

# Reality of sustainable development between the contents of VNRs and the commitments of states

an evaluation vision for the Emirati, Djiboutian and Swiss contexts



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## Introduction:

The importance of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and their development contributions is surging to the point that they are considered a solid reference for the developmental paths and policies of countries. Their importance stems from the fact that they constitute a major stage for exchanging experiences, successes and challenges on sustainable development between countries and a platform for partnerships, similar to what is embodied by the VNRs at the HLPF. Since 2016, 176 countries have submitted more than 205 voluntary national reviews, with (22, 43, 46, 47, 42) countries during the years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), respectively, in addition to 46 countries reviewed in 2022 distributed by (12, 29, 3) countries for the first, second and third time, respectively.

In the context of the above, and coinciding with the conclusion of the agenda of the High-Level Political Forum 2022, which is being held from July 5 to July 15 in New York, under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents this evaluative paper under the title "**Sustainable Development between the Contents of the Reviews and the Commitments of States: Evaluative Vision of the Emirati, Djiboutian, and Swiss Contexts**".

This paper highlights what the VNRs and HLPF are, analyzes the VNRs of the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, and Switzerland by reviewing the successes and challenges and concludes with a set of recommendations about them.

## First Axis: What are the Voluntary Reviews and the High-Level Political Forum?

### First: The Meaning of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Mechanism:

Voluntary National Reviews is a popular process among the scientific and academic circles concerned with sustainable development, and it has recorded a remarkable presence since the inauguration of the High-Level Political Forum in 2012 as one of the international review and evaluation mechanisms for sustainable development and its goals contained in the 2030 development vision, which is a detailed plan of the far-sighted road map for other countries and authorities. It is commonly defined as reports prepared by the state with the aim of reviewing the status of implementation of the sustainable development goals or reports that are part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 sustainable development plan, conducted by the HLPF on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

and must be voluntary under the leadership of the state and is implemented by undertaken by both developed and developing countries and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. VNRs provide the opportunity for countries to share their individual experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating SDG implementation.<sup>1</sup>

The developmental contributions of the voluntary reviews represent a major component of the review of development plans, especially the 2030 development plan, its goals and implementation mechanisms. VNRs are an essential part of the formal follow-up and review of the architecture of the 2030 Agenda, under paragraph 48 of the development plan, and is based on participatory and inclusive implementation mechanisms that include the government, civil society, the private sector, parliament, human rights institutions, scientific and academic circles, children, youth, religious groups as well as vulnerable and marginalized children, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples in accordance with the principles of the 2030 Development Agenda.<sup>2</sup>

VNR presents an analysis of the extent to which countries include development goals within national frameworks, their compatibility, causes and possible ways to address the challenges they face. Moreover, it highlights the urgent modifications to the applied policies and strategies and contributes to achieving integration between the goals of the development plan, its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and the process of leaving no one behind. Countries present the measures taken to achieve its objectives by identifying the vulnerable groups, their locations and special needs and directing countries towards macroeconomic policies related to these groups. This process provides for adding a number of items in the reports of the countries such as the opening statement, salient points, introduction, methodology, policies, environments, progress made towards goals, purposes, evaluation of policies, enabling environments, progress made towards the achievement of objectives, purposes and evaluation of policies and measures.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> الجمعية العامة، قرار الجمعية العامة ٣٠٥/٧٢، ٢٥ يونيو ٢٠٢١، ص ٨-١١

<sup>2</sup> UNITED Nation, repository of good practices in VNR, access date 14 July 2022, P25-30

<sup>3</sup> المنتدى السياسي الرفيع المستوى المعني بالتنمية المستدامة، دليل لإعداد الاستعراضات الطوعية الوطنية: نسخة ٢٠٢٢، أكتوبر ٢٠٢١، ص ٢٣-٢٨

**VNR is based on a set of guiding principles identified by Paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda, which are as follows:**

- a. Voluntary reports; It is carried out by countries and takes into account the different circumstances, capabilities and levels of national development and respect for policies and priorities.
- b. Reporting progress made in implementing global goals and targets, including means of implementation.
- c. Lengthy reporting period; the reports will identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors.
- d. Open, inclusive, participatory and transparent to all people.
- e. People oriented; it is gender sensitive and respectful of human rights and focuses on the poorest, the most vulnerable and the most marginalized.

VNRs typically consist of several broad phases, with some occurring at the same time. The first phase, entitled “**initial preparation and organization**”, includes a set of preparatory steps and procedures for the review process, including submitting a letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council informing him of the decision to conduct a voluntary national review, assigning responsibilities for coordinating the review, preparing, estimating and identifying the necessary resources, preparing a draft review, and preparing infographics and data, in preparation for the presentation of the review.

The second phase, entitled “**Stakeholder Engagement**,” includes the procedures for communicating with the government department and relevant agencies, identifying the key details of the review, developing a plan for stakeholder engagement, and identifying the elements of raising awareness and communicating with the public. The third phase, entitled “**VNR Preparation**”, includes preparing a draft of key messages for approval and depositing it with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, conducting an internal review of the national review, circulating the draft to relevant government officials, editing the review, translating it into English and sending it in its electronic version to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs In June 2022, so that reviews are **presented at the HLPF**, which is the fourth phase.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> المنتدى السياسي الرفيع المستوى المعني بالتنمية المستدامة، دليل لإعداد الاستعراضات الطوعية الوطنية: مرجع سابق، ص ٥٠-٥٤



## Second: What is the HLPF and What are the Themes it Cover?

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established in 2012 through the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and is organized by General Assembly resolution 67/290, so that countries submit their voluntary reviews to the 2030 Agenda in accordance with paragraph 84 of the plan. The HLPF is required, under the General Assembly resolutions of 66/288 and 67/290 to do the following:

- a. Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development.
- b. Promoting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a comprehensive and cross-sectoral manner at all levels.
- c. Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, evaluation and agenda setting to advance sustainable development.
- d. Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.
- e. Following-up and reviewing progress in implementing the sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Program of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Future We Want, and relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as their respective means of implementation.
- f. Promoting high-level participation of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and advocate for participation, as appropriate, in other multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with United Nations rules and provisions.
- g. Improving cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programs and policies.
- h. Enhancing transparency and implementation by further enhancing the advisory role and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the discussions.
- i. Promoting the exchange of best practices and experiences related to the implementation of sustainable development, and facilitating the exchange of experiences on a voluntary basis, including successes, challenges and lessons learned.

- j. Fostering science-policy interaction by reviewing documents, bringing together disparate information and assessments, including in the form of a global report on sustainable development, building on existing assessments.
- k. Promoting evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to the enhancement of continuous capacity building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.
- l. Promoting coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days, and it is held under a special theme and focuses on a set of specific goals, as follows:

1. The 2017 HLPF was held under the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” and focused on SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14).
2. The 2019 HLPF was held under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, and focused on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17.
3. The 2020 HLPF was held under the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.
4. 2021 HLPF was held under the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”, which focused on SDGs (1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17) in 2021.<sup>5</sup>

**In the midst of 2022**, the HLPF dedicated its mechanisms and concerns around COVID-19 and better recovery from it after its spread in 2020. Its sessions took place from July 5 to Thursday, July 7 and from July 11 to July 15, 2022 under the auspices of the Economic and Meeting Council, and includes the ministerial part of the forum for three days from July 13 to July 15, 2022, before concluding on July 18, 2022 after highlighting its topic for 2022 on “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and its review of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on SDG 4 related to quality education, SDG 5 related to gender equality and SDG 14 related to life below Water and Goal 15 related to Life on Land and SDG 17 related to Partnerships for the Goals.

<sup>5</sup> HLPF, [hlpf.un.org](https://hlpf.un.org/2016) access date July 2022, <https://hlpf.un.org/2016>

## Axis Two: Analysis of the VNRs:

The implications of the international system for development refer to the scramble of development trends of countries and their increasing participation in VNRs. 176 countries have been monitored participating in the process since 2016 and about 205 national reviews have been submitted, with (22, 43, 46, 47, 42) countries during the years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), respectively. 45 countries have been reviewed in 2022.

### Countries under Review in 2022

NO.	COUNTRY	NO. OF REVIEWS	YEARS OF REVIEW
1.	The United Arab Emirates	2	2022 ,2018
2.	Djibouti	1	2022
3.	Italia	2	2022 ,2017
4.	Andorra	2	2022 ,2018
5.	Argentina	3	2022 ,2020 ,2017
6.	Bella Russia	2	2022 ,2017
7.	Botswana	2	2022 ,2017
8.	Cameroon	2	2022 ,2019
9.	Côte d'Ivoire	2	2022 ,2019
10.	Dominica	1	2022
11.	El Salvador	2	2022 ,2017
12.	Equatorial Guinea	1	2022
13.	Eritrea	1	2022
14.	Eswatini	2	2022 ,2019
15.	Ethiopia	2	2022 ,2017
16.	Gabon	1	2022
17.	Gambia	2	2022 ,2020
18.	Ghana	2	2022 ,2019
19.	Greece	2	2022 ,2018
20.	Grenada	1	2022
21.	Guinea Bissau	1	2022
22.	Jamaica	2	2022 ,2018
23.	Jordan	2	2022 ,2017
24.	Kazakhstan	2	2022 ,2019

NO.	COUNTRY	NO. OF REVIEWS	YEARS OF REVIEW
25.	Latvia	2	2022 ,2018
26.	Lesotho	2	2022 ,2019
27.	Liberal	2	2022 ,2020
28.	Luxembourg	2	2022 ,2017
29.	Malawi	2	2022 ,2020
30.	Financial	2	2022 ,2018
31.	The black Mountain	2	2022 ,2016
32.	Holland	2	2022 ,2017
33.	Pakistan	2	2022 ,2019
34.	Philippine	3	2022 ,2019 ,2016
35.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	2022
36.	São Tomé and Príncipe	1	2022
37.	Senegal	2	2022 ,2018
38.	Somalia	1	2022
39.	Sri Lanka	2	2022 ,2018
40.	Sudan	2	2022 ,2018
41.	Surinam	1	2022
42.	Switzerland	3	2022 ,2018 ,2016
43.	Togo	4	2022 ,2018 ,2017 ,2016
44.	Tuvalu	1	2022
45.	Uruguay	4	2022 ,2021 ,2018 ,2017

In this context, we provide an evaluation of some voluntary national reviews, focusing on the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti and Switzerland as follows:

### First: Evaluation of the UAE Voluntary National Review for 2022

The facts of the voluntary reviews show the development endeavors of the UAE and their consistency with the UN Agenda 2030. Like other countries, the UAE has been pursuing development trends since the discovery of its oil deposits in the 1950s, its federal birth in the 1970s, along the lines of its development vision (2010: 2021) and its development vision (2017: 2071), and its contributions to the development and crystallization of the United Nations development agenda (2030). Institutional and participatory arrangements are made with stakeholders on sustainable development, such as the formation of the National Committee on





SDGs in 2017 from 17 federal government institutions to carry out the task of following up on development goals annually, setting criteria for their inclusion in the national development agenda, and harmonizing monitoring and reporting cycles.

It adopts technologies and initiatives to support social, environmental and economic sectors at the national level including: Expo 2020 - Dubai and the United Nations Regional Centre in January 2022 and the Government Leadership Program and the provision of the Central Reporting and Monitoring System through the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs System<sup>6</sup>. To maintain the first rank in the Middle East and North Africa and 9 in the Global Competitiveness Reports, remaining in the top 10 countries since entering 2017<sup>7</sup>. In this context, an assessment vision for the 2022 UAE Review can be presented as follows:

### **A. UAE Development Successes**

UAE's VNRs contained a presentation of the UAE's progress and successes for the seventeenth development goals, which can be presented as follows:

#### **1. Goal 1: No Poverty**

UAE's VNRs for 2018 and 2022 indicate that it pays great attention to eliminating poverty locally and internationally. The Ministry of Community Development established Federal Law No. (13) of (1972) in (2001) in order to establish the first guarantee of providing societal benefits and privileges to members of society who live in inappropriate and appropriate living conditions. So that the assistance covers more than (21) groups of society, as well as "motivating people capable of work" policy in (2017), the "Good Endeavors" initiative (2018) concerned with renovating homes for social security beneficiaries and low-income families of the state, and policies to motivate those who are able work in (2017), and social aid policies estimated at 11 billion dollars during the period (2018: 2021). To succeed in ending poverty rates and reach an estimate of (0.23) in (2021) at the poverty threshold estimated at US \$1.9.

0.28% are estimated at the poverty threshold at \$3.2 billion, with the UAE's average per capita increasing by about 8% during the period (2015:2020) from \$65.220 thousand to \$70.24<sup>8</sup>, rising to \$70.089 to rank 1<sup>st</sup> regionally and 3<sup>rd</sup> globally in terms of per capita GDP according to reports in 2021.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> HLPF, united-arab-emirates/voluntary-national-review-2022, access date 14 July 2022, <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/united-arab-emirates/voluntary-national-review-2022>

<sup>7</sup> Sky news, THE AUE IS THE first regionally and ninth globally, access date 3 November 2021, <https://cut.ly/SR9TqH0>

<sup>8</sup> <https://bit.ly/3wotUD4> .

<sup>9</sup> <https://bit.ly/3bJKNh>

## 2. Goal 2: No Hunger

The indicators of the voluntary national review, particularly 2022, show the UAE's presentation of a practical model on hunger and its end. It developed its Strategic Vision for Food Security (2051) in 2018, which included 38 short and long-term initiatives and Green Development Strategy (2012), inaugurated the Center for Agricultural Innovation in Sharjah in 2014, launched by the Modern Agricultural Technology Accelerator Program (2018), launched by the Future Food Valley Platform and the "Bazar" initiative to raise food awareness.<sup>10</sup>

Thus, it became among the food-safe nations and rose to its ranking. (33, 31, 21) during the years (2017, 2018, 2019) respectively at the World Food Security Index (WFSI), and maintains very low starvation rates according to the World Bank, estimated at 2.8%, 2.8%, 3%, 3%, 3.1%) during the years (2014:2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) of the total population according to a number of statistics on sustainable development. The remaining of the relevant indicators in (2021), estimated since 2018 at 2.6%, 0.7% and 31.7%, in favor of stunting and wasting rates in children under 5 years of age, and obesity rate in the UAE population respectively.

## 3. Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

The UAE Health Policy reflects the great reliance on the UN agenda and objectives, particularly the National Mental Health Policy in 2017, marketing activities, promotion of supplies and products related to infant and young children's nutrition, and the issuance of a new regulation on the Marketing Law for the Replacement of Natural Breast milk to promote breastfeeding in 2018.

Initiatives and free campaigns for early screening for breast cancer "Smart App Reassurance for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases and Smart App" Children of Health "in 2016 and Early Diagnosis Diabetes Program (2009:2018), Citizens' Health Travel Clinics and Charity Clinics involved in providing free medical consultations in March 2017, allocating about 7.9%, 8.6% of the general budget during the period (2016, 2017).

To be able to maintain maternal mortality rates at (3) per 100,000 live births since (2017), newborn rates at (4) per 100,000 since (2019), and the increase in indicators of childbirth under the supervision of doctors at (100%), and indicators of Health coverage at (76.1%), life span at (76.8%), and an advanced health system that will provide (181) doctors for every (100.00), and (3) medical cities: Dubai, Sharjah and Sheikh Zayed<sup>11</sup>, and benefit (99%) of the population. Of

<sup>10</sup> Research gate, Food security in the UAE: the great competition between the agriculture and forestry sector on irrigation resource, January 2014. PP5-8.

<sup>11</sup> AUE, good health and complete well being, Access date 2 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/2Zdd2m2>



all vaccines included in the national program at (2017), the elimination of most infectious diseases such as malaria, measles and polio.

It monitored (500,000) tourists to the UAE to obtain health care annually, starting from (2020), and received about (326,649) medical tourists in (2016) and (500,000) at the end of (2020)<sup>12</sup>. The great recovery from the effects of Covid-19 embodied in the launch of 764 An initiative, legal principles, and guidelines regarding Covid-19<sup>13</sup>. Its ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> globally in the number of Covid-19 detection tests since its inception in 2020 and ranked (5) globally in terms of the low number of deaths as a result of confirmed cases of Covid-19. The first doses of the vaccine were about (98.2%), the second doses were about (88.21%), the examinations were about (94,621,740), and the death, injury and recovery rates remained at (2,138, 740,289, 734,695) according to UAE health statistics on November 5, 2021).<sup>14</sup> (Locally, as well as providing more than 2,250 tons of medical supplies to more than 136 countries around the world until January 2022.

#### **4. Goal 4: Quality Education**

The Emirati reality monitors a growing consensus with the development of the United Nations, stemming from the UAE's educational policies, particularly the Education Development Plan (2015:2021), the National Education Strategy (2017:2030)<sup>15</sup>. The Inclusive Education Policy, which focuses on providing quality education from birth in its tracks: General, academic and professional advanced, adopting a standard federal budget estimated at Dirhams (180) billion (49) billion for the period (2018:2021), to achieve outstanding education rates in the path of sustainable development estimated at 99.8%, 81.7%, 99.4% and 95.8%) in primary enrolment and completion rates of middle school, reading and writing for the age group (15:24), respectively.

It received more than (910,000) students in (1174) public and private schools,<sup>16</sup> ranking 20<sup>th</sup> globally and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Arab world with (64) degrees in the education quality index and (52.9) in the education opportunity index in 2020<sup>17</sup>. The rapid recovery from COVID-19 Effects (19); Where the Emirates Foundation for School Education announced the return of the in-person education system in schools in (2021: 2022) on (29, August, 2021), keeping the distance learning

<sup>12</sup> Inter Nations Go, health insurance and the health system in UAE explained, <https://bit.ly/3CzREGt>

<sup>13</sup> <https://shorturl.at/swyJY>

<sup>14</sup> <https://bit.ly/3BP9OCZ>

<sup>15</sup> Sky news, the AUE is between the (20) globally in housing and education 11 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GPCT4Y>

<sup>16</sup> AL Ain, education in Emirates to space, 2 December 2017, <https://bit.ly/3bAsvQa>

<sup>17</sup> Al BAYAN, the AUE is the first in the Arab world and (20) TH globally among the best educational systems, <https://bit.ly/3q0pfWJ>



option for parents and reducing (72%) of educational and administrative cadres in government schools to the vaccine.

## **5. Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls**

UAE policies on Goal 5 are in line with the contents and recommendations of the voluntary reviews. It launched its National Strategy for Women's Empowerment and Leadership (2015:2021) and its initiative on "Measuring the gender balance index in 2017", and issued a decree on increasing the representation of Emirati women in the Federal Council by (50%) for the year (2018)<sup>18</sup>. Law on Equal Pay and Salaries for the Year (2018), the United Arab Emirates implemented the first set of reforms to ensure equality between women and men in applying for travel permits, allowing women to be brought into the family like men and legislating for violence and sexual harassment at work. (2019), and its reforms in 2020 addressed inequalities and inequalities in UAE laws and legislation, particularly on women's mobility, marital rights and disposal of funds. The UAE's Gender Balance Strategy 2026 was launched in March 2022.

To increase female participation in the workforce by about (55.7%), represented in Parliament by about (50%) in 2020, and (20%) in the diplomatic service by reality (175) Posts and (42) in foreign mission and (7) ambassadors, and about (40%, 35%, 20%) of the total employees of the education, health and community sector. "Amal al-Qabaisi" was elected as the first Arab woman speaker of parliament. The UAE government includes about (9) women ministers out of (31) ministers, i.e. 29%<sup>19</sup>. In the context of Emirati women's education, women accounted for about 95% of GSSEs enrolled in universities compared to 80% of males and 70% of university graduates (80%: 90%) of total students in Zayed and UAE universities.

The UAE became the first country in its territory to grant paid parental leave to private sector workers in September, 2020<sup>20</sup>, and ranked 26,18 and 25 globally in the United Nations Development Program's Gender Equality Index for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively<sup>21</sup>. Ranking among the top five countries in the world with notable achievements in 2020. It managed to close the gender gap by 71.6%.<sup>22</sup>

## **6. Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all:**

<sup>18</sup> WAM. Ae, The AUE ranks the (18) globally and first regionally in the gender Equality index for the Year 2020, 15 December 2020, <https://bit.ly/3CJIXI1>

<sup>19</sup> AUE Gender balance council, AUE Women FAQs, details, <https://bit.ly/3CH0TYz>

<sup>20</sup> World bank, gender equality in the Gulf co-operation council countries continuing the reform agenda, 24 February 2021, <https://bit.ly/3q1F5Ao>

<sup>21</sup> United Arab Emirates ministry of Foreign Affairs and international, AUE ranks the (18) TH in UNDP human development report 2020 gender inequality index, 12 December 2020, <https://bit.ly/3EE8sNg>

<sup>22</sup> Khaleej times, AUE first

There are many Emirati policies related to Goal 6 among the “UAE Water Security Strategy for the period (2018: 2036) that seeks to manage water demand and water supply, develop the production and emergency network, reduce water demand by 21% and increase the reprocessing rate to (95%), rationalizing expenditures at a value of (74) billion dirhams and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by (100) million tons in desalination plants, in addition to a set of policies and initiatives, including: the Energy and Water Demand Management Program in August 2021, so that the UAE can build the largest reserve in the world for water High-quality desalination in Al Dhafra region in Abu Dhabi in (2018), meeting the needs and benefiting its residents from safe drinking water, sanitation services and its proper management at a rate of (100%, 99.5%) since (2015), and the production of 442.319 million gallons of desalinated seawater in 2018.

#### **7. Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all:**

The development goal (7) on clean energy and reasonable prices indicated a growing Emirati interest, which is evident in its policies and initiatives, including: its launch of the “SHUAA” application to estimate the expected electricity production and the amount of savings achieved on the electricity bill through the installation of solar panels, and its launch of an electronic automation platform to manage energy data more efficiently and facilitation of annual data collection for the use of the ministry and stakeholders, and its launch of the Emirates Energy Strategy for (2050) with the aim of producing (50%) of its needs for sound nuclear energy to start it (2019), building one of the largest waste-to-energy plants in the world and launching the “Shams Dubai” initiative with the aim of enabling solar energy.

So the “Noor Abu Dhabi” plant, which is the largest independent solar power plant in the world at 1,117 MW, and the “Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Energy” solar park, as the largest solar energy project in one location in the world, with a production capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030, and reducing (6.5) million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, and the “Barakah” plant as the first nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates, and ranked first in the world in terms of ease of access to electricity according to the Global Competitiveness Report (2018), achieving 99.8% and 98.3% benefit from electricity services, clean fuels and technology, ranking 31st for owning nuclear technology for energy production, according to July 2022 statistics.



## **8. Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth:**

The UAE's development visions (2071), (2021) and the economic, investment, commercial, tourism, technological, oil, legal, and production strategies are aligned with the 2030 development goals,<sup>23</sup> through which they maintain advanced levels of economic diversification, limiting the contribution of the non-oil sectors to (2/3) of the estimated gross domestic product by about (421) billion dollars, or (1.6) trillion UAE dirhams in (2021), despite having the sixth-highest oil reserves in the world and ranked (25, 1) globally and in the Arab world in the economic recovery index after COVID-19 in 2020,<sup>24</sup> the chances of recovery and economic growth are expected to rise, estimated at (2.3%) in favor of real total growth, and at (3%: 4%) in favor of total non-oil growth in (2021: 2023) respectively.<sup>25</sup>

It ranked (1, 1, 15) at the Arab, regional and global levels in terms of its ability to attract foreign direct investment in (2021), advanced by (9) positions compared to (2020), according to the global foreign direct investment report "UNCTAD" in (2021), and ranked (21, 1) globally and regionally in the World Happiness Report issued by the United Nations, ranked (10, 1) globally and regionally in terms of health care efficiency, and (4) globally in the commercial application of 5G services, and the first to appoint a minister of artificial intelligence and a specialized university artificial intelligence in the world.

## **9. Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:**

The UAE has made pioneering strides in pursuit of goal (9) on industry, innovation and infrastructure, in line with the UAE's endeavors to be among the top 10 countries in the world by (2021); It has developed the innovation strategy (2014), the national strategy for advanced innovation (2018) and the national strategy for industry and advanced technology "the 3.00 billion project since (2015),<sup>26</sup> the establishment of a supportive system for innovation, research and development, and the launch of the initiative, such as the Innovation Week in (2014), and the Year of Innovation in (2015), and its launch of the Innovative Guide for Companies in the United Arab Emirates and the annual National Index of Corporate Social Responsibility in (2017), and the Federal Law on Anti-dumping and Countervailing and Preventive Measures.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> UAE, economy in the past and present, access date. 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3q0GFm5>

<sup>24</sup> AL Ain, the AUE economy ... the strength of growth defeats the pandemic, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3k5JwpM>

<sup>25</sup> ROOYA, the AUE is the first in the Arab world economic recovery index from the effects of Covid -19 epidemic, 11 October 2020, <https://bit.ly/3CPgsKU>

<sup>26</sup> U.ae, innovation, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3CEOPE0> .

<sup>27</sup> Sky news, THE AUE IS THE first regionally and ninth globally, access date 3 November 2021, <https://cut.ly/SR9TqH0>

In the meantime, and in (2019), the figures of the global competitiveness reports issued by the World Economic Forum showed that the UAE had achieved many advances, including: being ranked (1) globally in the mobile internet subscriptions index, and ranked (2) globally in ease of electricity, information and communication technology, and (7) globally in the efficiency index of air transport services and road quality, and ranked (12) in the infrastructure axis,<sup>28</sup> and succeeded in meeting the needs of (99.2%) of Internet services according to statistics (2021),<sup>29</sup> and ranked (34) globally, and within it ranked (22, 55) in innovation inputs and outputs; It ranked 33 globally out of (132) countries during the years (2021), and ranked (1) regionally for more than (6) years until (2021) in the Global Innovation Index.<sup>30</sup>

## 10. Goal 10: Reduce Inequality

The United Arab Emirates launched a set of policies and initiatives to reduce inequalities and achieve its development goal (10), including: the Wadeema Child Protection Law (2016), the empowerment and integration of people of determination in society (2017), and its national family policy (2018). The federal law on anti-dumping and countervailing measures to preserve the rights of national producers,<sup>31</sup> the formation of the Emirates Council for Digital Quality of Life in 2020, and the digital safety initiative for children with the dangers of the digital world, educating parents to protect their children from the internet, employing people of determination through the Internet platform of the Ministry of Community Development, to reach the number of workers until December 2021 towards 2,310 and the launch of the National Policy for the Elderly aimed at improving the quality of social services and the well-being of individuals aged 60 years and over, to cover the initiatives and activities of more than 16,000 elderly people, and the registration of the elderly in the mobile unit to provide social and therapeutic services, bringing the number of beneficiaries to nearly 3,600 in 2022.

## 11. Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

In its development vision, the UAE supported Goal (11) on sustainable cities and communities through the national legal framework for the partnership between the private and public sectors (2018) for the development of infrastructure, the Emirates project for the comprehensive and consensual plan (2017), the National Housing Initiative (2017), Energy Efficient Roads Initiative; The UAE will have (7) sustainable cities consistent with Goal (11) in

<sup>28</sup> UAE, infrastructure and UAE vision 2021, access date. 4 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3mK4tbD>

<sup>29</sup> UAE SDG.ae, Goal 9: build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, access date. 3 November, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BDcB24> .

<sup>30</sup> AUE ministry of foreign and international co-operation, the AUE advances two ranks to 34 globally and maintains the first place in the Arab world in the global innovation index 2020, <https://bit.ly/3bAs0W7> .

<sup>31</sup> <https://bit.ly/3k8mwqc> .



(2020), including: Masdar City, The Sustainable City, Silicon Oasis in Dubai, Sharjah City in the Emirate of Sharjah, Green Building in Ajman and the Model Villa in Ras Al Khaimah.<sup>32</sup>

## **12. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

The United Arab Emirates based its development vision on several policies related to goal (12) in order to create responsible consumption and production, including: the Green Business Tools Guide (2018), the national electronic waste database (2018), the regulatory framework of the national plan for sustainable production and consumption.<sup>33</sup> In the context of rationalization and energy consumption, the UAE implemented the fuel price liberalization policy, the Integrated National Energy Strategy (2030), the Emirates Star Program and green and sustainable building standards, the application of the energy chip system and the ban on the purchase of low-energy lamps; to succeed in reducing its environmental footprint to (7.75) hectares in (2014) out of (11.68) hectares in (2011), and in the context of e-waste recycling, in (2007); It launched a campaign to collect mobile phones for recycling and collected (200,000) phones and (52) tons of waste, in the context of converting waste into energy.

## **13. Goal 13: Climate Action:**

The UAE has developed a set of policies, goals and procedures related to climate action as the SDG 13, similar to its national plan for climate change during the period (2017: 2050), the Emirates Energy Strategy (2050), and its introduction by the Ministry of Climate Change (2016), which launched the UAE network project for Climate Research and the National Climate Adaptation Program adopted in (2017), the initiative of the Climate Innovation Exchange Forum, and the Blue Carbon Project concerned with planting millions of trees.

UAE had previously ratified the “Kyoto” Protocol to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (2005), and confirmed at the 21st Climate Conference in (2015) its plan to generate (24%) of its electricity from clean energy by (2021), and a commitment to reduce emissions by 23.5% by (70) million tons by 2030, and to increase the contributions of clean energy by (14) gigawatts compared to (100) megawatts in (2015) by 2030, and set its endeavors in October 2021 to be the first countries to achieve climate neutrality in (2050) in the Middle East and North Africa, and announced their efforts to invest (6.00) billion dirhams in clean and

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<sup>32</sup> Al Ain, 7 sustainable cities in emirates amaze the world, 10 January 2020, <https://bit.ly/3qLuBLuqff>

<sup>33</sup> UAE, responsible consumption and production, access date. 5 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3bHYMop> .

renewable energy sources by (2050), and their aspiration to host the Summit of Parties on Climate Change (28).<sup>34</sup>

By doing so, the UAE was able to strengthen the pillars of energy, diversify its sources and record the world record for the lowest cost of solar energy generation, and it became the first Arab country to use nuclear energy from carbon,<sup>35</sup> and entered the list of the best (20) countries globally in the eight indicators of climate change in (2020).<sup>36</sup>

#### **14. Goal 14: Life below water:**

In line with its development efforts, the UAE has intensified its policies and initiatives towards Goal 14, entitled "Life below water", particularly through its national plans for the conservation of sharks for the period (2018: 2021), and its national framework for the sustainability of fisheries for the period (2019: 2030), the National Plan for the Marine Turtle Conservation for the period (2019: 2021) and its smart map of natural capital, and the establishment of marine and terrestrial reserves, which was estimated at (15.07%, 17.1%) in (2019) before rising to (15.53%, 18.4%) in (2020, 2022) ) respectively, and its accession to the Global Ocean Alliance in (2020) on the protection of the oceans and the marine environment, and its establishment of laws prohibiting the dumping of waste similar to the UAE Federal Law No. 24 of (1999) regarding the protection of the environment, and its launch of the Sustainable Fisheries Program for the period (2016:): 2018) and enforce policies banning single-use plastic bags from June 2022.<sup>37</sup>

The UAE's data on marine development and underwater life indicates a score of (100%) in terms of craft opportunities and indicators of livelihoods and the economy, and the degrees of biodiversity, coastal protection, carbon storage and sense of place have stabilized around (93.5, 93.1, 91.7, 70.2), respectively, the degrees of clean water ranged between (60.8: 68), the provision of food (58: 59.6), and natural products between (46.2: 81.7) during the period between (2012: 2019).<sup>38</sup>

#### **15. Goal 15: Life on land:**

In order to achieve goal (15) on life on land, the United Arab Emirates has developed a number of policies and strategies, especially the national strategy for biodiversity for the period (2011: 2020), the national strategy to combat desertification, the environmental strategy for the

<sup>34</sup> AL Ain, The UAE... and climate action in the Arab world and internationally, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3EJs0zQ>

<sup>35</sup> Union, UAE: studied climate action achieves sustainable development, 27 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BK78qb> .

<sup>36</sup> AL Ain, Climate action strategy in The UAE.. an investment for the Future 2 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/2ZV1fcg> .

<sup>37</sup> UAE, Under water life .14: sustainable environment as a national priority, access date . 4 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3nWyXqv> .

<sup>38</sup> JOURNAL PRE- proof, date set on the marine sustainability in The UAE, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.103972>

sustainability of the marine and coastal environment, and the national strategy for environmental education and awareness for the period (2015: 2021). The initiative to resettle the Arabian Oryx, which contributed to increasing its number to 10,000 persons, the initiative to cultivate one million coral reef colonies, and the launch of the UAE's first wildlife satellite to study bird patterns in remote areas.<sup>39</sup>

The consolidation of the legislative environment along the lines of Federal Law No. (11) of (2002) regarding the regulation and control of international trade in animals, Federal Law No. (24) of (1999) regarding environmental protection and development, and Federal Law No. (16) of (2007) regarding animal welfare,<sup>40</sup> and signing of (7) international agreements, (3) protocols, (4) memoranda of understanding on biodiversity, and the electronic "CITES" permit program in (2017), the habitat map project in the UAE,<sup>41</sup> to be able to increase natural reserves from (19) in (2010) to (49) protected in (2020), distributed by (33) land and (16) marine, equivalent to (18%, 12%) respectively of its area; to rank first globally and regionally in terms of the number and area of reserves in (2020).<sup>42</sup>

## **16. Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:**

Goal (16) concerned with peace, justice and strong institutions was ranked among the priorities of UAE decision-makers in line with its development endeavors, especially (2021) and its slogan "United in Destiny" in the hope of a safe, stable and just state with a strong, transparent and corruption-free institutional structure. It presented a number of policies and initiatives around their adoption of the Missing Child Alert System in (2018) on Facebook, the Smart Tower Initiative (2017) to monitor traffic movements, a joint anti-drug framework in (2017), and the crime scene management policy in (2017), the unification of criminal systems in (2017), and the "Hassantuk" initiative (2017) to monitor emergency situations related to fire and public safety using smart technologies.

It ranked (1) globally in terms of the absence of organized crime and ranked (2) in terms of citizens' trust in government and leadership according to the Global Competitiveness Report (2016).<sup>43</sup> The data indicates that about (96.1%) of the population in the UAE feels safe and secure in (2018). It ranked (2) globally in terms of emergency response, (91%) in favor of a stable and safe work environment, and (100%) in the registration of births of children under the age

<sup>39</sup> AL Ain, The UAE and the promotion of biodiversity ...pioneering efforts to protect life on earth, 6 October 2021, <https://bit.ly/3wdCg09>.

<sup>40</sup> AL Ain, in preparation for Cop (15)... the UAE reviews its experience in protecting biodiversity, 23 October 2021, <https://bit.ly/3q7ToF1>.

<sup>42</sup> <https://bit.ly/3mInWJV>.

<sup>43</sup> UAE, Peace, justice and institutions, access date. November 4, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3K9vXWq>.



of (5), and crime rates decreased by (3.8, 49.6, 1.2, 0.7, 8.2) per 100,000 in terms of deaths from accidents, traffic, crimes of great concern, rape, and kidnapping since (2018) in connection with (2021).<sup>44</sup>

### **17. Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals:**

The goal (17) was consistent with the interest of the UAE leaders through the development of a foreign aid policy during the period (2017: 2017) and the establishment of the UAE Committee for the Coordination of Foreign Humanitarian Aid in (2014), and the provision of about (206.3) billion dirhams of foreign aid, equivalent to (56.1) billion dollars in favor of developing countries, including (110.4) billion dirhams during the period (2016: 2020), distributed by (50%) for African countries, (40%) for Asian, and (5%) for the rest of the continents, of which (75%) are directed to development goals (8, 16, 17, 1, 3) during the period (2010: 2021), so that the Arab Emirates occupy the top international donors for more than (4) times in that period.<sup>45</sup>

The UAE aid policies led to benefiting (178) countries in the world during the period (1971: 2018) with a value of (274.9) billion UAE dirhams, of which only (32.3, 22.3, 28.6) billion dirhams were in the years (2015, 2016, 2018), respectively, the aid provided 1.6 million health care workers to combat Covid-19, estimated at 1613 tons to 120 countries until (December, 2020).<sup>46</sup>

## **B. Challenges of achieving sustainable development in the UAE**

The manifestations of the UAE reality in order to achieve sustainable development indicate a number of challenges that can be monitored as follows:

### **1. Food security and production challenges:**

Despite these successes, the food production capacity is still lacking due to climatic changes, sandy soils, and water scarcity; where groundwater in the UAE contributes about (70%) of the total water resources, and covers about (95%: 82%) of the irrigation requirements of the agricultural and forestry sectors, respectively, and the total water withdrawn for agriculture is estimated at about (2.198) million cubic meters, or (32%) ) for the forestry and landscaping sector, and (68%) in crop production, in addition to the increase in the import of foodstuffs by

<sup>44</sup> Khaleej, the UAE is safer in the world, 18 March 2019, <https://bit.ly/3BLd9D8> .

<sup>45</sup> WAM, billion dirhams, the value of (206) foreign aid provided by the UAE between 2010: 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GQIFrM> .

<sup>46</sup> Khaleej, the UAE provides aid to (178) countries with (275) billion dirhams 2 December 2020, <https://bit.ly/7mLizpR> .



more than (87%: 90%), and the food wastage at a value of (3.5) billion dollars annually,<sup>47</sup> and the depletion of nearly ( 85%) of grouper and rabbit fish populations as a result of overfishing,<sup>48</sup> in addition to the suffering of (17%) of children under the age of (5) from malnutrition.

## **2. Climate and Water Challenges:**

Climate change in the UAE is still looming, where temperatures rise by (46%) degrees Celsius, humidity rates increase by (100%), rainfall rates decrease at (160) mm annually, and groundwater is depleted and its contributions estimated at (70%) of the total water resources and its life span has decreased at (16: 36) years compared to (24%, and 6%) in favor of seawater desalination and sewage, which are estimated at (950, 319) million cubic meters, respectively, and their level decreased by about (60) meters.

## **3. Environmental Challenges:**

Despite the UAE's development policies and efforts to preserve the environment, it is facing increasing environmental challenges resulting from the growing population growth and demand for water and urbanization, and the efforts of economic development. At the top of these challenges is the increase of carbon dioxide emissions to the degree that the UAE has become one of the largest carbon footprints in the world as well as the growing rates of waste and desertification.

## **4. Production and Consumer Challenges:**

The dilemma of low production in the UAE in favor of import is one of the main challenges facing the sustainability of development in the UAE. Where the UAE clearly depends on the import of consumer, intermediate and production goods at a rate of (11%) annually, and its increase by about (34) times from (20.9) billion dirhams in (1978) to (717.8) billion in response to (2012),<sup>49</sup> and the high rates of consumption of electricity and water; water consumption rates in the UAE have reached 500 liters per day, twice the global average estimated at a maximum of 250 liters.

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<sup>47</sup> UAESDG.ae, Goals 2: this goals means ending hunger, achieving food security, good nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, Access date 1 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GFQ0pd> .

<sup>48</sup> The BORGEM Projects, TOP 10 Facts About Hunger I the united Arab Emirates, access date 1 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GQCiqy> .

<sup>49</sup> <https://bit.ly/3GVsZ1t> .

## **Second: Evaluation of the Voluntary National Review of Djibouti in 2022:**

Djibouti's development policies, in pursuit of peace, unity, social solidarity and the development of the institutional, economic and political infrastructure, especially its development vision 2035, and its five-year plans such as the Accelerated Growth and Employment Strategy from 2015: 2019 and the Strategy for Inclusion and Institutions for the period 2020: 2024 and the National Biodiversity Action Program as well as its endeavors towards voluntary reviews, such as presenting its first voluntary reviews at the High Level Political Forum on July 15, 2022, represent a growing development ambition and a voluntary commitment to the UN Development Vision 2030; like other countries of the world, especially developing countries, they are based on a set of policies and development efforts.<sup>50</sup>

The report of the Djibouti review included a presentation of the progress and successes of Djibouti for the seventeenth development goals, and in this context, an evaluative vision of the voluntary national review can be presented as follows:

### **a. Djibouti's developmental successes and advances**

#### **1. Goal 1: No Poverty:**

The national review of Djibouti indicates that it has adopted national development policies that are consistent with the UN 2030 Agenda, particularly with regard to goal 1 on poverty eradication. The review has introduced many policies since 1990, including; The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2003), the National Social Development Initiative (2007), the Djibouti Vision for the period (2014: 2035), and the Rapid Growth Strategy (2015), which led to 18.9% of the poor receiving cash benefits and an increase in the proportion of pension recipients over the legal age to 14.2% in 2019.

However, as a result of political and security changes from conflicts and civil wars until (2001), poverty rates in the Djiboutian contexts ranged around (40.2%, 39.5%, 44.6%, 43.4%, 42.2%, 41.09%, 39.9%, 34.13%, 35.4%, 33.13%) during the period (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021) respectively at the line estimated at (3.2) dollars and about (13.1%) at the extreme poverty risk, estimated at (1.9) dollars in (2021),<sup>51</sup> which was monitored

<sup>50</sup> Embassy of the republic of Djibouti to the state of Kawai, Djibouti 2035, access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3ENcPWs>

<sup>51</sup> UNDB, Goal 1: No poverty IN DJIBOUTI, Access date .8 december2021, <https://bit.ly/3EAXGl3>



by the World Food Program by about (42%) of the people living below the extreme poverty line.<sup>52</sup>

## **Goal 2: End hunger**

The first Djibouti voluntary review portrayed Djibouti adopting a set of policies related to the second goal; it also monitored an increase in stunting rates by about (33.5%, 31.9%, and 31.0%) during the period (2010, 2016, and 2019), respectively, and wasting rates towards ( 21.5%, 16.2%, 15.6%) during the period (2012, 2015, 2019), and obesity rates of the total adult population (13.5%) from (2016) to (2021).

Djibouti continued to import (90%) of its food, and (98%) suffered from an inadequate diet, and (1/3) of its population was food insecure (2017), and monitored about (194,000), equivalent to (17%) of the population in a state of acute food insecurity (12%, 4.5%, 0.5%) in urban and rural areas and camps during the period (January, August 2021)(62%) of the . And<sup>53</sup> rural population suffers from limited access to nutritious foods<sup>54</sup>.

## **Goal 3: Good Health**

According to the Djibouti National Review, it has adopted a set of policies to develop and develop health capacities as a cornerstone of its development vision, the limit of the consistency of the Development Vision 2020: 2024 by 72 with the UN goals. It set its health development plan for the period (2018: 2022), a budget of about 6.7% of total government spending, the development of therapeutic and immunization services, especially against polio, and its implementation of a project to bring modern technologies in (2017). However, its health facts indicate a low infrastructure, weak specialized medical staff, a decrease in the health coverage rate to (47%) since (2017), maternal mortality rates reaching (248) per 100,000 live births since (2017), and the recent arrival of the infant mortality rate birth at about (30.5) for every (1,000) live births since (2019).

## **Goal 4: Quality Education**

Goal 4 has met Djibouti's policies since (2000), consistent with the UN vision, such as free education in (2000), ensuring the right of refugees to education in (2019), the education sector plan for the period (2010: 2019), and a budget of about 6.3% annually. So, it can increase the

<sup>52</sup> WFP, Djibouti access date 8 December 2021, <https://www.wfp.org/countries/djibouti>

<sup>53</sup> Djibouti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October - December 2020 and Projection for January - August 2021. Available at: <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1153027/>

<sup>54</sup> WFP, Djibouti access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3IHJaRh>

primary school enrolment rate from (50%) in (2007) to (68%) in (2014), (67%) in (2020), and reach the completion rate of the preparatory stage to (49.8%); nevertheless, Djibouti still needs many efforts to achieve this goal.

### **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Djibouti has pursued many policies to achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women, including the Ministry establishment for the Advancement of Women, Family and Social Affairs (2008), and the establishment of a center that provides female teachers and support to victims of violence (2008). And the establishment of an action plan to enhance access to girls in (2004), the launch of literacy programs for adults, especially women in (2004), the establishment of The National Committee to Abandon Female Genital Mutilation, and the National Strategy to Abandon Female Genital Mutilation for the period (2018: 2022).

As a result, Djibouti was able to meet the demand for family planning through modern methods by about (84.8%) in (2020), raise the percentage of parliamentary representation to (26.2%), and raise the proportion of seats held by women in the international seats of local government to about (28.8%), according to statistics (2021) of women are . However, (60.5%)<sup>55</sup> still illiterate, only (19%) of women work compared to (81%) of men<sup>56</sup>, and the percentage of women in the age group who have been subjected to circumcision is about (94.4%). Gender equality in Djibouti was estimated at (1%) in (2020) according to the World Bank Group of Development Indicators<sup>57</sup>.

### **Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all**

The government of Djibouti has developed many policies and initiatives to achieve the goal (6) in urban and rural areas, such as setting up its first project, "Prodermo" for rural development for the period (2012: 2019), in cooperation with the International Development Association. Which will repair (116) water access points, save (2) million m3, expand irrigation areas to about 84 hectares and distribute small irrigation groups to 50 gardens to support private companies<sup>58</sup>.

As a result, Djibouti has benefited from improved drinking water services (97.9%) and (63.6%) sanitation services (2017: 2021). However, Djibouti still suffers from drought and water scarcity, like other countries in eastern Africa. The average rainfall is about (150) mm annually,

<sup>55</sup> Woman Un, Djibouti, access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3pE2xBR>

<sup>56</sup> USAID, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, access date . 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3oytdVc>

<sup>57</sup> World bank development, Djibouti, access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3dwCabi>

<sup>58</sup> Mohamed Medouar, for pastoral communities in Djibouti, effective management of water and agro-pastoral resources build resilience from climate shocks, APRIL 22, 2021. Available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/water/pastoral-communities-djibouti-effective-management-water-and-agro-pastoral-resources-build>



freshwater flows are absent, and the rate of withdrawal of fresh water has increased by (6.3%) in favor of (84%, zero, and 16%) for the domestic, industrial, and agricultural sectors, respectively, and the lack of sewage treatment (0%).<sup>59</sup>

### **Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Goal (7) has met many policies and initiatives by the Djibouti government since (2013), such as its establishment of the Djibouti project to generate thermal energy in line with its development vision for (2035) and aspiring to achieve universal access and provide it with (100%) of renewable energy in (2035) Djibouti can benefit from electricity and raise the rate of access .<sup>60</sup> to it (60.4%) from (2018) to (2021), and its percentage of access to clean fuels and cooking technology raised to (11.5%) from (2016) to (2021). and it can generate electricity (3.00) megawatts of renewable energy, achieving a national electricity production rate of about 42% and providing electrical energy from electrical stations by about 120 megawatts<sup>61</sup>. But Djibouti still imports about (65%) of its electricity from Ethiopia, and there are about (110,000) families without electricity in Djibouti<sup>62</sup>.

### **Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth**

Djibouti has pursued a set of policies aimed at achieving the goal (8) concerned with promoting pure and comprehensive economic growth; It laid out its development vision for the period (2014: 2035) and its rapid growth strategy (2017); it was able to raise the economic<sup>63</sup> growth rate by about (1.6%, 3.7%, and 7.5%) during (2009, 2011, and 2019) by (5.6) billion dollars in (2019) before its contraction to (0.5) in (2020), as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic effects.

Revenues without grants declined from (19.4) in (2019) to (17.5) in (2020) of GDP, the budget deficit rose from (0.5%) to (2.3%) of GDP, and foreign investments declined. By (10.3%) in (2020) compared to (26.3) in (2019) of the GDP, and the trade balance deficit increased by (9.2%) compared to achieving an estimated surplus of (13%) in (2019) of the total GDP and the severity of the public debt increased to rise from (50.2%: 72.9) during the period (2015: 2020) of the GDP<sup>64</sup>, but in the contexts of recovery from Covid-19, the realities of the Djiboutian

<sup>59</sup> PURE Aqua, Reverse Osmosis & Water Treatment in Djibouti, access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3Gpl6iH>

<sup>60</sup> Olivier Caslin, Djibouti: Aiming to be first African country entirely reliant on green energy, 13 April 2021. Available at: <https://www.theafricareport.com/79681/djibouti-aiming-to-be-first-african-country-entirely-reliant-on-green-energy/>

<sup>61</sup> USAID, DJIBOUTI ENERGY SECTOR OVERVIEW, ACCESS date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3EAJpuI>

<sup>62</sup> PROJECT, 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY IN DJIBOUTI BY 2035, Access date 8 December 8, 2021 <https://bit.ly/3dvysP4>

<sup>63</sup> The BORGES PROJECT, poverty in Djibouti: a Galvanizing government invests in action, access date 27 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3f5B1bV>.

<sup>64</sup> Djibouti Economic Outlook. Available at: <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries-east-africa-djibouti/djibouti-economic-outlook>

economy monitored its possibility to reach (5.5%, and 6.2%). ) during the period (2021 and 2022).<sup>65</sup>

### **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

Djibouti has pursued a number of aspiring policies to achieve the goal (9) of industry, innovation, and infrastructure development, and these efforts have led to the development of a scientific, digital and innovative environment. The percentage of Internet users reached 554,000 in January 2021, an estimated increase of 1.5 compared to (2020), with an estimated increase of (7,962). The Internet penetration rate reached (55.7%), and the number of social media users increased by (30%) from (2020). Social media users amounted to about (26.1%) of the population, broad internet subscriptions to about (23.6) per 100,000 of the population, and mobile phone users rose to (433.000) mobile connections to include (43.5%) of the population<sup>66</sup>.

The infrastructure quality index reached about (2.8) out of a value ranging between (0:5) in (2018). And scientific and technical journal articles amounted to (zero) for every (100,000) in (2018), in addition to its endeavors in (2021) to partner with Egypt in establishing a logistics industry zone that will be an Egyptian export hub for the Djibouti market and the markets of the Horn of Africa and East African countries<sup>67</sup>.

### **Goal 10: Reduce inequality**

Goal (10) met with a group of Djiboutian national efforts in an effort to achieve them in order to activate the constitutional entitlements and the development vision "2035". In addition to the policies concerned with people with special needs, especially the constitutional entitlements in Articles (1: 2, 10, 13) and the mechanisms concerned with people with disabilities such as the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, the National Agency for Employment, Training and Professional Integration, the National Solidarity Fund, and the National Agency for People with Disabilities since (2018), the strategy The National Children's Education Plan for the period (2011: 2015), the education plan for the period (2010: 2019), the work plan in the field of vocational education and training for the period (2011: 2016), and the provision of health<sup>68</sup> services and projects for them, such as the community rehabilitation project for people with disabilities in Bulbula Hospital in ( 2014) for more than (6,250) people, and served at least

<sup>65</sup> The world bank, the world bank in Djibouti, 1 NOVEMBER 2021, <https://bit.ly/3iZAZng> .

<sup>66</sup> Data portal, digital 2021, 11 February 2021, <https://bit.ly/3oEgArW>

<sup>67</sup> <https://bit.ly/3GwPj0K>

<sup>68</sup> IPS, Inclusive education still evades peoples with disabilities, 29 Jan 2021, <https://bit.ly/38KpLy> .

(31,250) of their relatives, the training program for the visually impaired funded by the Presidency in (2017).<sup>69</sup>

### **Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

Djibouti has made outstanding efforts to achieve the goal (11) of cities and local communities in line with its development vision of 2035; It includes more than (1.4) million people in a small geographic area estimated at about (23,000) km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population density of (128.4) people per m<sup>2</sup> or (49) people per km<sup>2</sup>, and the population growth rate in urban areas has increased by about (0.98) in (2020 compared to (1.31) in (2011) the proportion of the , <sup>70</sup> urban population reached (78.1%) in (January 2021) compared to (64.5%) in (2018), and compared to (21.9%) for the rural, providing (97.9%) of services safe water<sup>71</sup>.

### **Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production**

Djibouti made a number of efforts and presented a set of policies concerned with achieving the goal (12) to achieve responsible consumption and production and enhance its production, manufacturing, and energy capabilities. In the energy context, Djibouti has developed an energy strategy with a view to reducing dependence by about (100%) on fossil fuels (2010) to renewable energy by (2035). As a result, Djibouti has the capacity to generate (300) megawatts of electricity<sup>72</sup> and about (2,500) tons of fish, representing (3%) of the gross domestic product<sup>73</sup>. And it records about (147.2) kg per capita per day of carbon dioxide emissions, about (0.4) kg per person per day for solid waste, and (1) kg for electronic waste, according to (2021) statistics. The average oil production in Djibouti from (1980: to 2020) amounted to about (zero) barrels per day<sup>74</sup>. The facts of development in Djibouti indicate that industrial production reached (zero) in 2020<sup>75</sup>. Agriculture contributes to the gross domestic product by about (4%); Where about (30%) of the population depends on it<sup>76</sup>.

### **Goal 13: Climate Action**

Goal 13 on climate action in Djiboutian contexts met with a set of development efforts to achieve it, including submitting the second national communication (2014) and submitting the

<sup>69</sup> RBF health, Djibouti, access date. 23 may, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3ukf3gq>.

<sup>70</sup> <https://bit.ly/3oCK2OQ>

<sup>71</sup> <https://bit.ly/3pJv2Ou>

<sup>72</sup> <https://bit.ly/3ENS7pO>.

<sup>73</sup> OXFORD Business Group, investment and reform to Expand role of industry in Djibouti, access date 9December 9, 2021, <https://bit.ly/31PYxpl>

<sup>74</sup> Global economy, Djibouti Oil Production, access date .9december 2021, <https://bit.ly/3Gwt9vg>

<sup>75</sup> <https://bit.ly/3lQ83jK>.

<sup>76</sup> <https://bit.ly/3Gw6qQ0>

national contribution to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (2016), So it was <sup>77</sup> able to achieve the 13 goal. The carbon dioxide emissions resulting from combustion, burning, and cement production amounted to about (40 and 41) tons during the period (2016: 2019) per capita, respectively and carbon dioxide emissions from imports amounted to about (0.14) tons in (2015), the carbon dioxide in fossil fuel exports about (zero) kg since (2019).

#### **Goal 14: Life below Water:**

Djibouti has developed many policies, especially its partnership with the United Nations, including the identification and declaration of marine areas and the guidelines for sustainable fisheries development. As a result, Djibouti succeeded in maintaining marine biodiversity estimated at (890) animal species and (17) plant species under the waters of Djibouti. Where sharks, coral reefs, and tourism ecosystems are active according to statistics (December 2020), and the possession of nature reserves with an area of (52,000) hectares of ecosystems, marine and coastal, including Moucha Island, **Mashkali**, and Ramos Island, in addition to its efforts to announce (4) additional sites. They are: Arta Plage, Ghouba, Sagalo, and **Sail Blanc**<sup>78</sup>.

In addition, it has a coastline estimated at (372) km, an exclusive economic zone estimated at (7.1190) km<sup>2</sup>, and a continental shelf estimated at (2.492) km<sup>2</sup>; the richest areas of fisheries are concentrated in the north, which includes (55%, 45%) for demersal and pelagic fishes, respectively. Despite this, fish contributions to the GDP are still (0.3) with low production of about (2,000) tons and a low annual per capita consumption of (1.5) kg<sup>79</sup>.

#### **Goal 15: Life on land:**

The Djiboutian government attaches great importance to goal 15, which is concerned with life on land. It has developed several strategies, including the National Action Plans for Biodiversity (2000), the Environment Framework Law (2,000), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period (2011: 2020). As a result, Djibouti succeeded in preserving many species and species of birds, estimated at 367 species and (5.00) species of fish, which contribute about 3.6%, along with forests and agriculture, to the total GDP, and achieved a value of (0.8) between (0:1) in (2020).<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/djibouti>

<sup>78</sup> UNDP, Protecting marine biodiversity: Djibouti's Fayah Brigade , access date . 9December 2021 , <https://bit.ly/3yijS7q>

<sup>79</sup> FAO, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Access date 9 December 2021 , <https://bit.ly/31IKp1N>

<sup>80</sup> Convention on biological diversity, Djibouti , access date 8 December 2021 , <https://bit.ly/3y72lt5>

However, in the Djiboutian context, about (23) species of fish were under threat, (11) species of mammals and (3) species of plant species were monitored, and only (1.2%) of the wild and protected areas were monitored out of the total area distributed about 1.6 %, and 0.2% for land and marine areas, respectively, according to (2021) statistics<sup>81</sup>. In addition, forests represent less than (1%) of the total area. The vegetation cover of wildlife consists of desert and tree grasslands, which consists of thistles and palm trees; About 534 species of plants have been observed in the mountains of Livistona carinensis.<sup>82</sup>

### **Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:**

The efforts of the Djiboutian government are reflected in the goal (16) concerned with peace, justice, and strong institutions, which monitors a murder rate of (6.5) per 100,000 since (2015). Detention rates reached 38% of the total prison population in (2018), and the rate of birth registration with the Municipal authorities increased by about (91.7%) in (2019) of the total children under (5). The value of the Corruption Perceptions Index was (27%), and the Press Freedom Index reached (76.7%) in (2020). The prevalence of violence in Djibouti reached (53.12%), security (37.71%), crime (61%), and corruption and bribery (62%) in (2021).<sup>83</sup>

In the context of (2020), Djibouti ranked (126, 142) out of (179) in the Global Corruption Index during the years (2020 and 2021). In the context of 2021, crime rates increased by <sup>84</sup> (64.4%) compared to (35.6%) for the safety index, distributed by (44.4% and 305%) for traffic safety, day and night, respectively. As crime levels increased in Djiboutian contexts, the value of crime rose to (65.6%) in (2021) and (77.7%) in (2019, 2020, and 2021).<sup>85</sup>

### **Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals:**

In the context of achieving Goal 17, Djibouti relied on a set of development partnerships similar to its partnership with the United Nations; Where it signed a framework (2016) for the period (2018: 2022), according to which the United Nations is committed to seeking to achieve national development priorities through the implementation of a set of initiatives and programs, including the Youth, Education and Employability Program, the Development Finance Program, the increase in public and private resources, development assistance, and the Based on human

<sup>81</sup> KNOMA, Djibouti - Bird species, under threat, Access date 8 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3y6cs6S>

<sup>82</sup> <https://bit.ly/3lwvZIX>

<sup>83</sup> [https://www.numbeo.com/crime/country\\_result.jsp?country=Djibouti](https://www.numbeo.com/crime/country_result.jsp?country=Djibouti)

<https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

<sup>84</sup> منظمة الشفافية الدولية، مؤشر مدركات الفساد ٢٠٢٠، يناير ٢٠٢١. متاح على: <https://bit.ly/3GsOxBQ>

<sup>85</sup> NUMBEO, Crime in Djibouti, Access date .9 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GsOxBQ>





rights for social inclusion, services and the "One People" regional integration program with neighbouring countries and regional partners.

As well as its partnership with the World Bank for the period (2022: 2026) aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting inclusive growth and developing human capital<sup>86</sup>, as well as its conclusion in a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Fund for Development in June (2021)ne 2021, and its partnership with the ; to enrol 35,000 children out of school in Ju<sup>87</sup> European Union is estimated at 24 million euros annually in support of the drinking water sectors, improve hygiene conditions, promote social and economic development and support vulnerable groups based on human rights<sup>88</sup>.

### **1. Challenges of sustainable development in Djibouti:**

The Djiboutian contexts and the realities of development in them refer to a set of challenges, which revolve around:

#### **1. Poor economic structure:**

The Djibouti economy lacks the capacity for diversification, and the risks of economic vulnerability are increasing, where agricultural production decreases to (4%) of the GDP and fish production decreases to (2,500) tons annually, less than the average. In addition to the weakness of the industrial sector in contrast to the increasing focus on the services sector, the decrease in the gross domestic product was estimated at (5.6) billion dollars and the decrease in the per capita GDP. In addition to the rise in public debts by about (70%) of the GDP<sup>89</sup>, and the high unemployment rates of about (10%) for men and (11%) for women. In addition to the high rates of poverty, the poverty rates in Djibouti are increasing sharply; they ranged between 33% of the national poverty line and about 17% of the extreme poverty line. Some reports have indicated it by (79%), and it reaches (94.2%) outside the capital<sup>90</sup> and about (72.5) in rural areas. These statistics indicate the increasing consequences of poverty rates, especially in light of weak production and food insecurity.

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<sup>86</sup> World bank, partnership framework 2022: 2026, access date .9 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3dDYqca>

<sup>87</sup> <https://bit.ly/3iThzm7>.

<sup>88</sup> <https://bit.ly/3y9udm5>.

<sup>89</sup> IMF, Djibouti 2019 Article consultation press release staff report and statement y the executive director for Djibouti, access date 9 December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3GSmH4>

<sup>90</sup> <https://bit.ly/3EKbn2G>.

## **2. poor health infrastructure:**

Djibouti still suffers from poor infrastructure and weak specialized medical staff; Where the medical staff in Djibouti reached about (3381) in (2017), including (110) general practitioners, (129) specialized doctors, (3.35) nurses, and (2.55) midwives for every (1,000) people (2017). The health coverage rate has reached (47%) since (2017), maternal mortality rates have reached (248) per 100,000 live births since (2017), and the newborn mortality rate has reached (30.5) per (1,000) live births since (2019).

The mortality rate for children under the age of (5) is about (57.5) per (1,000) live births in (2019), the rate of tuberculosis is about (234) per 100,000 in (2019), and the death rate due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases for the age group (30: 70) years about (19.6%) according to (2020) statistics. In addition, the death rate from traffic accidents reached about (23.5) per 100,000 in (2019).

## **3. poor educational structure:**

Djibouti facts monitor about (1) child out of (5) children who are out of school (46%, 39.9%) of girls and young men, respectively. And it monitors gender differences in the right to education estimated at (55% and 45%) of young men and girls within The school, respectively, according to the statistics (2018), and regional differences estimated at (67%, 49) for urban and rural areas, respectively. In addition to the high illiteracy rates among about (70%) of the total population and (85%) of the total women. In addition to the deterioration of the educational infrastructure and its basic facilities, including schools and teachers.

## **4. Growing Inequalities:**

SDG 10 still faces many challenges in Djibouti; Poverty rates are still high in Djibouti, especially outside the capital, Djibouti; where the percentage ranged between (17.1%) the lowest extreme poverty line. About (28.6%) of the population of Djibouti was monitored living in deprived families of multiple dimensions, and the adjusted Gini coefficient for the highest income was about (53.2%) in (2020) compared to (41.6%) in (2017). It was monitored (that 75%) of the rural family suffered from severe food security due to drought, and the low rate of women's participation in work by about (19%) of the labour force. In addition to the increase in the illiteracy rate to (61%) of women, and the decrease in the gross domestic product per capita by about (3,500) dollars to rank (166) out of (189) in the Sustainable Development Index (2020)

s held by the lowest (10) (1.9%) and the income share held by the . And the income share wa<sup>91</sup> highest (10) at about (32.3%)<sup>92</sup>. The population's ability to obtain electricity is low at (13%) for the poor<sup>93</sup>.

## 5. poor Industrial Infrastructure:

Djibouti still imports about (65%: 70%) of the needs of building materials, especially steel from Turkey and tiles from China. The construction sector meets about (40%) of the total demand in Djibouti, and there are limited developments in the industrial sector in favour of the services sector and there is no Large industrial area in Djibouti.

## 6. Climate Changes:

Djibouti is at the forefront of countries most vulnerable to climate changes, especially devastating droughts and floods. In (2018) he was exposed to the hot tropical cyclone "Sagar", which affected 150,000 people. In addition to the high water challenges in terms of freshwater scarcity and the high rate of withdrawal of it by about (6.3%), which affected all levels, especially agricultural, estimated at (0.4%) of arable lands of the total area of Djibouti<sup>94</sup>.

## Third: Assessment of Switzerland's 2022 voluntary national review

Sustainable development reports and their facts in Swiss contexts indicate Switzerland's demonstrated commitments and the twinning of its policies with 2030 Development Vision and the contents of national voluntary reports. Development priorities and national implementation mechanisms have been identified every 4 years, as the 2030 development vision is an important frame of reference for Switzerland's international cooperation and is inaugurated by the 2016: 2019 strategy and its monitoring of Swiss efforts to integrate sustainability policies into sectoral policies, particularly towards the objectives of consumption, production, energy, climate, urban development, natural resources, the economic and financial system, education, research, innovation, social security and gender equality.

Not to mention the sustainable development monitoring systems since 2003 through 73 indicators and mandated by the Swiss Council to conduct baseline, comprehensive and analytical assessments of Switzerland's development realities since 2015 through an analysis of

<sup>91</sup> بوابة الأهرام الإخبارية، جيبوتي وتحديات التنمية والاستقرار، تاريخ الوصول ٨ ديسمبر ٢٠٢١، <https://bit.ly/3DAzMuR>

<sup>92</sup> KNOMA, - Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.9 a day based on purchasing-power-parity in constant prices of 2011, ACCESS date 8 December 8, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3dwULnJ>

<sup>93</sup> AL bank ala DAWLI, Making data available to all: key global public goods channels that help develop and advance across countries, access date December 2021, <https://bit.ly/3pBJNTE>

<sup>94</sup> KNOMA, - Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.9 a day based on purchasing-power-parity in constant prices of 2011, ACCESS date 8 December 8, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3dwULnJ>

196 goal and its call for a robust follow-up mechanism, voluntary national audits and review of the implementation of the sustainable development goals at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and its contributions to achieving SDG 17 through enhanced domestic resource mobilization, capacity-building and strengthening of a rules-based global multilateral trading system.

The federal offices' obligation to include sustainable development in their periodic reports on business items or areas covered by their sectoral policies in order to measure contributions to the sustainable development goals and to amend the terms of reference in May 2016 for the system to be ready to take into account the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs<sup>95</sup>. In order to submit three voluntary national reports in 2016, 2018 and 2022; Advanced stages have been achieved at all levels of development, in particular SDGs 1, 2, 4, 12, and ongoing challenges have been monitored at the level of SDG 13 & 14.<sup>96</sup>

## **A. Swiss Development Successes:**

### **1. Goal 1: No Poverty**

Voluntary national reviews monitor Switzerland's policies and efforts, highlighting consensus on SDG 1 on poverty eradication. Many policies have been introduced, including the social security system, such as the provision of pensions and the adoption of the mobilization of additional resources from the private sector, in order to retain a comparison of other poverty rates at 8.5% in 2020 and 4.2%. However, there has been no significant development since 2014, with total social security expenditure standing at 29.1% of gross product in 2019. In 2022, the number of poor people stood at \$1.90 per day at about 0.2% in 2022. The poverty rate at \$3.2 per day is about 2% in 2022<sup>97</sup>

### **2. Goal 2: End Hunger**

The Voluntary national reviews visualizes the implementation of advanced policies by the Swiss Confederation in order to achieve SDG 2 on the eradication and eliminating of hunger, in particular constitutional entitlements to food security and the production of more than 50% of food consumption and effective, flexible and sustainable systems to ensure food supply and the application of ecological farming principles, in order to succeed in eradicating and whistling

<sup>95</sup> HLPF, [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/Switzerland](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/Switzerland), access date 17 July 2022, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/switzerland>

<sup>96</sup> HLPF, [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/Switzerland](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/Switzerland), access date 17 July 2022, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/switzerland>

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>

hunger However, the problem of malnutrition is still present, along with 42% of the resident population suffering from overweight or clinical obesity. In the context of 2022, the prevalence of stunting in children under the age of 5 has reached 2.6% since 2019, and the prevalence of wasting in children under the age of 5 has been 0.7% since 2019. The prevalence of obesity and body mass index is about 19.5% since 2016.<sup>98</sup>

### 3. Goal 3: Good Health

The Swiss Voluntary National Reviews, especially for 2022, emphasize that Switzerland has achieved increased health successes as a result of its health strategies, including: Preventive measures to combat infectious diseases, the Health Policy Strategy 2030:2020, the National Anti-Addiction Strategy, the Electronic Health Strategy, the Radiss Action Plan to enhance Radiation Security and the Suicide Prevention Action Plan<sup>99</sup>. Not to mention its health foreign policies 2019 and the amendment of the Federal Health Insurance Act 2021, and the approval of the Federal Council away from the authorization model; Where therapists work under the supervision of a doctor - to a prescription form.

In addition to its support for the logistics services of the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as they distribute vaccines, tests and treatments. The adoption of the cost containment program in 2018 as a responsibility of all health care actors to ensure that costs do not increase and enter into force in January 2022. In order to achieve a group Among the advances, there is a decrease in the maternal mortality rate of 5 per 100,000 live births, the neonatal mortality rate of 2.8 per 1,000, the under-5 mortality rate of about 4 per 1,000, the incidence of tuberculosis of 4.7 per 100,000, and the incidence of Covid-19 virus of about 1 per 1,000 in 2020. The standard age mortality rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution is 2.3 per 100,000 and 10 per 100,000 in 2019.

As well as supporting IOM, UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) logistics services while distributing vaccines, tests and treatments and adopting the Cost Containment Program in 2018 as a responsibility of all health care actors to ensure that costs do not increase and enter into force in January 2022, a set of advances of 5 per 100,000 live births and 2.8 per 1,000 newborns. The standard age mortality rate

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<sup>98</sup> <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/publications/SchweizerischeAussenpolitik/20201104-strategie->

attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution is 2.3 per 100,000 and 10 per 100,000 in 2019.

Deaths from traffic accidents are 2.3 per 100,000 in 2019 and the average age at birth is 83.5% in 2019, the rate of births under the supervision of skilled health personnel is 100 per cent since 2006. The rate of health coverage is 87% in 2019. However, Swiss contexts maintain an estimated suicide rate of 9.8 per 100,000 according to 2019 statistics, and life satisfaction indicators remain only 73% of the population satisfied since 2015.<sup>100</sup>

#### **4. Goal 4: Quality Education**

The Swiss Federation has pursued development policies for Goal 4 on quality and equitable education and reviewed it in accordance with 2030 Vision. Monitoring its National Voluntary Review 2022 characterized the Swiss education system by its high standards and effectiveness, providing a wide range of high-quality education and training programs, applying the dual system of education and vocational training, taking measures to improve areas such as job selection preparation and higher vocational training, promoting and launching projects of vocational qualifications for adults, especially since 2019, and considering the early years of childhood as an important area of work for social policy and launching special initiatives for the impact of the 19 delegation on education. To provide opportunities for all children and young people to attend compulsory education and achieve a range of advances, such as achieving 99.6% participation in quality education in pre-primary structured learning and 95.6% completion rate since 2019, 76.4% of the Swiss population enjoying writing and reading skills for over years and 41% of them enjoying digital skills according to 2021 statistics. However, review reports indicate a range of challenges based on low access to services for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and children with disabilities, and higher costs.<sup>101</sup>

#### **5. Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls**

A growing and intensive Swiss effort around Goal 5 on gender equality and girls' empowerment is evident, such as the adoption of the Gender Equality Strategy 2021:2030 and the inclusion of gender equality in the international cooperation strategy since 2017. Companies with more than 250 employees have made up at least 30% of women and 20% of them on the board and executive board members since 2021. Women's representation of about 42% and 29% of national councils and cantonal parliaments in 2019, despite those successes, the gender gap

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<sup>100</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/eda/en/documents/>

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>



persists. Domestic violence increased by 85 victims, 74% of whom were women in 2020. The wage gap remained estimated at 13.8% between women and men. Women still earn an average of 13.8% less than their male colleagues according to 2020 statistics and 22.5% of female employees hold administrative positions compared to 38% of men.

## **6. Goal 6: Ensuring universal access to water and sanitation**

Switzerland has developed several water policies in line with the requirements of SDG 6, including: adoption of an action plan to reduce risks and promote the sustainable use of pesticides, amendments to the Chemicals Act, the Water Protection Act and the Agriculture Act to reduce the risks of using pesticides, and the treatment of about 10% of wastewater in Switzerland to remove organic trace elements in early 2021, and try to revitalize 4000 km of Switzerland's rivers by 2090, saving per capita use of about 296 liters per person per day according to 2019 statistics.

By aligning its policies towards Goal 6, it has managed to link more than 97% of households to central wastewater treatment facilities. The proportion of the population using at least 100% basic drinking water services in 2020 and the population using sanitation increased by 99.9% in 2020, the population using safely managed water services by 94.2% in 2020, the population using managed sanitation services by 99.7% in 2020 and treated wastewater by 96.7% in 2018, the freshwater withdrawal rate reached 6.5% of available freshwater resources in 2018. However, about 80% of drinking water comes from groundwater and the structure of watercourses has not been modernized since 2002; Water structures 1/4 in an unsatisfactory ecological condition.<sup>102</sup>

## **7. Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Switzerland has developed several policies and strategies on SDG 7 for public access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services Energy Strategy 2050 aimed at phasing out nuclear energy, increasing energy efficiency and the percentage of renewable energies, reducing energy consumption, reducing energy-related carbon emissions and enacting the Federal Bill on Securing Electricity Supply from Renewable Energies<sup>103</sup>. To decide on the establishment of a hydroelectric reserve, to plan the backup power plants in the beginning of 2022, to take action to protect Switzerland's gas supply, and to try to whittle greenhouse emissions by 2050.

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.vs.ch/de/web/agenda2030/strat/C3/>

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/en/home/policy/energy-strategy-2050.html/>

As a result, electricity access rates were estimated at 100% and for the population with access to clean fuel and cooking technology at 100% in 2019 and the share of renewable energy in total primary energy supply at 22.5% in 2019. However, there is still considerable pressure to work towards a safe and climate-neutral energy supply through 2050, and the rate at which renewable energy generation capacity has been added to date is insufficient to meet net-zero emissions expansion targets.<sup>104</sup>

## **8. Goal 8: Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth:**

At the level of Goal 8, Switzerland has given visible attention through its policies in line with Development Vision 2030, particularly its launching of the Foreign Economic Policy Strategy (2021) The CSR Action Plan, the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights and measures to support families' employment and purchasing power, and the Swiss National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its long-term improvements in economic operating conditions is one of its highest priorities and the adoption of a sustainability report and guidance<sup>105</sup>. In this context, the Voluntary Review Report 2022 presented the target indicators as estimated at 140.5 points in 2020, the per capita share of CHF 81.760 and the activity of women at about 58.5%, youth who are not employed and not trained at 6.4%, accidents at 84 cases per 1,000 jobs in the secondary sector and employment of the disabled at about 39.3% according to 2019 statistics.

## **9. Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure**

Switzerland relied heavily on the development vision in achieving Goal 9. Whereas, the National Strategy for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Previous Major Infrastructure Programs for Passengers and Freight Transport were issued, the establishment of the Railway Infrastructure Fund for the safe, coherent and efficient development of the railway sector, and the establishment of the National Fund for Highways and Urban Transport in 2018. Hours and spending on research and development about 3.1% In doing so, Switzerland maintains Internet access of the population using 94.2 in 2020 and mobile broadband subscriptions per 100.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2019, and the Logistics Performance Index: Quality of Trade and Transport Related Infrastructure at 4 out of 5 in 2018, and congestion rates of 17 hour per day.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/tdfa/foreign->

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/eda/en/documents/publications/SchweizerischeAussenpolitik/20210205-strategie->

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.ge.ch/document/concept-cantonal-du-developpement-durable-2030>

## **10. Goal: Reducing inequalities**

Switzerland has endeavored to operationalize and achieve Goal 10 on equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination and to allow everyone to participate adequately in social, cultural, political and economic life through several mechanisms such as the Swiss Constitution's prohibition of discrimination on the basis of certain protected characteristics, legislation such as the Act on the Promotion of Extracurricular Youth Welfare and facilities such as the National Platform against Poverty (2019-2024). The extension of criminal provisions against racism to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in 2020 and the adoption of the Swiss integration agenda in 2019, Swiss voters voted for the Marriage for All initiative, thus establishing a clear course of action towards legal equality and freedom from discrimination in 2021. In this context, the voluntary review mechanism in 2022 monitors the distribution of disposable income by the proportion of the income share of the population's highest fifth to one fifth of the population's lowest income by \$20: \$80 respectively and the sense of discrimination of 28.2%.<sup>107</sup>

## **11. Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

In terms of Goal 11, Switzerland has attempted to absorb the challenges of urban and rural space and its development through a massive package of policies and legislation such as the enactment of the Coupling Spatial Planning Act, the Nature and Cultural Heritage Act, actions to improve the availability of affordable housing, the launch of the National Strategy for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure and the NCS Strategy against Cyber Risks. The review mechanism monitored the reality of Switzerland's policies towards this goal in estimating the proportion of urban residents living in slums 0% and access to improved water sourced by pipes from 100% urban residents in 2020, public transport satisfaction by 87.0 in 2021 and the rental population by 7.6% in 2019. As well as an estimate of urban sprawl at 2.5 units, traffic noise at about 31% of the population, a rise in housing costs by about 33.7% for the poor compared to 10% for the rich, and transportation caused damage worth 13.7 billion Swiss francs to the environment and health in Switzerland in 2018, as a result of factors such as air pollution, noise and footprint. The physical waste rate is estimated at 17.1 tons per person, the municipal waste rate is about 52.8%, and the global warming footprint is about 12.6 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, according to the Statistics 2020, and municipal waste by about 6.1 million tons.

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<sup>107</sup> <https://www.uvek.admin.ch/uvek/de/home/kommunikation/digitale-schweiz.html>

## 12. Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production:

Switzerland developed Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production. It plays an active role in the 10-year framework of the United Nations and supports a range of initiatives, many international organizations and multi-stakeholder partnerships and has issued specific measures to make Switzerland a center for sustainable financing in 2020 and recognize companies' commitment to sustainability reporting and due diligence as of 2022 and the adoption of the Federal Administration's public procurement strategy, estimating each person's physical footprint at 17.1 tons in 2019 and the rate of municipal waste collected at about 52.8% per 2020 and the greenhouse footprint per person at about 12.6 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent and municipal waste at about 6.1 million tons. About 2.8 million tons of waste are produced annually along Switzerland's food value chain. This is equivalent to 330 kilograms per person.

## 13. Goal 13: Climate Action

Swiss contexts are packed with several policies to achieve Goal 13, such as adopting a long-term climate strategy to 2050, increasing the CO<sub>2</sub> tax from 96 Swiss francs to 120 Swiss francs per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> climate services starting in 2022, sending the Federal Council a bill New for public consultation in December 2021 and setting targets for itself of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% from their 1990 levels by 2030 and zeroing greenhouse gases by 2050.

In this context, greenhouse gas emissions can be estimated at 43.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and natural disaster mortality at approximately 1 death per year and 94 deaths since 2000<sup>108</sup> and assessing the risks associated with climate change in 87.8% populations and increasing the greenhouse footprint to 109 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Despite their success in reducing industrial and transport emissions since 1990, the national target for 2020 - a 20% reduction in emissions compared to 1990 - cannot be met.<sup>109</sup>

## 14. Goal 14: Life Below Water

Switzerland sought to reduce nitrogen load in air and water. It had ratified a variety of international conventions relating to the conservation of the sea and had actively participated in the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) within the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on regulations prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies and had conducted legal asset checks and continuous improvement of imported marine fisheries products since 2017. Introduced a new IT system in 2022, and called for a

<sup>108</sup> <https://www4.ti.ch/dt/da/uci/temi/sviluppo-sostenibile/sviluppo-sostenibile/strategia-cantonale/programma-di-legislatura-2019-2023/>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/climate/info-specialists/adaptation.html>

legally binding convention on plastics. It supported the goal of preserving a total of 30% of the Earth's surface from land and water, to show the statistics of Goal 14 by monitoring the limited means of combating unreported and unregulated illegal fishing and contamination of Progress Swiss water primarily with plastic resulting from tire erosion and the entry of at least 20 tons of microplastics into the oceans each year through Swiss rivers.<sup>110</sup>

## **15. Goal 15: Life on land**

Switzerland has put in place a wealth of policies related to Goal 15. The Diversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Swiss Landscape Concept are designed to halt biodiversity loss and zero soil loss by 2050 in accordance with the Forest Policy and Biodiversity Expenditure of 592.6 million Swiss francs in 2020, promoting agroecology and as a result.

Swiss facts have monitored the decline of biodiversity since the mid-nineteenth century and the formation of Swiss reserves about 6.6% of the entire Swiss lands in the year, the estimated area of land allocated to forest reserves by about 13% of the Swiss lands in 2020. The soil infiltration of about 5% of the land in 2018, and the number of breeding birds by 97 Out of 100 in 2020, meadows and pastures biodiversity points to 59/100 for plants and 46/100 for mollusks in 2019 respectively. The challenges are that more than a third of animal and plant species are exposed and that more than 30% of animal and plant species and nearly 50% of the habitats at risk. About 37,400 species around the world are facing extinction.

## **16. Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**

Swiss successes in accordance with Vision 2030 range from current good practices in meeting the goal of inclusive and representative decision-making at all levels to the decentralization of the political system in power through direct democracy, separation of powers, federalism, support for justice and impartial legal systems<sup>111</sup>. The adoption of the Federal Council's Anti-Corruption Strategy 2021-2024 and the fully amended Data Protection Act.

Amend the Political Rights Act and support initiatives such as codes of conduct for political parties and candidates to prevent electoral violence in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Georgia and the assessment indicators of the target of estimated political participation at 47.3% in the 2019 vote and volunteerism at 41% of housing in 2020. It ranks 7th in the registers of the least

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<sup>110</sup> <https://www.sg.ch/umwelt-natur/nachhaltigkeit/massnahmen/-agenda-2030---netzwerk-st-gallen-.html>

<sup>111</sup> <https://www.yverdon-les-bains.ch/developpement-economie/developpement->



corrupt countries and recovered over 330 million Swiss francs for the people of Peru and Nigeria<sup>112</sup>

## **17. Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals**

Switzerland's voluntary national reviews, such as its 2022 review, demonstrated the daunting advances and efforts of Switzerland in terms of Goal 17 in seeking to localize sustainable development globally nationally. To this end, the Swiss Government has strengthened working partnerships between the Federal Government, the cantons, municipalities and non-State actors. Supported the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, inaugurated the Swiss Emerging Markets Investment Fund and established appropriate frameworks to facilitate access to knowledge and technology.

Not to mention the establishment of a new organizational structure for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the establishment of the Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, the 2022 Voluntary Review Mechanism indicated that official Swiss assistance was estimated at 0.49% of national income and made direct investments of about 7.75 billion Swiss francs in developing countries according to 2020 statistics.<sup>113</sup>

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Having explained what are the national voluntary reviews and the high-level political forum and reviewed the voluntary national reviews of the UAE, Djibouti and Switzerland, a set of recommendations can be made as follows:

- A. On voluntary national review mechanisms: Maat for Peace recommends that Governments activate their voluntary commitments on the review and follow-up of SDGs within the framework of the United Nations Development Vision 2030 by upgrading the processing and preparatory capacities of the review process at its various stages based on the manual of national reviews and related guidelines. Increase resources, modernize and reform institutional and legislative structures, monitoring and reporting systems, and provide opportunities for the participation of the private sector, civil society and actors in the review, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of

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<sup>112</sup> <https://www.vd.ch/themes/environnement/durabilite/agenda-2030/agenda-2030-en-detail/>

<sup>113</sup> <https://luganosostenibile.ch/39>



the sustainable development goals and the submission of review reports to the High-level Political Forum and the implementation of its key recommendations and messages.

B. On the social dimension: the institutions recommend to the Governments of the member States of the High-level Political Forum, in particular the reporting States: the UAE, Djibouti and Switzerland, the need to intensify and accelerate their development efforts, update development plans and include practical policies on SDGs. This is as follows:

- In terms of the first objective, Maat for Peace recommends the need to increase social security policies and symbiotic initiatives, provide employment opportunities, support small and medium enterprises and develop educational and training curricula and monitor the prices
- With regard to the second objective, States should increase agricultural production, reduce opportunities for the import and local provision of food resources and launch educational and educational campaigns on the risks of malnutrition, weight gain and prevention.
- In terms of the third objective, States must endeavor to expand health services, introduce the digital system, disseminate health experiences, conclude partnerships between developed and developing countries, localize e-health and its applications, and develop partnerships on the pharmaceutical industry, medical materials and prevention of pandemics and infectious diseases, such as the 19 delegation, and invest in health infrastructure in terms of hospitals, the number of families and medical staff in developing countries such as Djibouti.

C. On the environmental dimension: Maat for Peace recommends that Governments of Member States in general and reporting States should pay more attention to environmental objectives 13, 14 and 15, as follows:

- In terms of Goal 13, States must solidarity and synergy on enabling climate action through ratification of relevant international conventions such as the Conference of the Parties and the 2015 Paris Agreement, commit to reducing greenhouse emissions, stop cutting off forests, establish magnifying warning systems and raise capacities and expertise on climate and natural disaster reduction.

- In terms of Goal 14, Maat for Peace recommends that the reporting States combat illegal fishing and launch the initiative to clean water from plastic waste and increase marine protected space.
  - In terms of Goal 15, Maat for Peace recommends the need to combat poaching of animals, increase response to endangered animals, establish nature reserves and develop veterinary treatment plans.
- D. As to the economic dimension: Maat for Peace recommends the importance of the economic restructuring of States' Governments in general and the place of the report at all levels. The UAE must expand income sources from non-oil sectors, increase its financial and economic revenues and reduce dependence on oil revenues. The Government of Djibouti must intensify its efforts and social policies such as social solidarity, provide jobs, reduce dependence on agricultural activity for the benefit of trade and industry and link educational curricula to economic requirements.
- E. As to the challenges of sustainable development in the Government of Djibouti: Maat for Peace recommends that the Government of Djibouti make further efforts to address the challenges of sustainable development, both climatic, health and educational, and adapt them to Djiboutian contexts; In terms of climate challenges, climate policies, forest harvesting, consumption rationalization, localization and desalination of water sustainability technologies, upgrading and expanding sanitation infrastructure in rural areas and applying smart water governance mechanisms through the localization of hydroponics and smart irrigation technologies must be reviewed and updated.
- F. Maat for Peace recommends that the Swiss Government modernize the legislative and legal structure on the elimination of discrimination, equality of opportunity, reduction of economic and social inequalities and the need to take action to reduce the flow of illicit funds by improving revenue management from the commodity sector, improving tax transparency, building the capacity of tax administrations, preventing tax evasion, and combating money-laundering and corruption.