



The Path of Sustainable Development in Qatar" Pandemic 19—Failures Highlighted by the Covid

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Preamble

Since 2010, there has been a lot of debate in the international community about sustainable development and its role in developing societies, considering it an essential axis in building prudent national and regional public policies and strategies, but unfortunately, the outbreak of the global health crisis of Covid-19 pandemic have obstructed the development path in a number of countries.

After the termination of the activities of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and after the government of the State of Qatar had its national report on the achievement of sustainable development reviewed, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights issued a shadow report parallel to the voluntary report of the state party entitled "The Path of Sustainable Development in Qatar... Failures Highlighted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The global health pandemic has revealed a number of shortcomings in the development path to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on sectors such as health, education and economic growth of countries due to the slowdown in production operations as a result of the closure, and the dedication of the bulk of government expenditure to reforming the damages caused by the pandemic.

The report discusses, in its first axes, sustainable development in Qatar to compare the conditions before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. The report focuses mainly on three primary axes in the 2030 development agenda; the economic axis, which focuses on SDGs 1, 2, 3, & 8 as the most important goals related to achieving economic development; the social axis, which addressed goals 4 & 5; and the security axis which thoroughly discussed the extent to which Goal 16 has been achieved. The report concludes with a

set of recommendations presented by Maat to stakeholders concerned with the development agenda in the State of Qatar, which must be taken into account in order to implement the sought after development plans.

An analytical vision of the country's failures in the 2030 sustainable development path

In the previous part, the report presented an overview of the situation of sustainable development in Qatar, which showed, in numbers and statistics, a number of failures and shortcomings in the sustainable development path and clear violations with regard to achieving the goals of the 2030 Development Agenda and Qatar National Vision 2030. In this part, we also present an analytical vision of Qatar's failures in the sustainable development path.

Centralization is one of the most obstacles hindering Qatar's progress towards achieving the 2030 development goals, as the complex hierarchy in decision-making prevents sensing the feasibility of these decisions, because they do not usually come by studying the problem, but rather are only higher administrative directives.

Qatar also suffers from a real crisis in studying the problems in depth. In the development plans followed, they deal with momentary problems without looking at the long-term and the consequences of those problems when solving them, meaning that they do not follow a complete political vision, but limit solutions only to current problems.

For example, the Qatari government has often claimed that it has eliminated poverty in the country. But why are these efforts limited to citizens? These efforts do not include expatriate workers, who are considered the basis of the workforce in Qatar, but they still suffer from inequality,

inadequate wages, or even the existence of a guarantor of work in light of the employers' control over their livelihood.

The Qatari government also failed in setting a comprehensive vision for the objectives of the development plans, which means that there is no integration between the efforts made for each goal to serve the rest of the goals that are interlinked together, which makes these plans deficient and useless.

The government of the State of Qatar has also failed in establishing the importance of sustainable development in the awareness of the Qatari citizen. The Qatari government seeks to impose equality between men and women through some decisions, but it does not provide awareness programs, which work to change the dominant local culture that restricts women's role in society compared to men. Qatar has laws that entitle workers to have some of their rights such as the right to decent work, but it does not impose those laws strictly on employers, so the worker does not benefit from them. This dedicates for the isolation which is represented only in highlighting the government's developmental role, regardless of whether those efforts are actually tangible and effective or not.

Conclusion & Recommendations

There are many failures and shortcomings in the development path in Qatar that directly affected Qataris and foreigners working in Qatar. In other words, Qatar still suffers from some challenges in the achievement of many vital goals. In conclusion, Maat presents these recommendations to the Qatari government as a solution to confront these crises:

First: The Qatari government must pursue comprehensive policies at all levels: for example, legislative bodies may enact laws that appear to achieve equality between women and men, but these legislations are not

implemented on the ground. Besides, the government may issue development plans to confront poverty without paying attention to the economic conditions of migrant workers who may not receive their wages that are controlled by their employers.

Second: Maat recommends the concerned authorities in Qatar to given greater importance to the plant and animal production projects to contribute to achieving food security and encouraging employment in this sector so that workers may find alternative jobs than the huge infrastructure projects which attracts most of them, by increasing the salaries of workers in plant and animal production.

Third: The Qatari government must expedite the amendment of legislations related to administrative decisions and addressing terrorism to be subject to judicial oversight and direction, in line with the SDG 16.

Fourth: The need to increase awareness campaigns in schools, which would clarify the importance of science and knowledge of the future and instill confidence among university students in order to improve the quality of the Qatari workforce, and reduce the phenomenon of dependence on expatriate workers from abroad.

Fifth: The Qatari government should establish bodies that are responsible for supervising the development plans established and monitoring these bodies to prevent corruption from entering their work.

Sixth: The Qatari government should give priority to expatriate teachers, on whom the Qatari education system in development programs related to good education is based, by increasing wages and providing an appropriate environment for them and their families to effectively integrate into society.

Seventh: The Qatari government should raise the awareness of citizens about issues related to women domestic workers who come from other countries to work and facilitate their return and visit to their families in their countries without employers controlling their destinies, because Qatari society still looks down on these working women.

Eighth and finally, it is necessary to pay attention to women's issues and to disseminate awareness campaigns on women's rights and the necessity of gender equality, and that this within its codified framework which does not contradict the traditions of the conservative society. The government must support these awareness campaigns financially and in the media, just as it does with the development plans it adopts, because women's access to their rights without oppressing men is as important as economic progress.