



Federal Board of Supreme Audit  
Department of Technical Affairs and Studies



**Abstract**  
**The Report of Auditing the Iraqi government's  
preparedness for sustainable development goals**  
**"FINAL REPORT"**  
**2018**



**This report includes the results of the Government's readiness review for sustainable development objectives based on the Federal Audit Bureau Act of the Republic of Iraq and in accordance with the Seven Step Approach in collaboration with the 2018 Partnership Group**

To/ Ministry of Planning – The Minister office

Sub. / The Report of Auditing the Iraqi government's preparedness for sustainable development goals

**Dear Sirs,**

We have audited the Iraqi government's preparedness to voluntarily adhere to sustainable development goals pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Board of Supreme Audit's Law no. (31) for 2011(amended) and other applicable legislations, and in accordance with the rules and norms adopted in this field. The results, conclusions and recommendations of the auditing process are as follows:

### **Together Towards A Better Future**

On September 2015, UN member state have adopted a long-term roadmap to establish sustainable development, social integration, equality and poverty reduction. These aims were called (sustainable development goals 2015-2030) .They are (17) goals with their (169) targets. The Iraqi government voluntary adheres to the sustainable development goals that were adopted by the UN .The Iraqi government has formed national committees concerned with achieving sustainable development goals. Among those committees are the national committee for sustainable development and the follow-up unit and specialized teams of ministries` members with the participation of representatives from private sector and civil society organizations concerned with the study of the international agenda, the localization of indicators and setting national plans and strategies namely, (poverty reduction strategy 2018-2022 and the national development plan 2018-2022).

Based on the Federal Board of Supreme Audit's missions provided for in its Law no. (31) for 2011 (amended) to evaluate financial and macroeconomic plans and policies set out to achieve and abide by the goals of the state . FBSA has decided to review the Iraqi government's preparedness for sustainable development goals by a work plan which has been prepared according to the INTOSAI's vision adopted in Abu Dhabi meeting in 2016.

This report aims to represent voluntary efforts for Iraqi government in this field, as well as evaluating Iraqi government's preparedness to achieve sustainable development goals in the long run by reviewing the government commitment, plans, strategies and evaluating the adopted indicators.

### **Review Target**

Based on the Board mission and vision mentioned in FBSA strategy (2018-2022) to implement reliable audits according to ISSAIs to represent valuable contributions to build effective institutions responding to sustainable development goals, in order to make a difference in the lives of citizens. According to the Iraqi government's directions to adopt sustainable development goals in annual work plans of all ministries, governorates and non-ministerial entities, it is decided that the Board reviews of Iraqi government's preparedness for sustainable development goals .This is made through a plan that focuses on reviewing steps and procedures conducted by Iraqi government in achieving sustainable development goals (2015-2030).

### **Review Scope**

The scope of review report is as follows:

1. Reviewing procedures and steps taken by Iraqi government to voluntarily comply with sustainable development goals till Oct.2018.
2. Verifying Iraqi government's preparedness for sustainable development goals as whole, with focusing on the sustainable

development goal 1 " poverty reduction" by reviewing the works of related specialized team to conduct an in-depth review for Iraqi government`s preparedness for sustainable development goals.

3. Reviewing the national strategy to reduce poverty 2018-2022 as a main sample to conduct an in-depth review for Iraqi government`s readiness for sustainable development goals.
4. Reviewing the national development plan of Iraq 2018-2022.

#### Followed Approach

The seven-step model has been used as a work guidance to review the preparedness recommended by INTOSAI.

The following points depict the Iraqi government`s preparedness for sustainable development goals:

#### 1. **Political commitment** :

Iraqi government has taken a set of steps and procedures in the field of voluntary commitment of sustainable development goals, and the following are the most important findings of the audit team when it reviews these procedures :

a- **Holding a conference** :

b- **Formation of a National Committee for a Sustainable Development** :

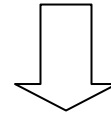
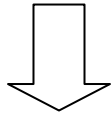
c- **Formation of specialized teams** :

d- **formation of a follow up cell for the national report results to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs):**

e- **Sustainable Development Committees in the governorates:**

**Follow up cell**

Headed by Minister of MoP ,consisting of deputy ministers ,civil society organization and private sector representatives . Its Objective: directing programs and policies to achieve objectives and submitting them to Council of Ministers for approval and obliging ministries local governments to implement them.



**Sustainable development committees of governorates**

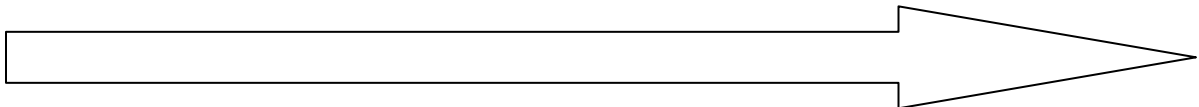
Headed by the governor and its deputy, representatives of MoP,civil society organization, the private sector and other ministries

Its Objective : monitoring the achievements through the governorates and submitting reports to the National Committee of Sustainable Development.

**National Committee of Sustainable Development**

Headed by Minister of MoP and 27 members

Its Objective: monitoring the objectives, preparing national report on the achievements of the specialized teams.



**f- Issuing national strategic plans :**

**First: launch of national development plan for the years 2018-2022:**

**Second: Launch of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018-2022):**

Figure (1-3): Structure of the poverty reduction strategy

Activities		findings	
7	>	Higher and sustainable income from the poor work	Reduce poverty rate by 25% 2022
4	>	Improving health level	
6	>	Spread and improve the poor education	
5	>	Adequate housing and challenges responding environment	
6	>	Effective social protection for the poor	
4	>	Emergency responding activities	
32		6	

**Third: Other plans and strategies aimed at achieving SDGs including:**

**2. Raising Awareness of SDGs achievement :**

The success of achieving the SDGs requires that awareness of its importance and usefulness be promoted among future generations. Thus, in this paragraph, the results of our review regarding the government's efforts to raise awareness of sustainable development goals will be discussed below :

- a. A circular to be distributed to ministries and non-ministerial entities according to Ministry of Planning/ Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development's letter (4/6/29071) on 22/12/2015 to raise awareness of the objectives and importance of sustainable development as well as recommending to adopt international sustainable development agenda in the annual plans and provide indicators for their achievement.

**B. Directions to adopt sustainable development goals in national plans:**

The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers circulated its letter no. (8/4/1/2234) on January 24, 2016 to all ministries, governorates and non-ministerial entities to direct them to adopt sustainable development goals in their annual work plans and provide indicators that reflect the achievement of their goals and to activate local committees in the governorates in coordination and direct cooperation with the National Commission for Sustainable Development, which undertakes the task of achieving the objectives.

T. Two administrative orders have been issued in the Ministry of Planning to delegate a number of staff from the Ministry to the governorates of Basrah, Maysan, Babil and Diwaniyah to follow up the sustainable development objectives in the governorates and their development plans as indicated below:

No.	Administrative orders	Details
1	4/6/10/966 on 13/11/2017	Delegating (3) employees to Babil and Diwaniyah
2	4/3/5545 on 8/3/2018	Delegating (3) employees to Al Basrah and Maysan

**C. Publishing and media plan of poverty reduction plan (2018-2022):**

The poverty reduction Strategy has among its plans the preparation of a publishing plan including publications, television and radio programs and website update .However ,the preparation of this plan has not been initiated until the date of this report.

**3. Responsibility, resources and accountability**

The following are the most important results of our audit to the financing plans of sustainable development projects as well as their implementation and accountability responsibilities:

A- According to the letter of General Secretariat for Council of Ministers No.(M.T/8/4/1/2234) on 24/1/2016, it instructed all

ministries, governorates and non-ministries parties to adopt the goals of sustainable development in their annual action plans, provide indicators that reflect these goals and purposes, activate the local committees in the governorates in direct coordination and cooperation with National Commission for Sustainable Development, which is committed to achieve these goals. Therefore, the General Secretariat for Council of Ministers has tasked those Entities and ministries the responsibility to adopt the goals of sustainable development (SDGs).

B- The formation of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, the specialized committees and others (mentioned above) has granted Ministry of Planning the authority to combine efforts, coordination and prepare national strategies and plans with the participation of representatives from ministries, NGOs and the private sector.

C- According to the national plans, The allocation of resources to projects was prepared through identifying the donors for these projects. The following is the government's plan to finance the projects of poverty alleviation as described in the Poverty Eradication Strategy (2018-2022):

First: Funding from the general state budget: It is a major source of projects included in the Poverty Eradication Strategy.

Second: International finance: The Strategy activities were presented to representatives of international organizations and other donors. The fundability seems to be available in the light of international support for reconstruction efforts (as stated in the strategy).

Third : Social Fund for Development: work is currently underway to establish a Social Fund for Development in parallel as a direct national tool to implement the Strategy objectives. The Fund will be established, which is expected to start work in 2018 with the assistance of technical team and government loan from the World Bank which worth approximately \$ 50 million in the first year of its



establishment. The Fund activities will include financial and non-financial activities and community-based projects ,so that the Fund will be a tool for attracting development partners, international grants and loans from Governments and international donors.

#### **4. Preparing the implementation of the objectives**

This paragraph presents the results of the audit carried out by the Government with regard to the preparation and implementation of objectives, the following are the main findings of our audit :

A- The Government has adopted the objectives of sustainable development through the distribution of all these 17 targets to the specialized teams, the table below is an explanation:

<b>National Commission for Sustainable Development Linking national goals with sustainable development goals 2030</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Specialized teams</b>	<b>Goals and purposes</b>	<b>sustainable development goals</b>
1	The team of Poverty Eradication	1-2-4-8-10-11	Goal 1:Poverty Eradication Goal 2:End hunger and achieve food security Goal 3:Good health and well-being
2	The team of environment resources Sustainability	6-13-14-15	Goal 4:quality education Goal 5: gender equality Goal 6: clean water and sanitation Goal7:affordable and clean energy Goal 8:decent work and economic growth Goal 9: industry ,innovation &infrastructure
3	The team of Green Economy	7-8-9-12	Goal 10:Reduce inequality Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities Goal12:Responsible consumption and production
4	The team of sustainable cities and communities	11	Goal 13: climate action Goal 14: life below water Goal 15:life on land Goal 16: Peace and justice strong institutions Goal 17: partnerships to achieve the goal
5	The team of Human development work	4-5	
6	The team of	3	

	Population and development		
7	The team of Education and awareness	-	
8	The team of good governance	16	
9	The team of Statistics and information	-	
10	The team of experts committee	-	

B. A review of national plans and strategies shows that there is a link between them and the SDGs including the poverty reduction strategy and the national development plan.

### **5. Measurement and Monitoring Program:**

A. The poverty reduction strategy has been prepared to achieve a number of sustainable development goals set out in 2030 Agenda. The most important among those goals is the achievement of goal 1- targets 1 and 2 through the implementation of the strategy activities and programs, as well as other national programs that achieve a 20% reduction of poverty over the first five years of the strategy. Then it continues with an upward approach have the poverty rate reaches (75%) in 2030 which is the national target for reducing poverty in Iraq according to the vision of the parties responsible for the preparation of the strategy.

B. The Strategy in all its findings adopts goals and targets from the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as well as the goals that are set out based on diagnosis which is based on evidence and

observance of the reality of poverty. The strategy will be implemented through annual programs to achieve long-term goals:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms and everywhere.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 4: Ensure equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 8: promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Objective 11: Make human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable.

## **6. Baseline and Indicators**

In this step, the government's actions regarding indicators and data for achieving the goals of sustainable development were reviewed. Below are the main conclusions and recommendations according to this step:

A. According to the Ministry of Planning letter No. (1/3/6/2/11452) on 09/11/2017, a number of committees were formed to work on the project of monitoring and evaluation of poverty in Iraq. It is a project which the Ministry of Planning, in cooperation with the World Bank, is preparing in Iraq. It includes a survey of poverty indicators in Iraq. The committees are as follows:

- Technical Committee.
- Financial Committee.
- Procurement Team.
- Administrative Committee.

- IT Team.
- Procurement Committee.
- Price Determination Committee.
- Inspection Committee.
- Project data analysis team.
- Questionnaire and reports printing team.
- Data qualification team.
- Official statistics production team.

B. There is a cooperation agreement signed between the Iraqi government and World Bank to work on the Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey.

C. There is a cooperation agreement signed between the Iraqi government and World Bank to finance the Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey.

## **7. Reporting and Monitoring Arrangements**

In this step, the government's plans for reporting and monitoring sustainable development goals were reviewed. The main results as per this step are as follows:

- A. In accordance with the Ministry of Planning letter No. 1/1/124 on 24/07/2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Department of International Organizations and Conferences was addressed to contact the relevant authorities in New York to include the Republic of Iraq in the list of countries participating in the 2019 National Voluntary Review in the high level Political Forum held in New York .Accordingly ,The Permanent mission of the Republic of Iraq / New York was addressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under its letter No. 8/3/9/B/681 on 5/8/2018 to

- include Iraq in the list of countries participating in the Voluntary national reviews for 2019.
- B. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was addressed by the Ministry of Planning under letter No. 1/1/145 on 05/09/2018 for the purpose of re-contacting the mission concerning inclusion of Iraq in the voluntary review of 2020 due to the closure of the list of countries that will submit their reviews for 2019. Accordingly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed the mission under its letter No. (8/3/9/B/788) on 13/09/2018.
- C. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Department of International Organizations and Conferences, in accordance with its letter No. 9/3/9 / 1863 in 13/09/2018 addressed the Ministry of Planning to inform it that the efforts of the Permanent mission in New York with the Office of the Presidency of the Economic and Social Council to include Iraq in the 2019 list within the States to submit their voluntary review during the 2019 High-level Political Forum.
- D. Through interviewing Director General of Technical Affairs office in the Central Statistics Organization and a member of the specialized team on poverty reduction, we conclude that there is a tendency in the Central Statistics Organization to conduct the socio-economic survey in Iraq in 2019. This survey will include the results of progress made in the areas of sustainable development including poverty in Iraq.

### **8.The most important Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The following are the most important conclusions and recommendations that have been come up with as a result of the review of SDGs achievement in Iraq.

#### **Conclusions:**

- A. The actions taken by the Iraqi Government outlined above show that the Government has voluntarily committed itself to sustainable

development goals and has taken serious steps in this area that can help achieve them .

B. Despite the steps and methodologies adopted by the Government in its commitment to achieving sustainable development goals it does not issue a strategy for sustainable development goals which takes into account a comprehensive methodology for the international agenda and its alignment with national plans and strategies and the time frames required to implement the goals.

C. One of the most important methodologies for achieving the sustainable development goals in Iraq is the issuance of the National Development Plan for the years 2018-2022. There is a significant delay in issuing the National Development Plan for 2018-2022 . According to the methodology of the preparation of the plan , the plan was planned to be issued during December 2017. However, the Ministry of Planning has issued the plan according to the following dates:

First: the issuance of the National Development Plan summary , which was circulated under the letter of the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers / Council of Ministers Affairs and Committees office No. (10/1/ /1428/1471 dated 23/4/2018 and its attachment " Council of Ministers resolution "No. (140) of 2018.

Secondly : The National Development Plan for the years 2018-2022 was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers' Advisory board under the letter of the Ministry of Planning / Department of Economic and Financial Policies No. (2/6/17261) on 01/08/2018.

Thirdly: The National Development Plan for the years 2018-2022 was circulated to all ministries and non ministerial entities according to the letter of the Ministry of Planning / Department of Economic and Financial Policies No. (2/6/17226) on 01/08/2018.

Fourthly : There are no alternative plans for the current national plans and strategies. These plans and strategies may face challenges that lead to non-achievement of part of these goals especially when considering the security and economic challenges Iraq is facing

Fifthly: By reviewing the National Development Plan (2018-2022), we have the following observations:

- 1) The plan completes the national development plans of previous years. The main objective of this plan is to improve the economic sector and to secure the recovery of the communities affected by the crisis of displacement and the loss of human security and the like.
- 2) Through reviewing the plan ,we conclude that the great reliance on oil revenues will continue in the coming years without effective solutions to find resources other than oil. Thus , Iraq will continue to face potential economic risks in case a drop in international oil prices takes place.
- 3) Despite the effort made in the preparation of national plans, the issuance of the plan is not sufficient without having indicators in place to measure progress in all plans.
- d. There are clear efforts by the Ministry of Planning to raise awareness of the SDGs through its training workshops in a number of governorates. However, these efforts need more work in raising awareness of the importance of implementing sustainable development goals and their usefulness for future generations.
- e. There is no clear written plan for national media concerning sustainable development objectives.
- f. There is cooperation with a number of international organizations in the preparation of national strategies namely World Bank. World Bank participated in the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018-2022).

## **Recommendations:**

- a. There is a clear effort by the government to prepare national plans and strategies, but at the same time we see that alternative plans can be adopted if the current plans and strategies are delayed.
- b. Preparing an approved and adopted strategic plan to achieve the goals of sustainable development (SDGs) in any form that the ministry deems appropriate. This plan should include the study of national priorities, and implementation of the international agenda, align it with national plans and objectives, and identify responsibilities clearly and timelines for completion.
- c. We recommend that a follow-up system and a measurement and monitoring plan are developed along with the implementation of activities and projects within the national plan.
- d. Continue the awareness-raising process by urging all stakeholders to hold the educational workshops, seminars and researches in the field of sustainable development, prepare a comprehensive National Media Plan (national strategy) on education, promotion and awareness of the importance of the goals achievement, involve the community in sustainable development as well as contribute the Non-governmental organizations in deployment and information and raising awareness of the goals of sustainable development.
- e. it is necessary to enlarge the base for the private sector and non-governmental organizations' participation to ensure their effective involvement in the formulation of national strategies and to play an active and significant role as key partners in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
- f. continue to cooperate with international organizations in the formulation of plans and decisions related to the achievement of the goals of sustainable development as a key partner in this field.



- g. Diversify the sources of funding for projects for sustainable development and develop ambitious financial plans to establish basic projects and alternative projects in case of failure of basic projects.
- h. Establish a system of careful follow-up of adopted projects to achieve sustainable development goals and clearly identify the parties responsible for implementation in order to establish accountability mechanisms that identify the parties that are responsible and hold accountable the defaulters.

**Please be informed to take the necessary action regarding the results of the above-mentioned review and inform us of the results of your procedures .**

**With appreciation.**