**Jordan**

Jordan constitution, although did not mention plainly the right to development, it indicated to people’s economic and social rights (right to education, health, work, etc.), which were integrated in all national reform plans.

Jordan has been a forerunner in implementing economic and social reform plans all over the years. Following the three and five-year socio-economic plans during the Seventies and Eighties of the last century, the Governments moved, after the financial crises of 1989, to a more structural type of social and economic reform in close coordination and cooperation with the IFIs.

During the Nineties, the Kingdom shouldered a strict structural reform plan to stabilize the socioeconomic structure. However, the plan with its social mitigation arrangements was far from reaping the full fruits of the painful reform process due to the turbulence caused by the first gulf war.

During the first decade of 21 century, Jordan continued its reform approach; launching the Social and Economic and Social Transformation Programme in 2002. This JoD 300 million Program moved in parallel with the Government’s general budget priorities, and focused on increasing the capacity of the economy to absorb more private sector capital, developing human resources, improving the quality of basic government services, enhancing productivity and promoting local community development and business outreach. The Programme was disrupted by the refugees influx caused by the second gulf war and achieved moderate results by its due date, end of 2004.

In 2004, Jordan started its first Social and Economic Development Plan (SEDP), a multi-billion plan that covered the period 2004-2006. SEDP inaugurated a new stage of development planning, encompassing government entities individual development projects into one comprehensive document. This method of planning has been successful and was replicated during the periods 2007-2009, 2009-2011, 2011-2013, 2013-2016, with each subsequent plan builds on the lessons of its predecessor. SEDP incorporated MDGs as key objectives.

In 2006, the socioeconomic planning in Jordan was enhanced by Jordan National Agenda, a comprehensive strategy for social, political and economic transformation, which was launched following a wide national consultation process. The National Agenda set Jordan priorities for the period 2006-2015 and covered government and policies, basic rights and freedoms, and services, infrastructure and economic sectors.

However, and as a response to the terrorism wave that hit the region late in 2005, the country moved into a more fast track comprehensive reform plan, stressing not only on the typical fields of interest, but also highlights the development of citizenship and a sense of belonging, national security and the fight against terror and takfiri ideology, and educational development. In July 2006, “We Are All Jordan” Forum gathered 750 Jordanians from a variety of sectors gathered a series of discussions and voting sessions, to create a list of the most urgent issues facing the country.

Jordan remains committed to its comprehensive political and economic reform roadmap building on past achievements, which has been crucial to its stability at these critical times. The Government of Jordan launched in May 2015 its new 10-year socioeconomic blueprint (Jordan 2025) with the aim of achieving a prosperous, resilient, and inclusive economy driven by innovation, and public private partnerships. In this context and as a first phase of implementing the new vision, the Executive Development Program 2016-2018 (EDP) was developed through a participatory approach; outlining development priorities and key reforms for the next three years. In parallel, the Government finalized updating its Governorates Development Programs 2016-2018 (GDPs) based on a participatory bottom up approach, where they will be used as a key tool to implement, for the first time, the decentralization project in the near future. To ensure a proper and timely implementation, the government has set up and equipped a monitoring unit at the Prime Ministry, which will report on the progress of implementation against the agreed performance indicators. The reports will regular and public to indicate any shortcomings in the process.

In 2015 also, HM the King instructed the government to resent a draft legislation that stipulates the establishment of a National Investment Fund. The fund should attract investments from banks, Arab sovereign wealth funds, private sector enterprises and individuals, targeting national developmental and pioneering projects that yield benefits to the national economy as well as those contributing to the fund.

Jordan strongly believes in the need to continue strengthening the country’s democratic and good governance framework, in addition to deepening citizens’ participation in the decision-making process, as well as creating an environment conducive to participation in political parties. Recent reforms include the launch of the National Integrity Charter to strengthen the national integrity system in the country (a time bound Action Plan is currently under implementation), in addition to amending key legislation; including a new Judicial Independence Law and a new Political Parties Law, a new Municipalities Law, as well as introducing for the first time a new Decentralization Law, and submitting to Parliament a new Elections Law. Based on the new loans, three elections are planned to take place in 2016 and 2017; municipal elections, elected governorate councils, and parliamentary elections.

On human rights front, the government continued to provide the required atmosphere for the National Center for Human Rights to flourish. The Government created a high level unit at the Prime Ministry to ensure the implementation of the NCHR reports recommendations, which has a special chapter on the right to Development. As of 2013, the Government of Jordan is reporting to the Arab League/Arab Human Rights committee on the developments of the Human rights situation in Jordan, including the economic and social rights.

On the international front, Jordan is part to many international political, economic, trade and governance development initiatives that supports ultimately the realization of the right to development, and advocating diplomatic and peaceful approaches to the Middle East peace process and the two states solution.

In brief, and notwithstanding the recent efficient planning effort in Jordan, the Middle East security situation and the Syrian refugees' crises together with the internal economic difficulties are stretching the country’s capabilities to the maximum, and I is forcing the government to work on a rather reactive manner in development.

To better realize the declaration’s objectives, the international powers should invest more in stabilizing the Middle East as a requirement for regional and international cooperation for development.

Expedite non-sate actors should be involved in a more systematic manner in developing and following on the implementation of local and international development initiatives. Moreover, and for the fact that the Declaration is not an obligatory document, creating a **monitoring mechanism** to measure the level of implementing the Declaration needs to be thoroughly discussed. As a matter of fact, one of the obstacles implementing the Declaration is the interrelation and overlap of its articles with other economic and social rights. It is not easy to measure the implementation of the declaration content per se. this is also needed as cooperation across the nations continues to be governed by political, economic and security interests, where developed countries have different, yet strict approaches, for FDI and technology transfer.