SDGs review mechanisms, as well as funding sources that support capacity development programs and public awareness.
- It is important to have clear communication channels between all national stakeholders to both achieve sustainable development and connect implementers with the beneficiaries of the projects that achieve these objectives on the other hand, as well as enhanced development, and as a means of managing knowledge and promoting awareness.
- It is important to coordinate the efforts of NGOs who are scattered and dispersed, especially those that are not included within the national framework, in order to promote and guide synergies between institutions.

3. Cooperation between sectors on cross-cutting issues:

- Create enabling mechanisms that develop a culture of shared social responsibility.
- Improve the working environment by eliminating duplication of efforts between government regulators, and to prevent double standards between them.
- Set in motion the legislation for organizing working partnerships between global actors and the private sector.
- Encourage and support environmentally friendly economic projects.
- Create systems for exchange of information and successful experiences at a national level.