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**Country Paper**

**Audit Bureau of Jordan**

**Review the Preparedness of Jordanian Government to Implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

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**Introduction**

Since June 2017 until now a small team at Audit Bureau of Jordan conducted a preparedness review on the policy and institutional governance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation that is done so far by the Jordanian Government.

For this review we used the seven steps model framework as developed by Netherlands Court of Audit the (NCA) and the European Court of Auditors in 2016.

The findings as presented in this document are still in draft, because the clearance procedure on the findings is not yet completed.

**Review subject:**

To review and evaluate the preparedness of Jordanian Government to implement its voluntary decision to adopt United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

**Important of the topic:**

The importance of this topic is due to:

* positive effects of implement SDGs on the ability of coming generations to secure their diverse resource needs in the event that the available resources are optimally utilized.
* The multiplicity of ministries, institutions and government agencies implementing the plans and programs related to the SDGs, which requires consistency and complementarity in the implementation of government policies at the national level.
* The Audit Bureau has never addressed the review of implemented procedures by the Government to adopt any voluntary obligation. In this case, the Government's voluntary commitment to implement the United Nations goals for sustainable development will be reviewed.

**Review Objectives:**

**Main objective:** To review and evaluate the preparedness of Jordanian Government to implement its voluntary decision to adopt United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

**Sub-objectives:**

• To verify the adequacy and comprehensiveness of the measures taken by the Government to plan for the implementation of sustainable development objectives in general.

• Review and evaluate the measures taken by the Government to plan the implementation of the sixth objective on drinking water and sanitation services.

• Review and analyze the measures to be adopted by the Government in establishing a mechanism for measuring and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.

**Review questions:**

**The main question of the review:**

To what extent do the preparations and already implemented activities of the Jordanian government for implementing the SDGS that took place from 2015 to 2017 provide a good organizational and substantive basis for the implementation of SDGs by 2030 and to monitor the achieved results gradually?

**Sub-Questions:**

Question 1: What actions and decisions have the Government taken to implement sustainable development objectives?

Question 2: What is the methodology adopted in following up the actions and decisions taken by the government to implement the objectives of sustainable development?

Question 3: Are actions taken by the government reflect full preparedness to implement the SDGS?

**Scope of review:**

The scope of the review is the actions taken by the Government in the following areas:

 The actions and decisions taken with respect to political commitment and national responsibility in line with sustainable development.

 Procedures taken to raise awareness of the importance of the objectives of sustainable development and to encourage dialogue with relevant parties, especially non-governmental parties.

 Action taken with regard to the distribution of responsibilities and duties related to the implementation of sustainable development at the ministerial level or any other relevant levels. As well as the measures taken in the optimal distribution of financial, material and human resources, and the establishment of accountability arrangements for the implementation of these objectives

 The actions and decisions taken to prepare the necessary plans for the implementation of SDGS include identifying the roles of the various stakeholders and determining how to implement the goals and objectives in a coherent and integrated manner.

 Procedures for the design and establishment of systems for measuring and monitoring the implementation of SDGS.

 Measures taken by the Government in implementing sixth goal of SDGS related to water and sanitation.

**Entities to be reviewed:**

The following entities will be reviewed:

• Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, including the following:

- The Supreme National Committee for Sustainable Development, along with (17) sub-committees emanating from it.

- Sustainable Development Department.

• Department of Statistics.

• Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

• Water Authority.

• Water Company.

• Al Yarmouk Company.

• Royal Scientific Society.

**Audit Methods: 7 steps Model:**

Seven steps model framework is developed by Netherlands Court of Audit (NCA) and the European Court of Auditors in 2016. It depends on seven steps to review the government preparedness to implement SDGs, and the steps from (1-4) concern about policy framework, and steps from (5-7) concern about data framework.

**7 Steps Model**

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| **Policy Framework** | **Step 1:**  Political commitment and recognition of national responsibility in line with the principles of sustainable development. |
| **Step 2;**  Building public awareness and encouraging dialogue with stakeholders including relevant non-governmental stakeholders. |
| **Step 3:**  Allocation of responsibility at a ministerial or other level, allocation of appropriate financial means and other resources, and establishment of accountability arrangements. |
| **Step 4:**  Preparation of plans to apply the SDGs including setting out the role of different stakeholders and defining how the various goals and targets are to be achieved in an integrated and coherent manner. |
| **Data Framework** | **Step 5:**  Designing and establishment of the systems to measure and monitor the SDGs goals and targets. |
| **Step 6:**  Setting baseline- the situation at the start of the process – for different indicators, against which to judge progress made throughout the SDG lifecycle. |
| **Step 7:**  Monitoring and reporting arrangements on the progress of SDGs, involving all relevant stakeholders. |

**Review questions according to 7 steps model:**

**Step 1: political commitment**

Has the Jordanian Government adopt a formal decision to implement the SDGs and does it inform the Parliament house by that?

Do officials management at the ministries and Governmental departments clearly realize their committed to implement SDGs in Jordan?

**Step 2: Public awareness and dialogue with stakeholders**

Is there a sufficient effort from the Government to disseminated awareness for importance of implementing SDGs between stakeholder?

Did Jordanian Government involve stakeholders in preparing, developing policies to achieve the SDGs?

Does the effort done by Government to raise awareness of the SDGs no 6 is sufficient?

**Step 3: Responsibility, resources and accountability.**

Is there a clear definition of responsibility for implementing SDGs at the level of relevant parties?

How will the Government fund the implementation of SDGs?

What is the adopted methodology in following up the actions and decisions taken by the Government to implement the SDGs?

Have accountability arrangements been identified for implementation of SDGs?

**Step 4: Preparation of implementation goals.**

What is the methodology that Government will use in order to achieve SDGs? In addition, is it sufficient and Consistent?

Have national Goals been integrated and aligned with SDGs?

**Step 5: Systems to measure and monitor.**

Did the Government set up appropriate system to monitor the SDGs goals & targets in effective manner? Are non-governmental actors engaged in the monitoring of SDGs implementation?

Will the follow-up system to monitor progress in achieving SDGs be available to the public?

**Step 6: Baseline and indicators**

Did the Government set base lines of available SDGS indicators?

**Step 7: Monitoring and reporting arrangement.**

Are all relevant actors involved in monitoring the implementation of SDGs?

**Findings of the Review:**

**These are the preliminary finding; because the review is under process**

**Findings: Political commitment**

A national consultation was carried out in March 2016, engaging approximately representatives from the Government and MGOs, and women and youth representatives, setting the stage for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During this consultation, the Government presented its Roadmap to creating ownership and implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

**Findings: Stakeholder Involvement**

MOPIC prepared a stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure the widest participation from all MGOs in the SDG implementation.

The strategy proposes a variety of four including taskforce meetings, workshops, focus groups and debates as well as a number of outreach tools like printed materials, social media engagement.

More than 2,500 participants took part in these consultations in Jordan while more than 10,000 people participated virtually, through social media networks. In addition, over 50,000 Jordanians voted on the global priorities through the “Our World Survey”.

Representatives of Syrian and other refugee communities were also included and actively participated in the consultations.

**Findings: Building Public awareness**

Government has not initiated many initiatives to build public awareness so far.

low contribution of the stakeholders in initiated public awareness of the SDGs.

**Findings: Responsibility, Resources, and Accountability.**

Responsibilities for SDGs implementation on the central government level are distributed along policy responsibilities of each ministry. And that was conducted the following:

Mainstreaming the SDGs into national development plans and planning frameworks, thus ensuring their priority implementation;

Mainstreaming within sub-national plans or at the governorate level (localizing), starting with two governorates on a pilot basis, and then gradually reaching all governorates;

Financing: MOPIC, in coordination with (MOF) and the (GBD) , has linked capital expenditures to the EDP, thereby also ensuring that priority funding is allocated to the SDGs as an integral component of the EDP;

**Findings: Preparation of Plans to Apply SDGs**

More than (21) of Important national strategies and plans have also been finalized, putting in place a strong policy environment for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Findings: Systems to Measure and Monitoring**

MOPIC, in cooperation with the Performance Progress Unit at the Prime Ministry, is in the process of developing a national monitoring system which will be used to monitor national programs and plans. The outputs of the monitoring system will include regular progress reports and a monitoring dashboard on the Ministry’s website;

**Findings: Baselines and Indicators**

The DOS maintains the responsibility of quality assurance and clearance of all indicators and a special SDG team within the DOS has been established for this purpose.

A mapping was conducted between late 2016 and early 2017, comparing goals, targets and indicators from the 2030 Agenda with the national development framework.

On average, 40% of the indicators are considered Tier I, varying from 0 to 14% for SDG14 and SDG15 respectively and 67% for SDG7;

The sources of data, baselines, targets, and frequency of most of the Tier I indicators were identified.

**Preliminary Conclusions**

The importance of a genuine partnership and increased role for the private sector.

The urgency of strong coordination among all government and private institutions.

Criticality of financing for development.

The importance of quality technical assistance and capacity-development.

The need for increased focus on promoting ownership and awareness raising about the SDGs.

The need to build the capacities of the national statistical system.

The remaining shortage of indicators available to monitor the SDGs.

A greater engagement in SDG implementation at the sub-national level.

Challenges:

* Difficulty reviewing works currently underway.
* The work team is not fully discharged.
* Delay in responding to queries on time.
* The diversity and diversity of government sectors involved in this work.