

KINGDOM'S EIGHTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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- h) Estimates of the public funding required to achieve the proposed policies and programs.
- i) Technically sound and coherent conceptual framework to ensure consistency of various policies and programs.



... and a new approach

The difference between the 8th Plan and 7th Plan can be summarized under following six broad categories:

a. - Methodology

Previous plans, including the 7th Plan, had a 5-year planning horizon. The 8th plan has been developed as an integral part of a long-term development strategy in the context of a 20-year time horizon. It is part of a logical set of four developments Plans (8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th) to achieve the long-term vision for the Saudi economy. It follows a goals - oriented methodology. Instead of setting goals for the future based on the extrapolation of the past performance of the Saudi economy, the 8th Plan has reversed the process. It identified the desired future profile of the economy based on the aspirations of the citizens and formulated strategies and policies to reach this desired destination.

b. Scope

The 8th Plan covers several new areas for the very first time. They include issues such as: women and development, unemployment, poverty, quality of life, institutional and administrative development, etc.

c. Content

The 8th Plan contains a much more rigorous treatment of topics from a technical point of view. Most of the key policies are based on a solid empirical foundation. This fact is partly attributable to the better quality of data available for most sectors compared to the past plans. In addition, the knowledge revolution and easy access to international experience and comparable cases allows experts to take a more incisive look at the issues.

e. Transparency

The performance of various sectors has been highlighted irrespective of the degree of their success. Data on the financial and budgetary allocations have been clearly mentioned to allow a fair appraisal of the sector's performance.

f. Process

This Plan document is an outcome of a very thorough and wide-ranging consultative process. It started with the preparation of the National Symposium to develop a future vision for Saudi economy in 2000. The participatory consultations continued well after the successful holding of the National Symposium in October 2002. No previous plan had the benefit of such a massive consultative exercise.

g. Accountability

This plan has a much greater results-orientation and a sharper focus on implementation with quantifiable, verifiable and measurable performance targets for various sectors. This is consistent with international best practice.

8th Plan and On-going Reforms

The origins of many of the economic, administrative and social reform programs can be traced to previous plans. Like seeds, ideas sown in one time period come to fruition in another time period. Similarly, we expect the 8th Plan to result in a new round of next generation reforms.

In recognition of the importance of administrative and institutional reforms to achieve a competitive advantage, the 8th Plan devotes a full chapter on this issue. This is the first time that this chapter has been added in the Plan document.