Brief of the discussion session

THE ECONOMIC REFORMS IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET 2023 – 2025

MARCH 2024 www.psdiraq.org info@psdiraq.org 009647731551117



About Platform Center for Sustainable Development



The Platform for Sustainable Development is a registered center with the Non-Governmental Organizations Department at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers under the number (1S2106012). It serves as a space for thought, dialogue, and action towards positive change.

Vision

We seek to establish a platform for dialogue and policies that contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Iraq.

Mission

Filling the gap between the state and society to ensure the essence of democracy by engaging citizens in the decision-making process through training, monitoring, analysis, research, awareness, and advocacy.



Strategic Goals

- Preparing a youth elite that rises to its social responsibilities through studying problems, proposing policy alternatives, and working towards their implementation.
- Utilizing knowledge outputs and encouraging youth to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- Presenting statistics and issues that occupy the political arenas and societal circles to reflect a deeper understanding of the Iraqi reality.
- Creating a network of active, informed, and committed citizens dedicated to the project of building the Iraqi government.



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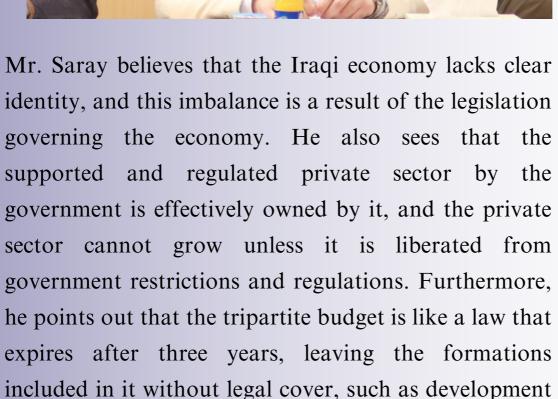
Brief of the discussion session

Saturday, March 2, 2024, On the Sustainable Platform Center for held discussion Development two sessions titled "Economic Reforms in the Federal Budget 2023 – 2025" to conclude the economic reform program. These sessions involved the discussion of policy reports prepared by program graduates. These reports included an assessment of economic reform in 9 separate areas of the Federal Budget. The first session was with civil society, think tanks, and centers, while the research second session was with experts in public policy.

The session was inaugurated by Mr. Al-Husseini. Hashem Head Research Department at the Platform Center, who welcomed the esteemed briefly outlined and the guests definition of the Platform Center, its activities, and achievements over the years. Additionally, previous presented the center's vision for the future, aiming to become a significant and influential policymaking center in Iraq through its tools and mechanisms, with dialogue tables being among the most important of these mechanisms. He also reviewed the stages of the economic reform program in its first and second cycles.

Civil society session





funds that should be regulated by an independent law

rather than within the budget law. Mr. Saray believes

that the social nature and general culture shape the

economy's sustainability and contribute to its viability.

















Hayder Al-Kafishi

Smart Green Cities Sustainability Organization

Mr. Kafishi points out the impossibility of the continued existence of development funds because they rely on surplus revenues, which is impractical since oil revenues are tied to many external and geopolitical factors that contribute to their instability. This jeopardizes the future of these funds, which will disappear at the first oil crisis. He proposes a solution that could enhance the effectiveness of these funds by transferring Iraq's assets and properties abroad, such as farms and investment fleets outside Iraq, to provide resources for the fund to finance its operations until it reaches a profitable stage. Mr. Kafishi sees the necessity for the state to own and manage giant projects in a new manner and behavior that differs from the classic management that has led state-owned companies from being profitable and productive to becoming loss-making companies relying on subsidies from the general budget to cover their operational expenses.

مركز المنصة للتنمية المستدامة Platform Center for Sustainable Development





Dr. Saad believes that market flooding policies the most important policies among hindering the activation of productive sectors. He argues that the state adopts a misguided protectionist approach that protects the expense of productive individuals at sectors, failing to provide protection for local producers, especially in the agricultural sector. He also emphasizes the necessity of economic integration, meaning the establishment of factories and packaging plants near the source of raw materials and connecting provinces with contribute which will the railways, development of provinces. Dr. Saad sees that technologies agricultural supporting research in the agricultural sector could be the cornerstone of any reform in the productive sector.



Yasser Al-Jubouri
Fawasil Center for Research
and Studies

Mr. Al-Jubouri believes that think tanks and research centers are not fulfilling their role properly due to a lack of acceptance by decision-makers for the ideas presented by these centers. He also sees reform economic is more comprehensive than being confined to the budget law; it operate on multiple should levels and involve all state institutions. Economic reform cannot be achieved unless these institutions recognize the necessity of keeping up with developments and operating with a new market mentality. Additionally, he believes that governmental measures often exacerbate the situation rather than contribute to its solution.



Mr. Al-Rifai believes that the culture of disregarding previous efforts and starting from scratch is prevalent, and economic reform cannot be achieved unless we shift to a culture of building upon previous efforts from where others left off. He also sees that economic dialogue should be led by experts and only their opinions should be considered, as the economic process is very sensitive and cannot be approached by non-specialists, or else the results will be counterproductive.

Governmental institutions and academia session



Ms. Abeer believes that economic reform is a lengthy process, and its results cannot be expected overnight. She also sees that Iraq is going through difficult circumstances and complex crises that have led to the current situation. It is necessary to provide a suitable environment for reform that is continuous. She also mentioned the enactment of the Competition Support and Anti-Monopoly Law, which will represent a significant step towards empowering and developing the private sector.



Dr. Hameed Rahim highlighted Iraq's potential for advancing to reform the of next stage contingent political upon determination. He believes that economic indicators show that the Iraqi economy is declining, with no growth indicators, other than expansion in spending and the dominance of oil revenues controlling other sectors. contributing to the state's which paternalism, supports society through subsidies. He also sees that increasing oversight of spending and automating control procedures may be the first steps towards reform.



Dr. Mustafa believes that the significant problem most facing Iraq is the issue of population explosion. He believes that no reform can match the alarming increase in the population and the limited resources, putting the state in a real problem in securing the necessities of society. He also the population sees that concentration in urban centers is a major problem that can be addressed by encouraging moving to rural areas and promoting agricultural the sector, which would reduce the demand for services within cities and make it easier for the to accommodate and state the needs of the meet population.

budget law.





- 2. Encouraging the agricultural sector by incentivizing farmers to adopt modern agricultural technologies.
- 3. Supporting productive sectors and rationalizing consumption by increasing taxes on luxury goods.
- 4. Connecting provinces to a railway network to facilitate the transportation of goods and distribute manufacturing centers.
- 5. Implementing population redistribution by establishing new cities and population centers outside of current urban areas.

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