

Goodwill Declaration

"Towards a Common Goal: Strengthening Equitable Economic Growth in Jordan"

The Kingdom of Jordan is a regional and international reference for its commitment to international law and sustainable development. The Kingdom has embraced this commitment through its economic and political modernization programs. While Jordan's *Economic Modernisation Vision* revolves around two pillars that place "quality of life" at its forefront¹, its political vision strives to create a political and legislative environment conducive to the active engagement of its citizenry.

In the post-pandemic era, a pressing need exists to enhance a more innovative, resilient, and sustainable society. This challenge requires supporting efficient economic growth through fostering new partnerships and alliances with shared values and achievable goals. This is a critical opportunity to improve good governance, job creation, and living standards while increasing economic productivity and responsible investments in Jordan.

Jordan's business sector plays a critical role as its economic growth engine. While leadership and resilience are fundamental pillars of the business sector, to thrive in the current environment, the sector necessitates improvements in areas such as ease of doing business, infrastructure, the availability of specific skills, and high productivity levels.

The voluntary Goodwill declaration "Towards a Common Goal" aims to build a new partnership between state institutions, the business sector, and civil society to promote social dialogue and actions that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development in Jordan. To frame this cooperation, the document is structured in a set of key principles and an agenda of action to achieve concrete goals.

The principles

Under the guiding framework of **UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business (UNGPs)**, the undersigned individuals and entities subscribe to the following principles:

- Recognizing that a vibrant, innovative, and resilient business sector is essential for societies' sustainable development and human progress. Jordan businesses have made essential contributions to reducing poverty and increasing society's living standards. As well as, appreciating that a productive and skilled employment market is crucial for the productivity, competitiveness, and attraction of responsible investment in the Jordanian economy.
- Acknowledging that dignity and inclusiveness are at the core of Jordanian society and these values are enshrined in the respect of human rights in Jordan, including the right to decent work, the right to a safe, clean, and healthy environment, and the right to human development.

¹ *Economic Modernisation Vision: Unleashing potential to build the future*, 2022. Available at <https://www.jordanvision.jo/en>

- Emphasizing the role of state actors in fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive through robust regulatory frameworks and policies that promote sustainable economic growth and development while protecting human rights.
- Accepting that the current declaration must be developed in co-responsibility/partnership between the private sector, state actors, and civil society through the establishment of appropriate dialogue mechanisms.

The agenda

Considering the above-mentioned principles, the undersigned entities commit voluntarily to:

1. Establish a multi-stakeholder Dialogue Process on Business and Human Rights in Jordan with representatives from the Jordanian government, business sector, and civil society (Academia, Non-governmental Organizations, and Labour Unions). This permanent structure is facilitated by a liaison unit to advance and monitor the actions described below.
2. Contribute to an enabling political, social, and environment for sustainable development and decent work by providing policy and regulatory recommendations in the Human Rights and Business domain, including sustainable economic development and the support needed for the labor market.
3. Explore the possibility to develop the UNGPs National Action Plan for Jordan through public consultations with all stakeholders.
4. Undertake public campaigns to recognize best practices and efforts by the undersigned entities who are fostering sustainable development and contributing to increasing dignified decent opportunities for the labor force in Jordan.
5. Adopt an action plan and **ethical Compliance Policy** for all involved stakeholders based on the following standards:
 - ❖ Respect for the law (national and international) and human rights.
 - ❖ Transparency
 - ❖ Socio-economic interests and accountability
 - ❖ Responsible management of resources
 - ❖ Avoidance of corruption and conflicts of interest
 - ❖ Equal opportunity and non-discrimination
 - ❖ Respect and dignified treatment of employees and third parties.



These standards will be progressively integrated in Jordan by the undersigned entities -and those who sign in ulterior time- considering their mission, vision, principles of action, strategic plan, and different internal protocols.

The goodwill declaration does not impose obligations on the undersigned entities but defines intentions to respect its principles and contribute to achieving the economic and political development goals of Jordan, within their capabilities and internal systems and policies. The undersigned entities can voluntarily withdraw from this goodwill framework or extend their commitments with additional written agreements between the parties.

Accordingly, the parties agreed and signed this declaration in Amman on 6th Feb 2023

Signatures