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THE DILEMMA OF FALTERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQI SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development has its economic, social, environmental, and other dimensions. With great interest, whether at the level of developed or developing countries, because of its impact on preserving current and future ecological resources and capabilities, as it represents the goal and means for every country that seeks to develop and change reality and create a better future to achieve the goals it aspires to and push the wheel of growth and development towards achieving sustainable growth. Social justice and an environment free of corruption, pollution, and economic problems. Iraq is one of the countries that went through abnormal economic conditions more than four decades ago due to wars, economic blockades, and sanctions, and the subsequent political, economic, social, and environmental developments contributed to the lag in sustainable development indicators. The deterioration of the quality of potable water, the waste and depletion of resources, the increase in the rate of desertification, and the decline in public spending. Talking about the possibility of achieving the desired sustainable development in Iraq is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. Therefore, our research attempted to analyze the reality of development in Iraq by examining some indicators of sustainable development and proposing future visions for developing capabilities that would achieve the desired development and a safe, stable, and sustainable environment. The research reached a conclusion emphasizing the necessity of activating, developing, and sustaining development programs to maintain a reasonable amount of decent living and healthy living in a fair and equal manner for all without discrimination.

KEYWORDS

Development, resources and capabilities, pollution, economic problems.

INTRODUCTION

The most important proposals that reach:

Working to find a balance between economic needs and viable economic resources, meaning exploiting available economic resources without depleting natural resources while taking into account environmental factors. Since the goal of human development is sustainable development, this requires preserving the ability of future generations to benefit from natural resources.

Sustainable development is one of the critical and sensitive topics at present due to its social, economic, and political dimensions and impacts directly related to human life in all parts of the world. Therefore, interest in this aspect has increased in developing and developed countries. Iraq represents one of the developing countries that stands Among the first countries in need of development plans as a solution to the problems that have occurred over time, from the founding of the modern Iraqi state in 1921 until the present, where there are political conflicts, sectarian disputes, and economic sanctions, as well as a decrease in public spending on the community services and infrastructure sectors, and an increase in the rate of desertification and drought. The depletion and waste of resources were reflected in the obstruction of development projects in Iraqi society. Consequently,

these conditions produced negative results reflected in the living conditions of individuals and society as a whole, as well as a decline in the manifestations of sustainable development and its indicators in general.

The requirements of the development of Iraqi society impose imperative considerations for launching a sustainable development policy with integrated dimensions and aspects. As we indicated above, the indicators of this development lead to a conclusion stating that it is still far from the essence of the sustainable development process. Development is a comprehensive civilizational process for all of society, and the human being represents its goal and means to achieve it. Raising it to an appropriate standard of living, meeting its basic needs, liberating it from dependency, and thus attaining national independence. Getting out of the obstacles to development in Iraqi society requires a field approach to social, cultural, political, and administrative interactions and the creation of ambitious plans for sustainable development in Iraq. Accordingly, the main goal of the study was to know and analyze the political problems and obstacles that hinder the achievement of sustainable development in Iraq by addressing the concept of sustainable development and its goals, learning about the reality of sustainable development

in Iraqi society, and trying to identify the challenges and obstacles and ways to achieve them, and proposing future visions to enhance the energies and capabilities that Owned by Iraqi society, which contributes to achieving the required sustainable development.

To achieve the aforementioned goal of the study, the researcher relied on the descriptive analytical approach, which links events, explains their importance, and gives real dimensions to the scientific interpretation of the obstacles that prevent the achievement of sustainable development in Iraq.

First: Problem of the Study

The research problem centers on the following question:

(What are the obstacles that prevent achieving sustainable development in Iraq)

Second: hypothesis of the Study

Our research is built upon a hypothesis that warrants closer examination: While Iraq's vision encompasses a substantial portion of the sustainable development goals, the actual realization of these goals necessitates a sustained national effort. This effort must focus on overcoming the barriers to achievement, as well as developing the necessary capabilities and resources. The ultimate aim is to transform Iraq into a society that thrives on prosperity,

security, and stability, which can be achieved by providing the requisite supportive infrastructure and establishing a diversified economy.

Third: The concept and goals of sustainable development

Before addressing the reality of sustainable development in Iraqi society and analyzing its obstacles and problems, we must explain the concept of sustainable development, its indicators, and its goals, all focused on serving humanity and sustainably developing the economy.

A - The concept of sustainable development

Sustainable development is one of the broad concepts that cannot be looked at from a specific perspective because it is a human phenomenon, and human phenomena are described as having multiple variables, unlike natural phenomena that take one direction and have fixed variables. For this reason, several multiple, diverse, and overlapping definitions of the concept of sustainable development have emerged (1 The concept of sustainable development consists of two words: (development) and (sustainability). Development in the linguistic concept came from the verb (name), meaning something grew and grew. As for sustainability, it is taken from the sustainability of something, meaning-seeking a spiral. (2) The term sustainability was used To clarify the process of balancing between economic growth on the

one hand and environmental preservation on the other hand, and according to what you define, sustainability is defined as improving the quality of human life when we live within the carrying capacity of supporting environmental systems (3)

The concept of human development was first proposed by the United Nations Development Program (Environment and Development) in 1990 in the Human Development Report in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which stated that human development is a process that aims to increase the choices available to people. These choices are without limits and can change over time. At the same time, development is focused on its primary goal of three pillars: “for people to live long lives free of ills, to acquire knowledge, and to obtain the necessary materials to achieve a decent standard of life. Unless these basic options are guaranteed, many other opportunities will remain out of reach.” (4)

It is clear from the above that sustainable development is the process of empowering people to invest in and stimulate their potential and latent abilities, as defined by the Dictionary of Development Concepts: the process of building individuals’ self-confidence by enhancing their abilities to think, produce, and bring about change for the better (5).

It should be noted that human development is not new. It began in the 1950s and developed from one

decade to another. It moved from focusing on economic growth (during the 1950s and 1960s) to the social aspect (during the 1970s and 1980s) after the interest focused on humans. Only as an economic resource is a basis from which production is expected to increase and develop because it is an economical, political, and moral vision, that is, based on human dignity, achieving equality, mutual respect, and transcendence with various religious and ethical values (6), all the way to the United Nations Development Program in the (the 1990s) which indicated that the concept Sustainable development expands from a mere focus on economic growth to a broader concept that benefits a process of progress and well-being that includes all the choices of current societies and future generations while respecting the natural systems on which all life depends (7).

It is worth noting that sustainable human development continues, which focuses on form rather than content, using humans to achieve profit without achieving gains for themselves. To the extent that recent trends have begun to emphasize the concept of human development without humanity, given that human development includes achieving gains. Humanity has rights and well-being, while human development includes multiple aspects, starting with the economic element and ending with the environmental aspect (8). So, the issue is more than who benefits from growth. Instead, it is an issue of the general growth pattern and

how it can change the economic and social environment for the better for everyone.

We can say that one of the essential principles that sustainable human development focuses on is meeting the needs of the future and securing the future without compromising the ability of generations, and in doing so, it aims to: (9)

To live a long, healthy life

To acquire knowledge

To obtain the necessary resources for a decent standard of living.

B- Sustainable development goals

Sustainable development seeks, through its goals, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all because it addresses global challenges faced by human societies, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice, which must be achieved by all peoples and nations by the year 2030, officially called (Transforming Our World) is composed of (17) goals interconnected with each other (10), and to achieve these goals, which should go hand in hand with strategies that build economic growth and address it at the same time, a long series of basic social needs, it shapes the future Better for the current generation and future generations. These goals can be summarized as follows:

1- Achieving the best life for the population by focusing on the basics of human life through measures to preserve the quality of the environment and knowing the relationships between human activities and the environment.

2- Maintaining a balance between available resources and the basic needs of all human beings in the long term.

3- Unifying efforts between the public and private sectors to achieve goals and programs that contribute to meeting the needs of current and future generations.

4- Developing and educating the population about the existing environmental problems and their sense of responsibility towards them, urging them to prepare, implement, follow up on, and present sustainable development programs and projects by involving them in finding appropriate solutions that target them in one way or another.

5- Promoting sustained and comprehensive economic growth and full and productive employment while providing decent work (11).

6- Eliminating poverty in all its forms everywhere.

7- Rational use of resources, as development deals with resources as specific and therefore works to avoid losing or destroying them.

8 - Achieving broad popular participation, achieving gender equality, and empowering all women.

9- Promoting peaceful and comprehensive societies for sustainable development, working to achieve justice for all, and building effective and accountable institutions.

10- Using modern technology to achieve society's goals by guiding residents to the importance of various modern technologies in the development field by using new and available ones to develop the life of society and achieve the desired development goals.

11- Protecting wild ecosystems, promoting their sustainable use, and halting biodiversity loss (12).

12- Improving maternal health and reducing the level of mortality among children

13- Developing the global partnership for sustainability.

14 - Building a resilient infrastructure while promoting comprehensive industrialization and encouraging innovation.

15- Make appropriate changes in society's priorities and needs to achieve a balance enabling economic development.

16- Ensuring everyone's access to modern energy at affordable, reliable, and sustainable prices.

17- Achieving technical and economic growth that preserves natural and environmental materials. (13)

According to what was mentioned, sustainable development seeks to draw a road map for current generations and future generations to create a world and an environment in which everyone enjoys justice, equality, and sustainable prosperity. It also seeks to put everyone on the paths that should be reached, for the purpose of providing a comfortable life.

Third: Sustainable development strategy in Iraq

The Iraqi economy suffers from numerous problems and structural imbalances that have prevented its development and growth because of its use of it. It is a rentier economy that relies primarily on oil despite the availability of numerous resources and diverse capabilities. Oil constitutes (95%) of public revenues, so it is characterized. Its economy is fluctuating and afflicted by shocks as a result of fluctuations in the global oil market, which is described as complex due to the presence of parties that influence it (14), in addition to its overwhelming dependence on oil revenues to the exclusion of other returns. Consequently, these changes, external shocks, and fluctuations are significantly reflected in the significant decline of foreign investments in Iraq. The increasing public debt and the deficit in the Iraqi trade balance with neighboring countries lead to consequences on revenues, the budget, and

development programs and strategies, as well as on the general situation, stability, and security.

In addition to the problems of the internal situation with its many social, economic, political, and environmental aspects, which resulted in a disruption in development indicators with the deterioration of the reality of industry, agriculture, and infrastructure, high unemployment rates, and the flight of capital and talent, which paved the way for the import of various goods and products at a rate of (80-90%). They are imported from abroad, thus killing the local industry and agricultural production, and the financial policy cannot control prices (15). Consequently, all of this led to the need for clearer economic visions and strategic plans capable of solving all Iraqi society's problems, in addition to the absence of an administrative apparatus capable of managing the economy. And its institutions efficiently and professionally.

Thus, we can say that the situation of Iraqi society requires the adoption of an effective, properly thought-out development strategy that works to diversify the Iraqi economy, as it leads to the use of all available capabilities in various economic sectors to move the wheel of economic development in its multiple dimensions towards achieving its goals, as well as encouraging investment in infrastructure. Infrastructure is of two types: (16) dams, reservoirs, roads, bridges, sewage networks, and other investments that create the appropriate environment

for private investment by reducing its cost and increasing its efficiency, which leads to improving the well-being of individuals and increasing output by enhancing the involvement of the private sector in achieving it.

Human investment, which is the basis for the process of economic development because it focuses on building people and developing their capabilities, as well as a cycle that plays a vital role in supporting production and raising the growth rate, and the previous experiences of Japan and South Korea are the best evidence of this. Investment in human capital focuses on deepening education, training, developing capabilities, and providing life necessities such as drinking water, educational tasks, and others.

Thus, the reality of sustainable development in Iraqi society can be viewed through its most important indicators and what has been achieved. However, it is not at the required level due to the exceptional circumstances that the country went through, which changed the course of the development process. After 2003, economic experts expected that Iraq was heading towards a new strategy, A new one that would launch actual development and replace the current situation with a new problem after decades of fragmentation in all aspects of the Iraqi economy. However, it was reflected in the country through the decline of many economic development indicators, especially infrastructure and community services, the

spread of administrative and financial corruption, and the deterioration of the agricultural and social situation, which affects human and economic development.

The second topic: The challenges of sustainable development in Iraq and ways to address them

The importance of the strategy for sustainable development comes from the fact that it seeks to meet the needs of the present and secure future generations' future. Still, it is not without challenges that prevent the achievement of its indicators and requires specific ways to confront them and a planned and precise strategy in order to confront those challenges:

First: The challenges of sustainable development in Iraq

1- The problem of rentiers in the Iraqi economy

The oil resource is considered one of the most important blessings that God has bestowed on Iraq. Studies and experiments have confirmed that the

structure of the Iraqi economy is overly dependent on the production and export of crude oil, as the economic reality indicates that it represents the essential pillar in financing the general budget, which constitutes (90%) and more. Of (65%) of the composition of the gross domestic product in terms of its revenues, which makes its economy subject to fluctuations as a result of global oil price fluctuations as well as the problems faced by the labor market (as we indicated later), and at a time when the oil sector generates most of the gross domestic product and the value of exports. Public revenues absorb only a tiny percentage of the size of the workforce compared to the rest of the other sectors (17). In light of this, the economy was divided into two separate sectors: the first includes oil and its projects, and the second consists of the rest of the sectors of the national economy. These two sectors are not closely related; thus, It is considered the only primary sector that finances development programs. Table (1) shows the percentage of oil's contribution to the gross domestic product.

Table (1): Contribution of the oil sector to the GDP for the year (2003-208)

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|------|
| 68,78225 | 29585788.6 | 20349772.0 | 2003 |
| 57,87233 | 53235358,7 | 30808541,6 | 2004 |

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|------|
| 57,63323 | 73533598,6 | 42379784,7 | 2005 |
| 55,29129 | 95587954,8 | 528518108 | 2006 |
| 52,95201 | 111455813,4 | 59018094,5 | 2007 |
| 55,49652 | 155982257,6 | 86564722,1 | 2008 |

Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organization and Information Technology, Directorate of National Accounts.

It is clear from the above that the Iraqi economy has relied entirely on its imports from the oil sector and even seeks to increase its revenues from it despite the many negatives it carries, including the delay in agricultural and manufacturing industries, in addition to the disintegration and collapse of the infrastructure of this economy, as well as the weakness of rational investments of economic resources, including It includes water, tourism, and raw materials, and also the emergence of the problem of unemployment, which leads to weakening and destroying the energies of society. As for the issue of poverty, it takes a large part, resulting from the failure to satisfy the basic needs of the majority of the population, significantly since these needs can be increased subject to development, and many other problems result from the rentiers of the Iraqi economy. Despite all of what

was mentioned, the oil sector remains the first dominant sector in the Iraqi economy, as it is conducive to, if not impossible to achieve, the desired sustainable development in Iraq without relying on oil revenues.

2- The problem of corruption

The spread of financial and administrative corruption, the interconnectedness of its links, and the interconnectedness of its mechanisms to an unprecedented degree have become obstacles that threaten the sustainable development process in Iraq. Both parts of corruption have reached dangerous levels, as Iraq topped the list of the most corrupt countries in the world, occupying first place in the list of the Transparency Organization—the International Organization, in its report on the corruption index for the year 2007, out of 163 countries. In 2011, Iraq ranked

second, 175 out of 183 countries worldwide, and then ranked 196 in the organization's report in 2012 (18). Financial and administrative corruption has affected all

aspects of life and included all Ministries. In varying proportions, the Ministry of Interior ranked first, as shown in Table (2).

Table (2) Administrative and financial corruption in Iraqi ministries in 2010

| Not Presented To The Investigating Judge | | Other | Transgression On Employees | Embezzlement | Forgery | Bribery | The Total Number | Ministry |
|--|------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Under Investigation | Save The Investigation | | | | | | | |
| 320 | 40 | 172 | 69 | 40 | 12 | 67 | 360 | Interior |
| 321 | 9 | 232 | 19 | 55 | 10 | 14 | 330 | Defense |
| 143 | 12 | 81 | 38 | 23 | 8 | 5 | 155 | Commerce |
| 114 | 29 | 63 | 33 | 28 | 9 | 10 | 143 | The Health |
| 101 | 33 | 60 | 30 | 22 | 6 | 16 | 134 | Finance |
| 109 | 19 | 71 | 19 | 25 | 5 | 8 | 128 | Municipalities And Works |
| 109 | 19 | 60 | 25 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 128 | Education |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| 78 | 29 | 33 | 36 | 10 | 10 | 18 | 107 | Education |
| 75 | 12 | 35 | 16 | 25 | 3 | 8 | 87 | Oil |

Source: Public Integrity Commission, annual report, Baghdad. 2010.

Accordingly, the phenomenon of corruption is defined by Transparency International (the misuse of power for personal gain) (19). It is also defined as deviant behaviors practiced by some government employees inside and outside the administrative apparatus that lead to that apparatus being diverted from its set goals in favor of personal goals, whether in an individual manner—or a collective group. This has disrupted the development and reform process and is a fundamental challenge to sustainable development plans in Iraq.

Corruption in Iraq has become a natural phenomenon that is seen as a legitimate practice aimed at managing essential life matters. A unique and distinctive state characterizes corruption in Iraq compared to bribery worldwide. It is not simple administrative corruption; instead, it is complex corruption that ranges from individual to group corruption. This leads to corruption in the institution and then to the corruption of the entities incubated by the institutions (20). Instead, it has become intertwined with other goals aimed at economic sabotage, distorting economic policies, provoking chaos, and supporting terrorism, which

leads to lower growth rates, reduced efficiency of public investment, and lower quality of infrastructure that leads to To deprive people of the necessities of a decent life.

3- The problem of international debt

International or external debt is foreign amounts borrowed from governments or institutions during a specific period in exchange for a particular interest. It is defined by the Central Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the International Monetary Fund as a group of ongoing contracts that require payment by government residents for the benefit of non-residents to another government, which involves the repayment of debt assets with or without interest (21). The issue of indebtedness in Iraq did not reach its full extent except in the recent era, specifically after the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, which drained much of Iraq's wealth and wealth, which had accumulated in the seventies of the last century after the nationalization of Iraqi oil: the year

1972 and the subsequent control of foreign companies and the oil boom.

The problem of international debt is one of the most dangerous economic problems that carry political and social risks, represented by dependency on the lending country. This problem emerged in the eighties and was exacerbated as a result of the crises that the global economy went through in general and Iraq in particular. (22) It is worth noting that when this problem emerged, Iraq was not It suffers from the phenomenon of indebtedness because it possesses huge financial reserves generated from oil exports, but it turned into a debtor state after the Iran-Iraq war, which depleted its reserves, as well as the Gulf War.

Within the framework of international external debts and financial compensation, which are two sides of the same coin, monetary compensation was imposed on Iraq as a result of a war with neighboring countries. A percentage of (5%) was deducted from the total oil revenues annually and deposited in the compensation fund to be presented to Kuwait for the losses incurred. They have suffered as a result of the Kuwait War, which as a result constitutes a drain on Iraq's resources. Studies indicate that estimates of the size of Iraq's external debt amount to (131.8) billion dollars and are classified into (38.9) billion the amount of Paris's debts and (67.4) to countries outside Paris Club, (25) billion for private institutions, \$0.5 billion multilaterally at the same time. As for Iraq's total debt

with the Gulf states, it is estimated at (450) billion dollars, distributed among (350) compensation resulting from the first and second Gulf wars and (150) One billion dollars for external debt with interest amounting to (47) (23), while other studies indicate that Iraq's total debt until the end of 2004 amounts to (128 billion dollars) distributed as follows:

The debts of the industrialized countries (Paris Club members) amounted to 39 billion dollars in 2004, in addition to accumulated interest under the Iraqi government's agreement with the International Monetary Fund on the economic program, where 80% of Iraq's debts, equivalent to 32 billion dollars, were successfully eliminated.

Government and commercial debts with other countries outside the Paris Club, estimated at approximately (18-20) billion dollars, belong to 45 countries.

- The debts of other Gulf countries, amounting to (40-55) billion dollars, belong to (the Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia). As a supportive initiative by the Emirates, it wrote off 7 billion dollars owed to Iraq.

This external debt is a burden not only on current generations but also on future generations. It is also considered a restriction on international freedom in using its available resources because the accumulation of debts and the interest resulting from them means transferring national financial resources abroad by

allocating part of the revenues to reduce debt burdens.

This is a permanent leakage of materials needed to finance projects and development plans and an

obstacle to economic growth. Table (3) shows the size

of Iraq's external debt for the period (1980 - 2004).

Table (3): Iraq's foreign debts from the year (1980-2004)

| The amount of debt | Year | The amount of debt | Year |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 50,124,8 | 1992 | 2.491,0 | 1980 |
| 54,134,8 | 1993 | 3,043,0 | 1981 |
| 57,465,6 | 1994 | 2,188,0 | 1982 |
| 63,142,9 | 1995 | 6,590,0 | 1983 |
| 68,194,3 | 1996 | 8,216,0 | 1984 |
| 73,649,8 | 1997 | 11,534,0 | 1985 |
| 79,541,8 | 1998 | 12,894,0 | 1986 |
| 85,905,2 | 1999 | 15,817,0 | 1987 |
| 92,777,6 | 2000 | 20,109,0 | 1988 |
| 100,199,9 | 2001 | 22,777,0 | 1989 |
| 108,215,8 | 2002 | 22,846,0 | 1990 |

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|------|
| 116,873,1 | 2003 | 46,411,0 | 1991 |
| 128,026,2 | 2004 | | |

Source: Ahmed Al-Kawaz, External Debts, Debts and Compensations, the Case of Iraq, Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait, 2004, p. 151. (24)

Fourth: The problem of poverty

The problem of poverty is one of the biggest challenges facing the world, especially developing countries, as it is known as a social, economic, and political phenomenon with psychological and humanitarian dimensions that grows in a historical, societal, and geographical context within a local and global time (25). It describes a widespread phenomenon with many dimensions and effects that are highly complex. It expresses the deterioration of the individual's living conditions, i.e. (the state of material deprivation). One of its most essential manifestations is the low levels of consumption of food at the quantitative and qualitative levels and the inability to stand up to problems and life obstacles such as disabilities, diseases, crises, and natural disasters. Poverty is considered the other side of material deprivation but is not its unique component, which takes multiple forms, including malnutrition and poor housing, poor health conditions, low educational levels, and other forms of deprivation (26). Human development defines the concept of poverty as "deprivation of choices and opportunities to live an

acceptable life." The concept of poverty may go beyond the lack of necessities. A person's material well-being also includes lacking important opportunities and choices. (27)

Thus, the issue of poverty has received special attention from countries and international and humanitarian organizations that seek to eliminate it and reduce its economic, social, and psychological impact, which expands as a result of several factors, representing one of the most important obstacles to development programs. Poverty has cast astray on various economic, social, environmental, and health aspects. In Iraq, where the political and security conditions led to a deterioration in the political and security conditions and a decline in growth rates, which increased the rates of poverty and unemployment together, which are two interconnected phenomena, as increasing unemployment rates necessarily lead to a widening of the circle of poverty, which is considered a paradox in a country that possesses enormous natural and human potential. Society is unable to invest it to provide the limits of secure living for its residents (28)

What happened in Iraqi society was the deepening of this phenomenon and the rise in the rate of poverty as a result of the failure to satisfy the basic needs of the majority of the population, as these needs were subject to increase and were subject to development with the development of society and its resources. As a result, needs varied and multiplied, which was reflected in measuring poverty and defining its lines. Despite Iraq's wealth, its wealth was constantly vulnerable to theft and loss due to the ambitions that surrounded it, whether from inside or outside it.

The phenomenon of poverty began to worsen in the eighties of the twentieth century as a result of crises, wars, and economic sanctions that led to the deterioration of economic and social conditions in Iraq. The truth is that the roots of poverty in Iraq are not

similar to the origins of any country, as the reason for its rooting is not the weakness of material capabilities and resources but rather the continuous wars. The ruling regime controlled state resources and did not distribute them fairly, and there was no strategy to address poverty. Common analyses since 2007 have indicated that most of Iraq's population is distributed among the poverty line, as is apparent in Table (4), where the decline in the poverty rate according to the national poverty line is evident from (22.4%) to (16%), in 2013 it continued to decrease to (15%). Still, in 2014, the percentage increased to (22.5%) due to the expansion of ISIS terrorism on Iraqi territory, then it decreased to (20%) (5%) in 2018. Still, it was not accompanied by a decrease in the poverty rate, as the percentage ranged from (6,648) million people in 2007 to (7,370) million people in 2018. (29)

Table (4): Poverty line indicators in Iraq for several years

| Number of Poor People | %Poverty Rate | Poverty Line Dinar | Year |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|------|
| 6,648 | 22.4 | 76896 | 2007 |
| 6,465 | 18.9 | 105500 | 2012 |
| 5,760 | 16 | 105500 | 2013 |
| 8,101 | 22.5 | 105500 | 2014 |

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| 7.370 | 20.5 | 110880 | 2018 |
| 12.680 | 31.7 | 111000 | 2019 |

Source: Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, voluntary report.

Therefore, we can say that the phenomenon of poverty in Iraq is one of the most critical dilemmas facing society, the state, and development programs, and this problem will continue to escalate if these considerations are taken into account: (30)

- The high population growth rate, which reached (2.8%) from (1990 - 2002), has implications for increasing dependency rates and the labor force supply.

High unemployment rates and their adverse effects on economic, social, and even moral aspects

Despite the improvement in cash incomes, the continuous decline in real wage rates is no longer rewarding for the well-being of the Iraqi family and is not sufficient to meet its basic requirements, given the high-income tax rate, high prices, service fees, etc.

Poverty is considered one of the most critical obstacles to sustainable development at the global and local levels. Therefore, eradicating poverty is a particular priority among the requirements of sustainable development.

The third section: Visions for developing some development potentials in Iraq

The quest to ensure sustainable development for any country requires the presence of a political and legal authority with a strong influence that is committed to securing the way for the development process to proceed under a solid institutional framework that is financially supported and in a way that provides a gradually reformed economy within a somewhat safe environment and a stable security situation (31). Iraq stands Among the countries in need of comprehensive development plans to improve their deteriorating reality and the problems that have occurred over time, as well as the circumstances whose ramifications overlap between political, economic, social, security...etc. However, the genuine desire for life and the constant aspiration towards an ideal society always drive us. They need to search for ways and solutions that contribute to finding and creating a better future to achieve their goals.

In light of the successive crises it has witnessed, the Iraqi economy has incredibly exhausted it. It cannot automatically move towards change, nor can a rapid

leap approach be beneficial. This requires a gradual development plan based on sustainability after identifying the primary axes calling for change and reform. The reality of the current situation requires considering the overlap between them. The treatment process must ultimately lead to the existing integration between the primary axes to achieve sustainable development in Iraq shortly. These primary axes that require the required changes can be divided as follows:

First: The economic axis: It includes all of the following: (32)

1- A correct transition must be achieved from a centrally planned government economy to a liberal economy where individual initiatives, the private sector, and civil society organizations play a significant role.

2- The necessity of adopting a specific strategy that suits the reality of the Iraqi economy, aiming to eliminate the problem of unemployment in Iraq, with a focus on the seriousness of the goals and methods followed first and providing economic, social, and political management second.

3—Enabling the private sector to play a new and effective role in the Iraqi economy to meet the requirements of the unilateral economic environment, which is linked to strengthening the investment environment, developing the labor market, and moving toward solving the problem of unemployment.

4- Providing a primary base for building the Iraqi economy by completing infrastructure requirements. (33)

5- Drawing up a socio-economic strategy for Iraqi society is done through knowledge of the socio-economic reality and the extent of its impact on the development of society. This requires the following:

- Identify the social groups affected by the repercussions of precise economic reform and implement the social protection program.

They are combating administrative and financial corruption.

We are giving priority to poor regions and governorates in development programs.

- Accurately identifying the social groups affected by the repercussions of economic reform transformations while implementing the social protection program.

6. The industrial, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors must be given sufficient care to achieve a structural balance between the economy and society.

7- Pursue clear, rational investment plans to stimulate local and foreign investors. (34)

Second: The environmental axis: -

Measures at the environmental level are summarized as follows:

1- Providing appropriate support for the environmental strategy aimed at preserving natural resources against any polluted source in a way that achieves the reality of requirements and their future developments with a sustainable ecological methodology and the importance of rationalizing and modernizing current and future water sources and enhancing development attempts for water sources that are constantly renewed and water sources that are not renewed and finding modern methods and technologies. To collect and recycle rainwater.

2- The necessity of achieving optimal use of natural resources and reclaiming agricultural lands by allocating financial resources to the crisis and adopting appropriate agricultural methods to protect the environment.

3- Providing a helping hand to the environment by providing technological means that are not environmentally harmful, transferring safe and clean technology to the agricultural and industrial fields, and supporting and encouraging these production mechanisms and techniques (35).

4- Working to balance environmental considerations and economic growth considerations to achieve sustainable development goals and, at the same time, serve environmental purposes by preserving these non-renewable resources. Therefore, environmental, development, and oil issues must be linked to

relationships of integration and mutual dependence. The development process can continue based on the deterioration of the environment and natural resources, and it is not possible to protect and preserve the environment under certain economic conditions that require working to raise the standard of living by achieving sustainable development.

5-Serious attention should be paid to desertification, water scarcity, and the provision of electrical energy. This process requires increasing financial allocations.

CONCLUSIONS

1 - Sustainable development has become an urgent need and necessity to achieve several requirements, the most important of which is increasing development and economic acceleration, reducing poverty rates, and preserving the environment because it is considered a political guidance process that ensures the continuation of interactions between available capabilities and resources.

2 - The Iraqi economy is one-sided, a rentier economy that depends primarily on oil exports in the balance. If the trade balance were calculated without oil exports, it would constitute a deficit in the trade balance. The severe decline in Iraqi non-oil exports is due to the decrease in the number of establishments after a year. Industrial, especially in 2003, due to the deteriorating security conditions that led to many establishments

stopping work and the theft of others, in addition to the worsening conditions of the agricultural sector.

3- One of Iraq's most important development challenges is the need for more security and political stability, which leads to the depletion of resources and the absence of what stimulates the presence of local and foreign investments.

4-The lack of institutions concerned with sustainable development that take it upon themselves to develop development plans, follow them up, and observe society's needs and developments.

5-The Iraqi economy faces a number of challenges of an economic, social, environmental, and institutional nature that hinder development action and affect overall policies toward achieving its goals of sustainable development and human development.

6- There are many factors behind Iraq's foreign indebtedness, poverty, and administrative and financial corruption in Iraq, including the economic sanctions that were imposed on Iraq since the year (1990 - 2007), as well as the wars that Iraq fought since the Iran-Iraq war until the Third Gulf War in 2003, which led to the deterioration of the nature of Iraqi society. In addition to the nature of the political system, its dealings with society, and its misuse of the country's economic resources. After the occupation, despite the improvement in general living standards, the lack of security stability and the consequent plunder of Iraq's

resources and goods made it poor in all indicators of human development.

5- Weak economic policy and the absence of correct strategic planning to draw up clear-cut policies aimed at transferring the country's economy to a more developed and developed economy to achieve the progress made toward sustainable development.

Recommendations

2 - Sustainability is a characteristic that must be associated with development to ensure its permanence. It is a continuous, renewable development phenomenon that seeks to build life in the present and ensure its continuation in the future without neglecting past data.

2- Achieving the desired economic development requires encouraging investment in infrastructure, both in physical capital and in human capital.

3- Investing various resources optimally to achieve justice and preserve the rights of current and future generations, and paying attention to renewing the necessary infrastructure to begin and continue the sustainable development process.

4- Direct government spending efficiently towards areas of economic and social development, such as the education sector, health, population, and other public services. Focus on the importance and quality of education, strive to develop curricula, use modern

teaching methods, and provide laboratory methods that help students in research and development.

5-Environmental considerations must be integrated into development plans, and real work must be done in issuing laws and legislation regarding environmental pollution, applying the principle of environmental impact for new and existing production projects, and increasing financial allocations to address environmental issues.

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