

Local

Planning body reviews progress of 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals

Draft report to focus on Kuwait's efforts in realizing five goals



KUWAIT: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development meets on Tuesday.



Dr Khaled Mahdi

KUWAIT: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development held on Tuesday a meeting of the permanent national guidance committee to discuss the execution of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals. The meeting was attended by committee members as well as private, public and civil society entities.

Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, stressed the importance of the meeting, during which the committee completed the first draft of the second voluntary report on measuring the progress

Kuwait has made in fulfilling its 2023 sustainable development goals. The report, he explained, will focus on Kuwait's efforts towards the five goals of sustainable development identified by the United Nations General Assembly.

The goals include those related to clean water and sanitation, clean and affordable energy, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, and partnerships to achieve these goals. The work Kuwait has done in navigating the health crisis and resulting damages, as well as the solutions that were put forward to deal with its implications will also be show-

cased. The report will highlight, in addition, the most prominent accomplishments made by the country in other sustainable development goals.

"The report will also discuss the obvious development made in the procedures pertaining to data collection and revision and the role of the Central Statistical Bureau in this matter," Mahdi said. All stakeholders will review the first draft and submit their comments to the committee, he added.

Monyah Al-Qabandi, director of the Central Statistical Bureau, announced the administration has finished building the official website for

sustainable development in Kuwait and will launch it soon. The cooperation of official entities with the administration through sharing up-to-date data in relation to the goals is necessary for successfully completing the report, said Qabandi.

She hoped those entities that have not supplied the administration with the needed information will do so soon. The committee submitted its first voluntary report in 2019, which received positive feedback. The second voluntary report on measuring progress in the sustainable development goals will be submitted in July 2023.

OPIWC: Impossible examination in oil sector

KUWAIT: Difficult hiring exams in the oil sector put recent Kuwaiti graduates applying for jobs in the field at a disadvantage, said Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, general secretary for the Oil and Petrochemicals Industry Workers Community (OPIWC).

Al-Otaibi criticized the high cut-off scores and the extremely challenging questions that make it near impossible for students to pass. He added that attracting and retaining young Kuwaiti talent in the field was of high importance.

"It is necessary that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) coordinates with Higher Education and Applied Education to increase the number of seats for Kuwaiti students in oil-related programs according to the needs of the sector," he added. "The KPC must take responsibility by hiring all graduates of oil-related majors, including those who graduated from certificate programs and engineers, especially since the Civil Service Commission has explicitly declared they won't be hired in government sectors."

Al-Otaibi said the KPC must develop a fair solution to address the challenges faced by Kuwaiti recent graduates. But he also had some suggestions, such as allowing applicants to retake the exams as many times as needed, writing easier exams, and reducing the score cutoffs "so that the largest possible number of successful applicants are accepted to fill the vacancies in Kuwait's oil companies."

He added that tackling this problem will ensure recent graduates "are not victims to the technical difficulties Kuwait University had recently announced."

Municipality to absorb Kuwait City hygiene workers

KUWAIT: Hygiene worker contracts in Kuwait City could be handled directly by the Kuwait Municipality, Alyaa Al-Faresi, municipality council member, suggested. The suggestion was among five others she put forward in an effort to tackle the declining levels of cleanliness across the country, she said.

"In the past, especially in the 80s, hygiene workers across Kuwait were all employees at the Kuwait Municipality, and not hired through special contracts as it is the case now."

Al-Faresi added that the workers should be under the responsibility of the Director of the Department of Cleaning and Road Occupations within the municipality. Other suggestions included that current contracts for hygiene workers would not be renewed after they expire. She said Kuwait City workers should also wear light blue uniforms with the municipality's logo in order to differentiate them from workers in other governorates and must be provided with the latest machinery and tools needed to do their jobs, as well as training in hygiene techniques and solid waste management.



KUWAIT: An artist's impressions of "Souq Nuwair"



Social affairs ministry to launch Souq Nuwair

KUWAIT: The social affairs ministry will launch a new farmers' market called "Souq Nuwair", voluntarily designed by architect Zain Al-Barjas. Social Affairs Minister May Al-Baghlly approved the adoption of the project in coordination with the Head of the Cooperatives Union Ali Al-Fahad. The market aims to create a sales platform for farmers in a modern and beautiful look, taking close care to making facilities as aesthetically pleasing as possible. The market will launch in its new look on Feb 10 at Nuzha Park and will be moved to other areas in all governorates of Kuwait.



BEIRUT: Meeting of the leaders of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies. —KUNA

Red Crescent, Red Cross chiefs coordinate plans

BEIRUT: Leaders of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in the Middle East and North Africa discussed Tuesday coordinating efforts to face humanitarian challenges weighing down on the region. Deputy Chief of The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Asia and the Pacific and General Secretary of Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society Maha Al-Barjas spoke to KUNA on the sidelines of the meeting and discussed the rapidly changing humanitarian situation, mounting crises and increase of humanitarian needs.

She said that there is a rapid change in the humanitarian scene, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, which confirms the need for concerted efforts by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to adopt proactive plans by expanding the scope of their efforts to meet humanitarian necessities. "Lebanon as well as the Palestinian territories are

witnessing a deteriorating humanitarian situation. Yemen is also going through one of the worst humanitarian crises in history. Similarly, the crisis of the displaced and the Syrian refugees requires us to consult and coordinate with each other to meet the humanitarian requirements," she said.

She stressed the importance of adopting strategies to ensure a speedy response. For emergencies and building international and local companies, "because the crises facing us cannot be handled by any agency or organization individually," Al-Barjas touched on the most important challenges facing the region, which are represented by the continuing consequences of the COVID-19, cholera and dengue fever, putting pressure on the health sector. This is in addition to the effects resulting from climate change and the ongoing conflicts.

Among the challenges is the continuation of the crisis of refugees and displaced persons and relief work to deliver humanitarian aid to them, she pointed out.

She said these multiple crises in the region underscore the necessity of unifying efforts to ratify preventive plans, approve strategies guaranteeing quick response to emerging cases and building international partnerships. —AFP

Kuwait's charity body IICO, UNHCR ink agreement

KUWAIT: Kuwait's International Charity Organization (IICO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees signed an agreement Tuesday to provide humanitarian supplies for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and hosting community.

Directive Manager of IICO Bader Al-Sumait said in a speech delivered during the signing that the organization seeks to ease suffering of the Rohingya people through sustainable development solutions in the fields of agricultural, livestock and fish production, at a cost of about \$500,000 about (kd 152,000). "About one million of displaced people from this Muslim minority living in Cox's City depend entirely on humanitarian aid to obtain protection, food, water, shelter and health services", Al-Sumait added.

The supportive plans and humanitarian aid do not cover only food and shelter but also includes sustainable development plans, he explained. "Sustainable activities might change, in a better way, the circumstances of these communities, mainly in education, economic empowerment, and building abilities, Al-Sumait said.

He indicated that the IICO has cooperation and partnership agreements with 13 agencies, organizations and international networks, of which 12 are effective partnerships through joint projects or studies that are being worked on. —KUNA