مقال د.جابر الوندة بعنوان: الدستور الكويتي والتنمية المستدامة

Kuwaiti Constitution and sustainable development

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In our previous articles, we touched on key aspects of sustainability, starting from its concept, passing through significant milestones, and ending with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with some observations on them and how to positively engage with them in our institutions and environments, drawing from our values and traditions.

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Today, our discussion will focus on whether the concept of sustainability or its traces can be found within the Constitution of the State of Kuwait.

Regarding the Kuwaiti Constitution and whether it respects or incorporates these principles, if we consider that the 17 SDGs aim to elevate human dignity, preserve the elements of life for current and future generations, protect the environment and its resources, and regulate relationships, the Kuwaiti Constitution is rich with articles that codify and reflect these principles. For instance:

Article 7: "Justice, liberty, and equality are the pillars of society; cooperation and compassion are firm bonds between citizens."

Article 8: "The State safeguards the pillars of society and ensures security, peace of mind, and equal opportunities for citizens."

Article 9: "The family is the cornerstone of society. It is founded on religion, morals, and love for the homeland. The law preserves its structure, strengthens its bonds, and protects motherhood and childhood under its umbrella."

Article 10: "The State cares for the youth, protects them from exploitation, and shields them from moral, physical, and spiritual neglect."

Article 11: "The State guarantees assistance to citizens in cases of old age, illness, or incapacity for work. It also provides them with social security services, social aid, and healthcare."

Article 12: "The State preserves Islamic and Arab heritage and contributes to the advancement of human civilization."

Article 13: "Education is a fundamental pillar for the advancement of society. The State guarantees and oversees it."

Article 14: "The State fosters sciences, literature, and arts, and encourages scientific research."

Article 15: "The State is concerned with public health and means of prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics."

Article 16: "Property, capital, and labor are the foundations of the social entity of the State and the national wealth. All are individual rights with a social function, regulated by law."

Article 20: "The national economy is based on social justice and cooperation between public and private sectors. Its aim is to achieve economic development, increase production, raise living standards, and ensure prosperity for citizens, all within the limits of the law."

You may also refer to Articles 21, 23, 24, 25, 29, 35, 40, and 41 as further examples of what we are discussing. Without delving into the explanation of each article and its connection to the pillars of sustainability and its goals, it is clear that each of these articles falls within the scope of environmental, economic, or social domains. These articles establish the rights, demands, and objectives that align with the 17 SDGs, fostering growth, prosperity, and continuity for a strong, cohesive, and constructive society. This society safeguards its solid foundations for its people and current residents, as well as for future generations, which is the essence of sustainability.

Moreover, all of these articles – along with others in the Constitution – are regulated and define the nature of relationships within society and among its various groups and components. This requires no further explanation regarding its impact on the sustainability, continuity, and vitality of society and the environment.

To be continued

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