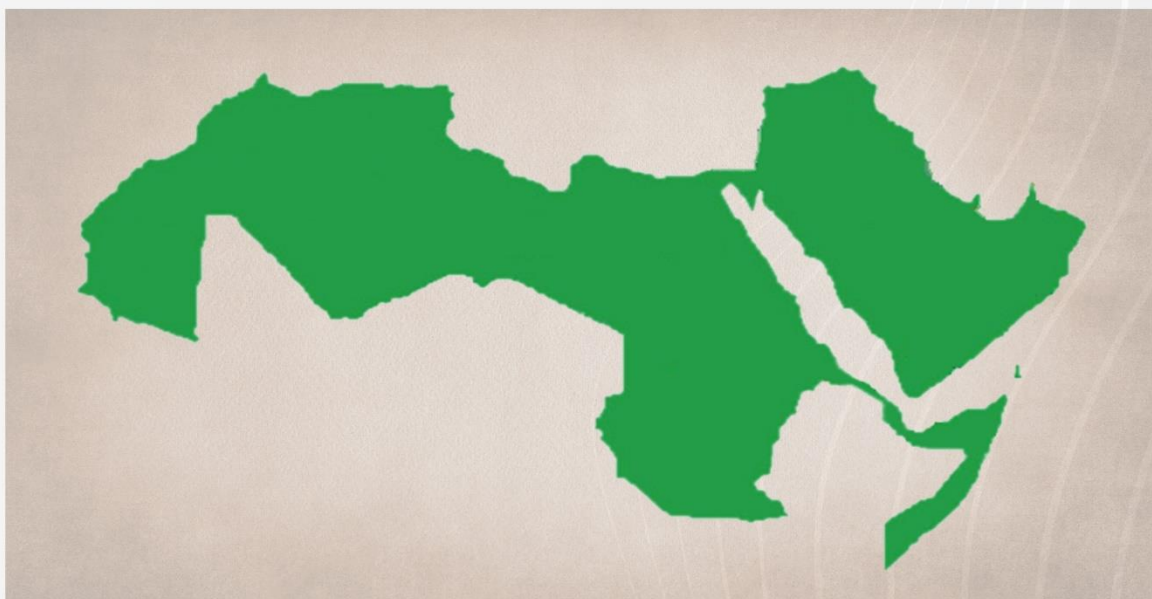




Periodic

**“Goal 17 in the Arab region...
between the ambition of goals
and the reality of indicators”**

5th Issue : Partnerships to achieve goals



July 2024

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

Preamble

The facts of sustainable development in the Arab region, both regionally and nationally, reflect persistent efforts to achieve its goals at the environmental, social, and economic levels. It demonstrates strenuous efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation and reach its goals and indicators, and reviews its successes annually at the High-Level Political Forum.

Based on global and national efforts to periodically review progress in the performance and indicators of sustainable development, and in line with the interest of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights in the goals of sustainable development and its periodic participation in the relevant high-level political forum, Maat launches the fifth issue of its research periodical on the efforts of Arab countries to catch up. The publication provides an evaluative vision for the development goals to be reviewed in 2024, entitled "Goal 17... between the ambition of the goals and the reality of the indicators." This issue sheds light on the goals and objectives of Goal 17 at the country level, then moves on to reading and analyzing them at the regional level. It also reviews the set of challenges facing the goal and makes a set of recommendations to Arab governments to contribute to achieving the goal and reaching its targets.

About Publication

The publication provides an evaluative view of the sustainable development goals under review for the year 2024 at United Nations High-Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development, which are Goals 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17. This is based on the forum's mechanism of setting five new development goals for review and evaluation each year. In line with Maat interest in the Sustainable Development Goals and its periodic participation in the High-Level Political Forum, Maat is launching a research periodical to monitor and evaluate the development goals under review in the Arab region, during the period between February and July 2024. The periodical consists of five issues, each dealing with one of the five development goals under review and outlining the features of the goal in the Arab region, especially in light of international and regional changes.

The publication concludes with an analytical vision of the performance of Arab countries for each of the goals under review. Based on the analysis of previous

performance and indicators, the release will include a map of future expectations about the opportunities and challenges that may face the development goals in the Arab region during the year 2024, specifically during the period of national preparations for the voluntary review in the next session of High-Level Policy Forum.

Monitoring Methodology

The periodical relies on the methodology of direct monitoring of what was published in the Arab and Western media about government efforts made to enhance development work. It also relies on a number of secondary research sources, such as open sources like the Internet and reliable and credible news sites that follow the reality of development in Arab countries and development paths in general. Here is the improved and polished version of the text, addressing the requested proofreading and structure enhancement. The periodical relies on information and data published on the official websites of Arab ministries of sustainable development, as well as reports from electronic and print media outlets about the efforts of Arab governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the challenges they face. The fifth issue specifically focuses on Goal 17, which is about establishing partnerships for sustainable development, including strengthening development assistance, multilateral partnerships, debt sustainability, intra-trade, and the technological and data environment.

All countries of Arab region implement policies, procedures and measures aimed at achieving Goal 17 as one of their development goals. However, the degrees and results of these policies vary within each individual country. Therefore, the first Axis of the issue reviews the facts and efforts of Arab countries to achieve Goal 17, subject matter of the report, as follows:

First: North African Region:

➤ **Egypt**

During 2023 and 2024, Egypt will emerge as one of the most active countries in the Arab region in pursuing Goal 17 on partnerships to achieve development goals. Egypt is pursuing several policies to achieve the goals and objectives of Goal 17, particularly by expanding its development partnerships. Egypt has cooperated closely with the United Nations for over 76 years, with a development partnership

budget estimated at approximately \$1.2 billion.¹ In 2023, the Egyptian government signed a strategic partnership framework for sustainable development with the United Nations for the period 2023-2027.² On March 17, 2024, Egypt signed a political declaration with the European Union to expand the level of strategic and comprehensive partnership, including cooperation in the field of clean energy and green hydrogen.³

➤ **Libya**

Libya has taken several advanced steps focused on improving the reality of Goal 17. In July 2023, the Libyan Red Crescent signed a partnership agreement with the German Red Cross to achieve common goals. On October 31, 2023, the World Health Organization and the Italian Embassy in Libya signed a "One Health" agreement on the prevention and control of viral diseases and diseases of zoonotic origin in Libya.⁴ On November 14, 2023, the Libyan government signed three agreements with the African Development Bank, focusing on facilitating the granting of technical assistance, which reflected the African Bank's commitment to Libya.⁵

➤ **Tunisia**

Tunisia's efforts reveal advanced efforts by the government to achieve Goal 17. On June 15, 2023, the Tunisian government announced a new framework for its strategic partnership with the World Bank Group for the period 2023-2027, aimed at supporting the development plans of the Tunisian government and enhancing the country's ability to withstand climate change.⁶ On March 15, 2024, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved two new loans worth \$520 million for Tunisia, to provide additional financing to address the food security challenge and reduce regional disparities in the country.⁷ On June 13, 2024, Tunisian Minister of Industry, Energy, and Mines and the President of the European Union Mission in Tunisia signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance investment potential in renewable energies.⁸

¹ اليوم السابع، مصر والأمم المتحدة شراكة منذ 76 عاما بميزانية 1.2 مليار دولار، 15 أبريل 2024، <https://bityl.co/QjwN>

² مشيرب، المدينة المستدامة رسميا لـ"إكسبو 2023-الدوحة"، مرجع سابق، <http://surl.li/ohncf>

³ <https://bityl.co/QjwJ>

⁴ منظمة الصحة العالمية، منظمة الصحة العالمية وإيطاليا تقيمان شراكة للوقاية من الأمراض الفيروسية والأمراض ذات المنشأ الحيواني ومكافحتها في ليبيا، ديسمبر 2023، <https://ln.run/3ZTTT>

⁵ البنك الأفريقي للتنمية، الرئيسة، البنك الأفريقي للتنمية وليبيا يعززان التعاون ويوقعان اتفاقيات التمويل، نوفمبر 2023، <https://ln.run/wV89M>

⁶ البنك الدولي، مجموعة البنك الدولي تعلن عن إطار الشراكة الإستراتيجية الجديد مع تونس: نحو تسريع وتيرة البرامج الكفيلة بتعزيز الإمكانات الاقتصادية للبلاد، 15 يونيو 2023، <https://ln.run/is4aN>

⁷ البنك الدولي، تونس: مشاريع البنك الدولي تعزز الأمن الغذائي والفرص الاقتصادية، 15 مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/BugxK>

⁸ الأهرام، تونس توقع مذكرة تفاهم مع الاتحاد الأوروبي لتعزيز إمكانات الاستثمار بالطاقات المتجددة، 13 يونيو 2024، <https://shorter.me/ij8mk>

➤ Algeria

Through its efforts, Algeria demonstrates a clear commitment towards achieving Goal 17 on partnerships to realize development goals. One of Algeria's prominent efforts was the signing of a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of nuclear energy between the Algerian Ministry of Energy and the Russian State Nuclear Energy Company. The memorandum includes a roadmap for joint cooperation activities for 2024 and 2025.⁹ Additionally, on May 17, 2024, the governments of Algeria and China signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of digitization and the digital economy, aligning with the path of digital transformation. This agreement also covers cooperation in training and expertise transfer. In June 2024, Algeria and the Sultanate of Oman signed three memorandums of understanding in the areas of environment, social affairs, and the training of judges.¹⁰

➤ Morocco

Moroccan decision-makers are making various efforts to achieve Goal 17, both in 2023 and 2024. In March 2023, the Kingdom of Morocco renewed its partnership with the United Nations Population Fund by signing a work agreement aimed at supporting the implementation of the "Bridge" agreement to promote early and sustainable social inclusion for the period 2022-2026. In April 2023, the cooperation strategy was launched with the World Health Organization (2023-2027) to strengthen the national health system.¹¹ On July 6, 2023, Morocco signed an action plan with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to implement the multidimensional strategic partnership. In October 2023, the Joint Green Partnership with the European Union was launched.¹²

In 2024, on March 7, Morocco and the United States of America signed the fourth action plan for cooperation in the fields of environment and sustainable development (2024-2027).¹³ On July 24, 2024, the World Bank's Board of Executive

⁹ العربية نيوز، الجزائر وروسيا توقعان على مذكرة تفاهم في المجال النووي، 27 مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/e5bm2>

¹⁰ الأهرام، الجزائر وسلطنة عمان توقعان 3 مذكرات تفاهم في البيئة والشئون الاجتماعية وتدريب القضاة، 1 ديسمبر 2024، <https://shorter.me/vqbzy>

¹¹ منظمة الصحة العالمية، إطلاق استراتيجية التعاون بين المغرب ومنظمة الصحة العالمية 2023-2027، ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/ksdJr>

¹² اليوم السابع، المغرب وإيطاليا يوقعان خطة عمل لتنفيذ شراكة استراتيجية متعددة الأبعاد، 6 يوليو 2023، <https://shorter.me/s-CLQ>

¹³ وكالة أنباء البحرين، المغرب والولايات المتحدة توقعان خطة التعاون في مجال البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/aSO2U>

Directors approved a financing program worth \$350 million to implement Morocco's national program to improve drinking water supplies and irrigation (2020-2027).¹⁴

➤ Mauritania

Mauritanian government has concluded several partnerships to support the achievement of sustainable development and Goal 17. In October 2023, the Mauritanian government signed a framework document for a strategic partnership with the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group for the period 2024-2026, intending to fight poverty.¹⁵ On January 23, 2024, the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development signed a cooperation framework with the Resident Coordinator of United Nations agencies to promote sustainable development from 2024 to 2027. This framework includes integrating interventions in the areas of education, economic growth, social registry, human rights, basic services, climate change, employment, justice, and decentralization.¹⁶ In March 2024, Mauritania and the United Nations signed a partnership agreement to accelerate the country's digital transformation, with the aim of defining and implementing a national system to guide and coordinate this process.¹⁷

Second: East African Region Countries

➤ Sudan

Since April 2023, Sudan has been embroiled in a brutal war, transforming the country from a party making efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 17 on partnerships, to one struggling to prevent the loss of hard-won development gains. In April 2023, the United Nations pledged to continue providing relief aid to approximately 15.8 million people in Sudan.¹⁸ However, on December 14, 2023, the European Union Mission in Sudan announced its desire to build a partnership with Sudan to enhance respect for human rights principles, offering €15 million in funding.¹⁹ The continuation of the war has revealed delays and shortcomings in these partnerships, limiting their ability to provide meaningful

¹⁴ البنك الدولي، برنامج جديد للبنك الدولي في المغرب يدعم جهود تعزيز الأمن المائي وبناء قدرات الجميع على الصمود، 24 يوليو 2023، <https://shorter.me/vOhJ1>

¹⁵ صحراء ميديا، التوقيع على وثيقة شراكة بين موريتانيا والبنك الإسلامي للتنمية، 23 أكتوبر 2023، <https://sahamedias.net/216449/>

¹⁶ وزارة الاقتصاد والتنمية المستدامة، توقيع إطار للتعاون بين موريتانيا ومنظومة الأمم المتحدة، 31 يناير 2024، <https://www.economie.gov.mr/ar/node/408>

¹⁷ صحراء ميديا، موريتانيا توقع شراكة مع الأمم المتحدة لتسريع التحول الرقمي، 19 مارس 2024، <https://sahamedias.net/222479/>

¹⁸ الأمم المتحدة، السودان: الأمم المتحدة تواصل تقديم المساعدات الإنسانية في خضم ظروف إنسانية صعبة، 25 أبريل 2023، <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2023/04/1119877>

¹⁹ الشرق الأوسط، الاتحاد الأوروبي يبدي رغبته في شراكة مع السودان، 14 ديسمبر 2022، <https://shorter.me/DNP4A>

support to the Sudanese people. According to June 2024 statistics, Sudan is in urgent need of \$4.1 billion in humanitarian aid to support its population and refugees, as more than 25 million people, or 50% of its population, require immediate assistance to survive.²⁰

➤ **Somalia**

Somalia has built several partnerships to achieve sustainable development. On June 27, the European Union renewed its commitment to strengthening a long-term partnership with Somalia, emphasizing its desire to deepen strategic cooperation.²¹ On November 22, 2023, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office signed an agreement to support food security in Somalia.²² In April 2024, IFAD and the Somali government signed a new financial agreement to fund a resilience development program to improve rural livelihoods.²³

➤ **Djibouti**

Djibouti has achieved several successes in activating Goal 17 on partnerships. It maintains a strategic partnership with the World Bank from 2022 to 2026, aimed at reducing poverty rates and promoting inclusive, private sector-led growth.²⁴ On December 4, 2023, Djibouti signed a memorandum of understanding with the UAE to expand the capacity of the Grand Bara solar power station project from 25 to 50 megawatts with a battery storage system.²⁵ On May 30, 2024, Djibouti signed a memorandum of understanding with Morocco to exchange best practices and experiences in the field of digital public policies.²⁶ In June 2024, Djibouti signed a contract with Saudi Arabia to establish a Saudi Logistics Zone in the Port of Djibouti, supporting the ability of Saudi products and exports to reach African markets, as the city is the largest hub outside the Kingdom and in Africa.²⁷

²⁰ فرانس 24، السودان: الأمم المتحدة تعلن حاجتها إلى 4,1 مليار دولار لمساعدة السكان واللاجئين، فبراير 2024، <https://shorter.me/VwtZr>

²¹ مركز الاتحاد، الاتحاد الأوروبي يجدد الالتزام بتعزيز العلاقات مع الصومال، تاريخ الوصول ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/HfPdR>

²² سبق، مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة يوقع بيانًا مشتركًا لدعم الأمن الغذائي في الصومال، 22 نوفمبر 2023، <https://sabq.org/saudia/pgnhp1x99p>

²³ <https://bitly.co/Qo5l>

²⁴ World Bank, Djibouti Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2022 – 2026, 1 October 2021, <https://ln.run/EuQ-A>

²⁵ الفرانغلي هامش مؤتمر الأطراف للتغير المناخي جيبوتي توقع اتفاقية الشراكة مع شركة أيما باور الإماراتية، تاريخ الوصول ديسمبر 2023، <https://www.alqarn.dj/news/12234>

²⁶ قيمة الخبر، المغرب وجيبوتي يوقعان بمراكش مذكرة تفاهم لتعزيز التعاون في التنمية الرقمية، 31 مايو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qk4S>

²⁷ مباشر مصر، تحالف مستثمرين سعوديين يوقع عقد إنشاء منطقة لوجستية في جيبوتي، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qo6E>

➤ Comoros

Comoros Islands have demonstrated a clear commitment to achieving Goal 17 by establishing partnerships to foster sustainable development. To this end, the island nation has signed four memorandums of understanding with the United Arab Emirates in various fields, including health and education, on September 29, 2023.²⁸ On October 5, 2023, the Comoros Islands announced their successful accession to the World Trade Organization, pledging to overcome the final obstacles and sign their accession protocol at the organization's Thirteenth Ministerial Conference.²⁹ Moreover, in May 2024, during the second session of GITEX Africa Morocco 2024, the Digital Development Agency signed a partnership agreement with the Digital Development Agency of the Union of the Comoros (ANADEN), focusing on the exchange of experiences in the field of digital transformation within the framework of South-South cooperation.³⁰

Third: Levant Countries

➤ Jordan

The Kingdom of Jordan has integrated a group of partnerships to achieve sustainable development. One of the most prominent and recent partnerships was announced by the Jordanian government in November 2023. This includes an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a new national program of financial and monetary reform for the next four years, worth a total of \$1.2 billion. Additionally, on November 23, 2023, Jordan signed an agreement to obtain a development loan from the French Development Agency, valued at 46 million euros,³¹ to contribute to financing the water sector efficiency project in the country. In 2024, Jordan concluded a strategic partnership framework for the fiscal years 2024-2029 with the World Bank to implement a ten-year plan for the economic modernization of the Kingdom, including increasing job opportunities in the private sector, improving human capital outcomes, and increasing resilience, sustainability, and green investments.³²

²⁸ عرب شفاف، دولة الإمارات وجزر القمر توقعان 4 مذكرات تفاهم، 29 سبتمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/fqR6t>

²⁹ اليوم السابع، تعرف على أحدث دولة عربية تنضم لمنظمة التجارة العالمية فبراير المقبل، 9 أكتوبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/WfY4w>

³⁰ ماب أكبريس، مراكش.. توقيع اتفاقية شراكة بين المغرب وجزر القمر في مجال التحول الرقمي، مايو 2024، <https://bityl.co/Qo6K>

³¹ العربية نت، الأردن يوقع اتفاقية قرض تنموي بـ46 مليون يورو مع الوكالة الفرنسية للإنماء، ديسمبر 2023، <https://ln.run/HqTpO>

³² مجموعة البنك الدولي، إطار الشراكة الإستراتيجية الجديد مع الأردن يرسم طريق المضي قدماً، مايو 2024، <https://bityl.co/Qo4G>

➤ Syria

Syria's efforts regarding Goal 17 have been limited to establishing partnerships to achieve sustainable development in cooperation with several of its traditional partners. In February 2024, the Syrian government signed 12 agreements with Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, and the UAE within the framework of 9 integrated industrial projects, with an investment value exceeding \$2 billion, in sectors such as agriculture, medicine, metals, chemicals, and electric cars.³³

On May 16, 2024, the World Development Fund announced a partnership with the Syrian Red Crescent to support health services as part of a Chinese initiative to improve health services, provide support to the neediest groups, and secure food for families in need. During the project, services reached more than 67,000 people.³⁴

➤ Palestine

Palestine has strengthened its commitments to achieve Goal 17. On May 17, 2023, it signed three agreements with the World Bank and Germany to finance projects in the water and local government sectors, worth \$103 million. On October 3, 2023, the Bank of Palestine and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding for joint cooperation to support sustainable development and financial inclusion in Palestine.³⁵ On June 3, 2024, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides signed 14 agreements and memorandums of understanding to enhance bilateral cooperation in several fields, including energy, youth cooperation, digital economy, information technology, trade exchange, logistical support, and facilitating the smooth movement of goods and people through ports.³⁶

➤ Lebanon

Lebanon has made significant progress in the context of Goal 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Since 1986, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been working as a development partner in Lebanon, focusing its efforts on supporting economic recovery and combating

³³ العربية نت، 4 دول عربية توقع 12 اتفاقية باستثمارات تتجاوز ملياري دولار، ديسمبر 2023، <https://ln.run/Fxyhe>

³⁴ سوريا تي في، "صندوق التنمية العالمي" يعلن شراكة لدعم الخدمات الصحية مع "الهلال الأحمر السوري"، 16 مايو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qk6f>

³⁵ مذكرة تفاهم بين فلسطين ومصر في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات، 23 يناير 2023، <https://www.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/63449>

³⁶ عرب نيوز، توقيع 14 إتفاقية ومذكرة تفاهم في ختام اجتماعات اللجنة العليا الأردنية الفلسطينية، 4 يونيو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qo4t>

climate change.³⁷ In 2024, Lebanon further strengthened these efforts. On May 10, 2024, the government of Lebanon signed a memorandum of understanding with UNDP, aimed at promoting sustainable development and empowering local youth. Additionally, on February 23, 2024, the Lebanese government, in collaboration with UNDP, announced the launch of the "Green Investment Facility for Lebanon," a financing facility that aims to accelerate efforts to reduce, mitigate, and adapt to climate change within the country.³⁸

➤ Iraq

The Iraqi government has consistently focused on partnerships in the context of its implementation of Goal 17. In 2023 and 2024, this was particularly evident. On December 4, 2023, the UNDP in Iraq and the Japan International Cooperation Agency renewed their long-term partnership agreement to support the establishment of infrastructure projects that will drive social and economic development in Iraq.³⁹

On April 22, 2024, the Iraqi Prime Minister and the Turkish President signed a four-way memorandum of understanding between Iraq, Turkey, Qatar, and the UAE to cooperate on the "Development Road Project," to stimulate economic growth and strengthen regional and international cooperation.⁴⁰ In May 2024, Iraq signed memorandums of understanding with Tunisia to develop and strengthen economic, commercial, investment, and security relations.⁴¹ Furthermore, on April 18, 2024, Iraq signed 18 memorandums of understanding with American companies, primarily in the fields of energy, electricity, and banking.⁴²

³⁷ برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي والاتحاد الأوروبي يقيمان شراكة لدعم إدارة النفايات في لبنان، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، <https://bit.ly.co/Qk6B>

³⁸ برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي والجامعة اللبنانية الأميركية يتعاونان لتعزيز جهود التنمية ودعم الشباب في لبنان، مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/UeSpk>

³⁹ مصر، العراق يعلن عن 90 فرصة شراكة استثمارية بين القطاعين العام والخاص، ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/lFpgE>

⁴⁰ سكاى نيوز عربية، العراق وتركيا والإمارات وقطر... مذكرة تفاهم لـ"طريق التنمية"، 22 أبريل 2024، <https://bit.ly.co/Qo5G>

⁴¹ وزارة الخارجية العراقية، العراق وتونس يوقعان مذكرات تفاهم في عدة مجالات، 12 مايو 2024، <https://bit.ly.co/Qo5K>

⁴² الشرق، العراق يوقع 18 مذكرة تفاهم مع شركات أميركية في مجالات الطاقة والكهرباء والبنوك، 18 أبريل 2024، <https://bit.ly.co/Qo5N>

Fourth: Arab Gulf Countries

➤ Saudi Arabia

The Saudi context highlights strong efforts to achieve Goal 17 at all levels. The Kingdom has maintained a very advanced position in the list of countries that grant development aid around the world, directing 1.05% of its gross national income towards official development assistance, exceeding the United Nations' target of 0.7%. Saudi Arabia provides more than \$45 billion to support development and humanitarian projects in 54 African countries, and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center's aid amounts to more than \$450 million distributed to 46 countries.⁴³ During 2024, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia implemented approximately 7,019 projects, benefiting 169 countries, with a total aid estimated at around \$109 billion, distributed as \$96.4 billion for development, \$12.6 billion for humanitarian aid, \$252.9 billion for charitable aid, and \$74.1 billion for volunteer aid.⁴⁴

➤ Bahrain

Bahrain has made significant progress in achieving Goal 17 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which focuses on strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development. In terms of partnerships, especially on February 26, 2023, Bahrain signed several memorandums of understanding with UAE, Egypt and Jordan in the sectors of agriculture, medicine, metals, chemicals and electric cars. On February 26, 2023, Bahrain signed MoUs with the UAE, Egypt, and Jordan in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, metals, chemicals, and electric vehicles; On November 23, 2023, Bahrain signed 5 MoUs with the United Arab Emirates to promote trade, investment, and education; On November 24, 2023, Bahrain announced its intention to sign 15 joint cooperation initiatives and 13 MoUs with Egypt to enhance investment and bilateral trade;⁴⁵ On May 31, 2024, Bahrain's Mumtalakat Holding Company signed an MoU with China, aiming to explore investment opportunities and strengthen industrial partnerships for mutual benefit;⁴⁶ On June 26, 2024, Bahrain and Morocco signed an MoU on cooperation and

⁴³ فرانس 24، فرنسا والعراق يوقعان "التفاقية شراكة استراتيجية" لتعزيز التعاون بين البلدين خصوصا في قطاع الطاقة، ديسمبر 2023، <https://ln.run/1-INN>

⁴⁴، انتظمت على مدار 70 عاما.. ما حجم المساعدات الإنسانية التي قدمتها السعودية عربيا ودوليا؟، يونيو 2024، <https://sabq.org/saudia/cfz5hfutn4>

⁴⁵ الاقتصاد الإلكتروني، مصر توقع 12 مذكرة تفاهم مع الإمارات والبحرين والأردن باستثمارات تتجاوز 2 مليار دولار، 26 فبراير 2023، <https://economyplusme.com/103791/>

⁴⁶ <https://bitly.co/Qk1J>

partnership to exchange experiences, skills, and capacity-building, as well as information regarding complaints and grievances.⁴⁷

➤ Qatar

Qatar's efforts to activate Goal 17 are rooted in the Qatar National Vision 2030. The Qatar Fund for Development has spent over \$6 billion in development and humanitarian aid to more than 100 countries around the world since its establishment in 2002 until August 2023, and it continues to allocate between \$500 and \$600 million annually to finance development and humanitarian projects.⁴⁸ On May 14, 2024, the Islamic Development Bank and the State of Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. The MoU aims to develop a comprehensive partnership strategy for the member country for the period from 2024 to 2028, supporting economic transformation and international cooperation.⁴⁹

➤ Sultanate of Oman

Sultanate of Oman has made significant efforts to achieve Goal 17 in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, Oman launched the \$5.2 billion Oman Future Fund to boost economic activity. On September 30, 2023, Oman signed several strategic partnerships with American companies to enhance exchange.⁵⁰ On November 28, 2023, Oman sent humanitarian and relief aid to the Palestinian people, including about 100 tons of food supplies.⁵¹ In 2024, Oman signed an investment partnership worth 129 billion dirhams with the UAE to deepen cooperation in multiple sectors, including energy and transportation.⁵² On April 25, 2024, Oman signed an MoU with Saudi Arabia to develop industrial sectors and encourage the private sector's contribution to Oman's economic development in line with its Vision 2040.⁵³

⁴⁷ اليوم السابع، المغرب والبحرين يوقعان مذكرة تعاون بشأن حقوق الإنسان وتعزيز القدرات، 26 يونيو 2024، <https://shorter.me/P7zeg>

⁴⁸ الشرق، مدير صندوق قطر للتنمية: 6 مليارات دولار مساعدات إنسانية وتنموية لأكثر من 100 دولة منذ إنشائه، 4 أغسطس 2023، <https://shorter.me/AGWPd>

⁴⁹ مجموعة البنك الإسلامي للتنمية ودولة قطر توقعان مذكرة تفاهم بشأن التعاون الاستراتيجي، 14 مايو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qo5f>

⁵⁰ وكالة الأنباء العمانية، الوفد العماني التجاري يوقع شراكات استراتيجية في ختام زيارته إلى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، 30 سبتمبر 2023، <https://omannews.gov.om/topics/ar/7/show/423626/>

⁵¹ صدق البلد، سلطنة عمان ترسل 100 طن مواد غذائية للفلسطينيين في غزة، 28 فبراير 2023، <https://www.elbalad.news/6016055>

⁵² العربية، الإمارات وعمان تيرمان شراكات استثمارية بقيمة 35 مليار دولار، 23 أبريل 2024، <https://bitly.co/QoDc>

⁵³ الشرق الأوسط، السعودية وعمان توقعان مذكرة تفاهم لتمويل البنية الأساسية للمناطق الصناعية، 25 أبريل 2024، <https://bitly.co/QoDI>

➤ Yemen

Within Yemen, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union have worked for more than 20 years to support the country in strengthening the resilience of its internal communities, promoting peace, and addressing challenges related to crisis management, governance, peacebuilding, and environmental sustainability.⁵⁴ In February 2024, Yemen launched a project to protect the most vulnerable communities from epidemic disease threats, with funding from the Epidemic Fund, to enhance the protection of one of the world's most vulnerable population groups from such threats.⁵⁵

➤ Emirates

United Arab Emirates has achieved remarkable successes in terms of Goal 17, to the point that it has become one of the leading countries in the field of development and humanitarian aid, and since 2013 it has topped the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's table of the largest donors in the field of official development aid compared to its national income.⁵⁶ Since its founding in 1971, until August 2021, it has provided humanitarian and development aid valued at more than 320 billion dirhams, benefiting more than 150 countries around the world.⁵⁷ During the period between 2018 and 2022, the total value of official development assistance provided by the UAE amounted to \$11.95 billion, equivalent to 0.33% of its gross national income, and its foreign aid supported the achievement of 11 sustainable development goals, as the value of the support directed to establishing partnerships to achieve the goals amounted to \$1,768.0 million.⁵⁸

➤ Kuwait

Kuwait is making significant efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) by focusing on its objectives related to aid and partnerships. In 2023, the State of Kuwait and Japan agreed to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership covering economic, trade, investment, health, and cultural fields. Between May and

⁵⁴ البرنامج الإنمائي للأمم المتحدة، شراكة برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي مع الاتحاد الأوروبي من أجل بناء السلام وتعزيز القدرة على الصمود في اليمن، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، <https://shorter.me/Ez7v8>

⁵⁵ منظمة الصحة العالمية، يشن اليمن مشروع لحماية المجتمعات الأكثر ضعفاً من تهديدات الأمراض الوبائية بتمويل من صندوق الأوبئة، 2 أبريل 2024، <https://shorter.me/hHJhx>

⁵⁶ وزارة الخارجية الإماراتية، التعاون الإنساني والتنمية، <https://bitly.co/Qo80>

⁵⁷ الأسبوع، الريادة الإماراتية في مجال المساعدات الإنمائية والإنسانية، 6 ديسمبر 2022، <https://www.elaosboa.com/603246/>

⁵⁸ الاتحاد، مساعدات إماراتية مستدامة لإغاثة أهالي غزة، مايو 2024، <https://bitly.co/Qo82>

July 2023, Kuwait provided UNICEF with financial contributions totaling \$500,699, \$646, and \$646 to support emergency relief for children and families in Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, and Pakistan, respectively. Looking ahead to 2024, in May, Al Watan Bank of Kuwait and the Future Investment Initiative signed a strategic partnership to promote growth and innovation in investment within and beyond the region.⁵⁹ Then in June 2024, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Kuwaiti Association for Needy Families signed a letter of intent aimed at empowering families in need, marking the first such cooperation between the UN agency and the Kuwaiti association.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ بنك الكويت الوطني، بنك الكويت الوطني يوقع شراكة استراتيجية مع مؤسسة مبادرة مستقبل الاستثمار (FII)، مايو 2024، <https://bityl.co/QoDS>

⁶⁰ المفوضية السامية للاجئين، شراكة بين المفوضية والجمعية الكويتية للأسر المتعففة لتمكين الأسر المحتاجة داخل الكويت، 2 يونيو 2024، <https://bityl.co/QoDU>



Axis II: Frameworks for Activating SDG 17 in Arab Region

Sustainable Development Goal 17 focuses on revitalizing the global partnership to achieve sustainable development, as the SDGs can only be accomplished through strong global cooperation and commitment to ensure no one is left behind. **In the Arab region**, evaluative attention to SDG 17 has centered on monitoring and analyzing it descriptively and quantitatively, rather than a purely statistical approach. The region has observed policies, partnerships, and persistent attempts at the national and regional levels, in both bilateral and multilateral forms.

A. Development Aid

Arab region has achieved relative successes in development aid. While it contains countries that receive substantial aid, such as **Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon**, it also includes major donors, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has provided an estimated \$130 billion in aid over the past decades, benefiting around 196 countries worldwide through 7,019 humanitarian, development, and charitable

projects, making it one of the **top 3 donor countries globally**.⁶¹ The United Arab Emirates has also been among the **top 20 aid donor** countries for over a decade, based on its gross national income.⁶²

B. Partnerships

Arab region has cultivated an attractive climate for development partnerships, both multilateral and with the private sector. In 2024, the League of Arab States announced the continuation of its partnership with UN Women to promote the rights of Arab women.⁶³ In May 27, 2024, the League affirmed its work with the African Union to build a promising Arab-African partnership for peace, security, and well-being. Additionally, in June 2023, the League expressed its commitment to establish partnerships with the UN Security Council to support security, peace, prosperity, and stability in the Middle East. The League also stressed its intention to strengthen the existing strategic dialogue framework with the European Union on crisis management, climate, security, counterterrorism, migration, and arms control.⁶⁴

C. Technology

The Arab countries have recognized the need to achieve goals related to technology as a major factor in their economic and social development. To address this, the Arab region has implemented a comprehensive package of policies, plans, and efforts to establish technological infrastructure and enable digital transformation. As a result, the number of Internet users in the Arab countries has grown significantly over the past two decades. While there were only around 3 million Internet users in the year 2000, this number reached approximately 275 million by the end of 2020, which is about 64% of the region's population. Internet penetration rates vary across the region, with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries reaching nearly 100%, the Maghreb countries (Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria) at 69%, and the Levant countries (Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt) at 65%.

⁶¹ الشرق الأوسط، عقود من المساعدات السعودية تلامس 130 مليار دولار، 26 يونيو 2024، <https://bityl.co/Onki>

⁶² الاتحاد، الإمارات.. جهود رائدة لإغاثة ضحايا الكوارث الطبيعية، 2 ديسمبر 2023، <https://bityl.co/Onkj>

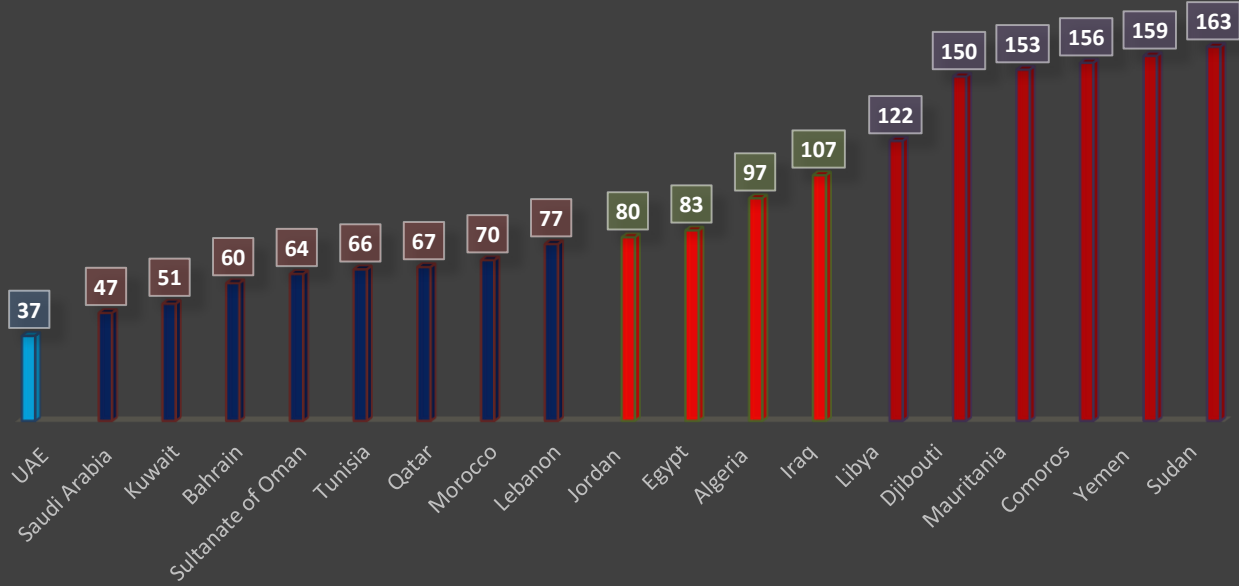
⁶³ اليوم السابع، الجامعة العربية والاتحاد الأوروبي يؤكدان أهمية الشراكة في ضوء التغيرات المتسارعة، 18 يونيو 2023، <https://bityl.co/QnrF>

⁶⁴ هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة، هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة وجامعة الدول العربية تعززان الشراكة والالتزام بحقوق المرأة في المنطقة العربية، 21 أبريل 2024، <https://bityl.co/Qp2Y>

TECHNOLOGY READINESS INDEX FOR 2023

RANKING OF ARAB COUNTRIES IN INDEX

■ High ■ Relatively high ■ Relatively Low ■ Low



D. Inter-Regional Trade

The countries of the region are making concerted efforts to achieve greater cooperation and economic integration among Arab nations, with a focus on intra-regional trade. The region has established the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, which includes all Arab countries, to promote trade and investment cooperation. In February 2024, the Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Chambers confirmed that the volume of intra-Arab trade is estimated at around \$700 billion, which is equivalent to 10-11% of global trade. The private sector in the Arab region constitutes a significant portion, accounting for more than 75% of the region's gross domestic product, which amounts to approximately \$4 trillion. Therefore, the contribution of the private sector to intra-Arab trade is estimated to be at least \$3 trillion.⁶⁵

⁶⁵ سكاي نيوز عربية، تضاعف قيمة مشاريع الاستثمار الأجنبي بالدول العربية في 2022، 27 يوليو 2023، <https://bitly.co/Qnqw>

E. Debts Sustainability

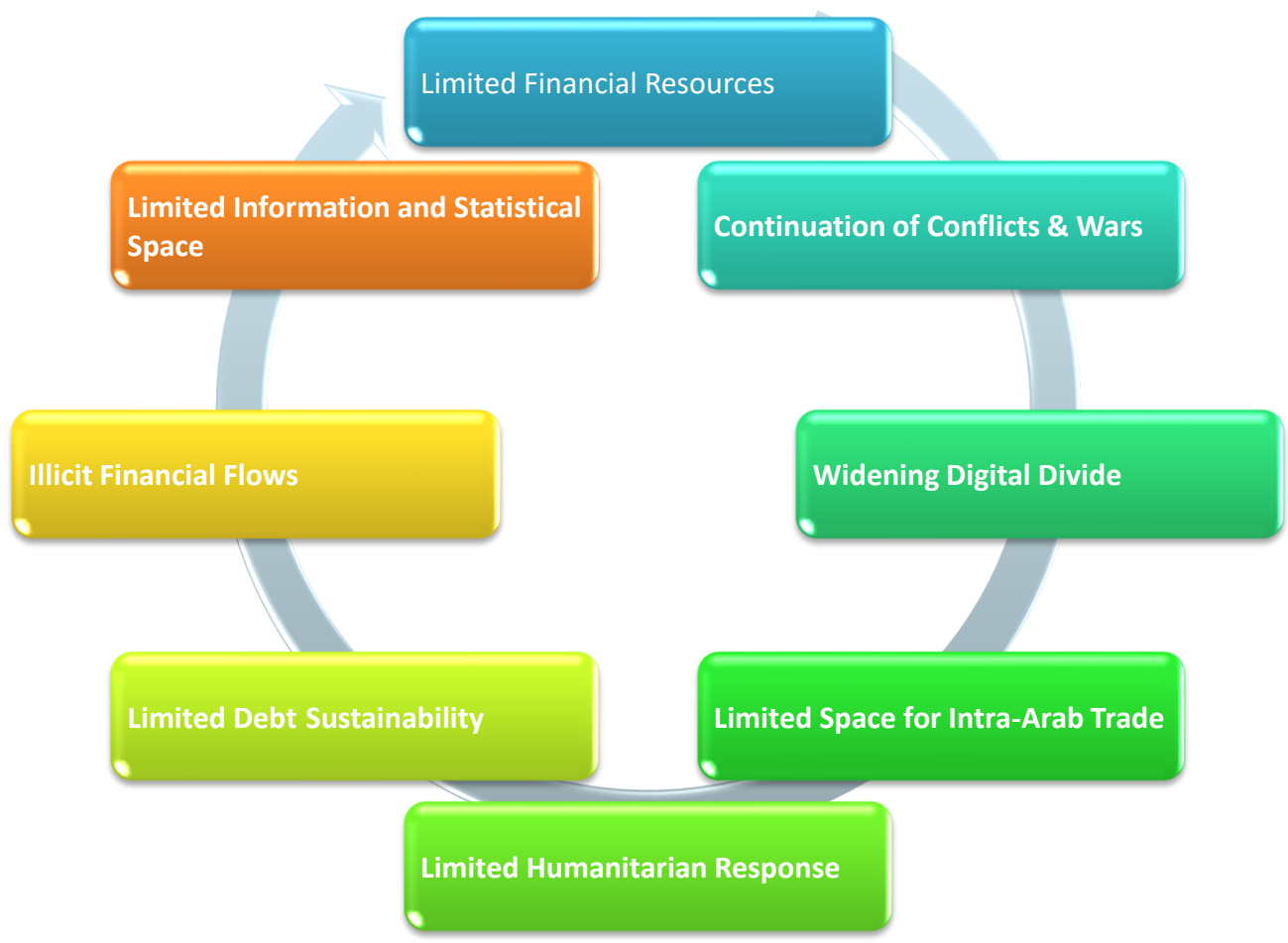
The Arab region is facing a challenging debt situation, which has hindered the ability to implement development projects and plans effectively. The total Arab debt has reached nearly \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to approximately 94% of the region's gross domestic product. The debt burden varies across the region, with countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Sudan, Bahrain, and Oman having debt-to-GDP ratios of 24%, 32%, 57%, 35%, 46%, 77%, 284%, 117%, and 44%, respectively. This worsening debt crisis has threatened the levels of economic, social, and political stability in the region.⁶⁶

⁶⁶ المتداول العربي، أعلى الدول العربية من حيث الدينون في 2022، 28 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3EQH0iC>



Axis III: Challenges Hindering Goal 17 Achievement in Arab region

Despite the progress made by Arab region in achieving Goal 17, the successes remain relative and not comprehensive across all goals and objectives. Some of these goals are facing several challenges and obstacles, which can be summarized as follows:



➤ **Limited Financial Resources**

It is evident that the Arab region has not fully met the requirements of Goal 17 in terms of mobilizing financial and additional resources to achieve sustainable development. Despite the efforts of the countries in the region to mobilize financial resources, they are facing a significant shortage, not only in the financial resources themselves but also in their ability to organize and accumulate all the required financial resources. The Union of Arab Banks estimates the financing gap to achieve sustainable development in the region at around \$100 billion annually.

➤ **Limited Humanitarian Response**

The Arab region continues to face multiple and complex crises, including conflicts, displacement, and natural disasters, which have severely impacted vital infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and water systems. Despite efforts to mobilize development, humanitarian, and relief aid, the desired improvements have not been achieved. The region is home to an estimated 70 million people in need of

humanitarian assistance, including 27 million children. Furthermore, 50 million people in need reside in countries affected by conflict, including around 24 million children,⁶⁷ and approximately 9 million refugees. Additionally, 19 million internally displaced people live in dire conditions within the region.⁶⁸

➤ **Limited Debt Sustainability**

The issue of debt poses significant obstacles and challenges that prevent the achievement of Goal 17 and its objectives, particularly in enhancing the ability to manage debt and its burdens. This phenomenon is considered one of the major impediments to the Sustainable Development Goals, as the increasing negative effects of debt drain the region's financial resources and limit its capacity for development spending. The Arab countries' ability to implement ambitious development plans is severely restricted, as a large portion of their domestic products is allocated towards debt repayment.

➤ **Illicit Financial Flows**

Illicit financial flows undermine the efforts of Arab countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 17 and its objectives related to enhancing financing capabilities. These flows contribute to the depletion of financial resources, the distortion of macroeconomic stability, and the leakage of local public revenues that could be used to finance national and regional efforts towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan. It is estimated that these illicit flows cost the Arab economies \$77 billion in annual losses between 2008 and 2015.⁶⁹

➤ **Limited Information and Statistical Space**

Goal 17 requires promoting a robust data and information environment and keeping pace with the global data and technology revolution. Despite the efforts of Arab countries, the official framework of global indicators for sustainable development goals shows that only 42% of the indicators have sufficient data, while 11% have

UNICEF, Humanitarian Response All Country Offices in MENA are empowered to deliver timely, equitable and principled humanitarian action, Access date June 2024, ⁶⁷

<https://shorter.me/v-H7b>

الأمم المتحدة، اتجاهات مقلقة وتمسك بالأمل: لجنة أممية تتابع مسار التنمية المستدامة في الدول العربية، مارس 2024، ⁶⁸

<https://bitly.co/QnqW>، 2024، الإسكو، التدفقات المالية غير المشروعة في المنطقة العربية، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، ⁶⁹

insufficient data and 47% have no data at all. The situation is particularly concerning for Goal 17, where more than 62% of the indicators lack data, compared to 41% of the indicators for other goals.⁷⁰

➤ **Limited Space for Intra-Arab Trade**

While intra-Arab trade, particularly in goods and services, has increased, it remains relatively lower than the levels recorded among the European Union countries, estimated at around 64%, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, estimated at around 24%.⁷¹

➤ **Widening Digital Divide**

Despite efforts to achieve and consolidate technology and improve digital performance, the Arab region clearly suffers from a wide digital divide. This gap extends beyond just the use of the Internet and includes information technology indicators, digital government services, and artificial intelligence. This challenge continues to delay and hinder the achievement of Goal 17.

➤ **Continuation of Conflicts and Wars**

The Arab region has been plagued by ongoing wars and conflicts, which have significantly eroded sustainable development efforts and impeded progress towards various goals, including those related to poverty, hunger, peace, economic growth, and infrastructure. These conflicts have cost the warring Arab countries over \$900 billion during the period from 2011 to 2018 in countries such as Libya, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine, and have affected 180 million Arab citizens in neighboring countries. This has severely undermined the Arab countries' partnerships and efforts to achieve the objectives of Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁷²

⁷⁰ المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة، الهدف 17 من أهداف التنمية المستدامة عقد الشراكات من أجل تحقيق الأهداف، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، ص 1-10.

⁷¹ المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة، الهدف 17 من أهداف التنمية المستدامة عقد الشراكات من أجل تحقيق الأهداف، تاريخ الوصول يونيو 2024، ص 15-23.

⁷² البوابة العربية للتنمية، ديمغرافيا، تاريخ 16 ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/z-0cu>

Recommendations

After a comprehensive analysis, monitoring, and extrapolation of the facts related to Goal 17 in the Arab region, both nationally and regionally, Maat has formulated the following set of recommendations:

- Maat recommends that the governments of the Arab countries affected by conflicts in Syria, Sudan, and Yemen strengthen their financing capabilities and provide adequate funding to ensure full, rapid, and reasonable access to health, social, and economic services, as well as to achieve their humanitarian response.
- Maat calls on the governments of Arab countries to localize monitoring and early warning programs related to the Sustainable Development Goals. These programs should periodically follow up, prepare, and measure indicators in a way that enhances the appropriate, reliable, and detailed information and statistical structure for the Sustainable Development Goals, and allows for the evaluation of existing partnerships and the development of new ones.
- Maat calls on stakeholders and creditors to fulfill their humanitarian and human rights obligations through their cooperation with Arab countries, especially those affected by debt distress or on the verge of it. This should be done by launching programs to reduce, freeze, or restructure debts, thereby freeing up development resources from the debt crisis.
- Maat calls on the governments of the Arab region to launch reform programs for their financial and tax systems, focusing on combating corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial flows.
- Maat calls on the governments of Arab countries to accelerate their efforts towards establishing a regional mechanism that works to localize and facilitate sustainable technology and digital transformation among the countries of the Arab region.
- Maat calls on the governments of Arab countries to launch empowering partnerships for youth, recognizing their developmental and leadership role, and expanding their participation in achieving sustainable development. This should include implementing training and investment programs that enhance the capabilities, ideas, and skills of young people, qualify them for the advanced labor market, and provide financial, economic, and technical support for their projects focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.