

Sultanate of Oman Voluntary National Review United Nations, Economic and Social Council High-Level Political Forum

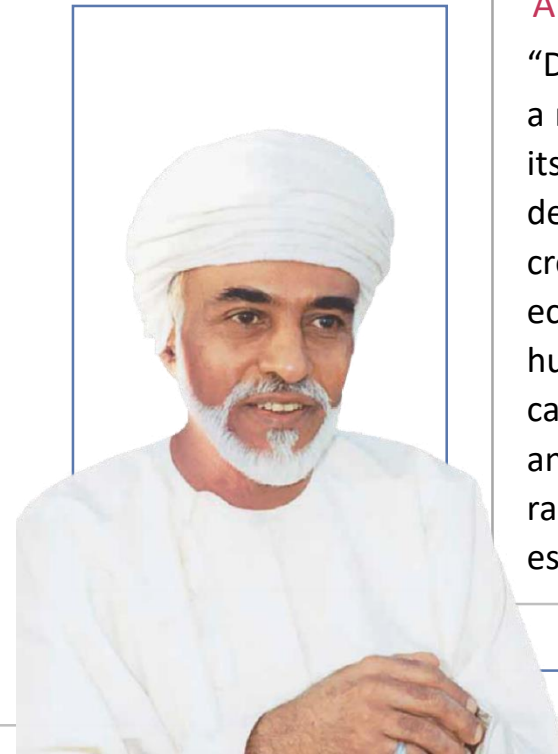
New York, 18 July 2019





The Thought of Sustainability focuses on:

- Citizenship and equality; the rule of law; keeping up with the times through development plans and programs; and improving the standards of life through the development of the education, health services, socio-economic and environmental sectors
- And upholding the values of peace, coexistence, dialogue, acceptance and respect of others, close cooperation with other nations and peoples, and adherence to the principles of justice and equality



A Message from His Majesty :

“Development is not an end in itself, it is a means for building up people, who are its instrument and markers. Moreover, development should not be limited to creating prosperity and building the economy. It must go beyond it to achieve human progress and shape citizens capable of contributing, through merit and awareness, to constructing and raising the country on a solid and well established foundation.”

HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman
2 June 1995



Pillars of Sustainable Development and Implementation Mechanisms



The Sultanate of Oman is listed as a high-income country according to recent World Bank rankings



Oman is among the set of countries with very high human development according to the recent United Nations classification





1. Human Empowerment So That No One Is Left Behind

Women are Partners in Development

Youth: The Future, Now

Ensuring the Participation of All

1. Capacity Building and Empowerment

54% Gross enrollment ratio of females in higher education in 2017



41% Average participation of women in government organizations



2. Participating in Decision Making



- In 1994, Women granted the right to vote and stand as candidates in the second round of the Consultative Assembly
- Women have full and effective participation in parliament and municipal councils, and have equal opportunities in holding managerial positions

3. Promotion of Rights

- Withdrawal of the reservation in 2019 on the Article of Freedom of Movement and Residence in the CEDAW Convention
- There are equal opportunities of employment, salaries and wages both in the public or private-sectors
- Men and women equally have the right to own residential land.



1. Human Empowerment

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1. Empowerment through Creativity and Innovation

• National Youth Skills Development Program

Aims to empower Omani youth with the skills to cope with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. **One thousand** young men and women were targeted in the first stage of the program in 2019.



2. The Youth is a Partner in the Implementation of Oman Vision 2040

• Youth Forum for Oman Vision 2040

Aims to engage young people to find innovative solutions and open innovation methodologies to achieve Oman Vision 2040



• Transforming ICT Graduation Projects into Startups (Upgrade)

Aims to transfer graduation projects related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution to emerging companies



3. Volunteer Work

• Sultan Qaboos Award for Volunteerism

Aims to encourage institutions and individuals to engage in volunteer work in various activities and fields





1. Human Empowerment

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Youth: The Future, Now

Ensuring the Participation of All

1. Capacity Building and Providing Opportunities

- Early care for people with disabilities
- Enabling people with disabilities to join the labor market

11% The increase of persons with disabilities in private sector establishments in 2018, based off of the National Workforce Index

2 % Of all employment positions should be allocated to persons with disabilities, according to the labor law

2. Creating an Enabling Environment

- Providing health and educational services for people with disabilities
Integration of people with disabilities in general education schools in all governorates of the Sultanate



- Removal of barriers to transportation and integration
Partnership with the private sector to provide services to people with disabilities in all governorates of the Sultanate



2. Economy

Fostering Knowledge and Competitiveness

An Infrastructure that Ensures Sustainability

Encouraging Innovation and Readiness of the Sultanate for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Economic diversification as a Strategic choice

1. Oman's Geographic Location as a Strategic Asset

- Regional Logistics Center (airports, ports, free zones)



Ranking of the Sultanate in the Global Competitiveness Report 2018, among 140 countries:

24 in Infrastructure
8 in Road Quality
18 in Port Services

2. Digital Architecture to Establish Sustainable Knowledge Society

63th Globally

in the United Nations report for e-government in 2018

2nd in the Arab World

in the e-services index. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

2nd in the Arab World

and the 16th internationally in cybersecurity readiness. According to the ITU

3. Infrastructure across the Sultanate's Territory

98.7 %

Of the population benefiting from safe drinking water services

100%

Of the population with access to electricity services in 2017

15.5%

Expenditure on education as a proportion of government spending in 2017



2. Economy

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An Infrastructure that ensure Sustainability

Encouraging Innovation and Readiness of the Sultanate for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Economic Diversification as a Strategic Choice

1. Innovation as a National Priority Strategy

- Establishment of a national innovation system that seeks to rank Oman among the top 20 countries in the Global Innovation Index by 2040

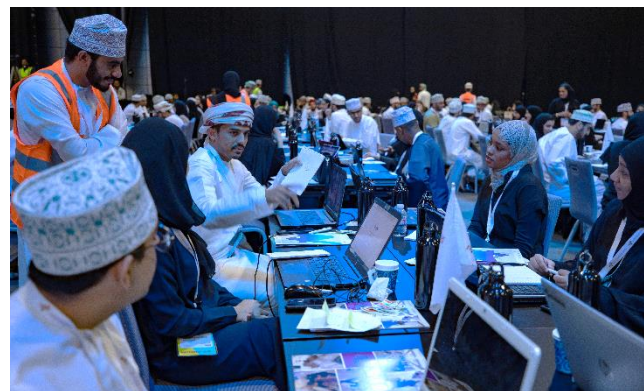


- Innovation Park Muscat :



2. Readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

- Oman Future Skills Initiative, which aims to empower Omani youth to acquire future skills





2. Economy

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Economic Diversification as a Strategic Choice

1. Promising Sectors with Added Value

- Five promising sectors are leading the national economy towards diversification (manufacturing industry - tourism - transport and logistics - fisheries - mining)

- The National Program for Enhancing Economic Diversification "Tanfeedh"



- The one-stop shop "Invest Easy" Portal



2. Promoting Entrepreneurship

- Empowering small and medium projects



- One of the leading ICT incubators

Oman had **More than 35,000 SMEs** by the end of 2017

3. The Shift Towards New and Renewable Energy

- The "Miraah" project is considered one of the largest solar projects in the world with a production of 1,021 MW of peak thermal power





3. Environmental Sustainability

Commitment and Resilience

The Sultanate and International Commitments

Readiness to Respond Immediately and Effectively to Climate Change

Water and Food Security

The Sultanate Has Ratified the Following International Commitments, Including:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- The 1972 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Annexes and Protocols - London Marylebone
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Others - London
- Chemical Weapons Convention
- Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction
- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- The Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol

• Sultan Qaboos Award for Environmental Protection





3. Environmental Sustainability Commitment and Resilience

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Water and Food Security

1. Emergency Management

- **The National Emergency Management System and its sub-committees at the provincial level act as a monitoring and early warning system to communicate and educate the population**

20 Natural reserves for the protection of endangered species, 14 of which are marine protected areas and 6 are wild reserves, which account for approximately 4% of the Sultanate's area

2. Clean Environment to Create a Healthy Lifestyle for Everyone

- **In 2019, the Environmental Strategy 2040 was launched.**
- **Coral Reef Cleaning Campaigns:**



- **Investment of Waste and Turning It into an Economic Return:**

This is part of the Government's initiatives to treat solid waste in a scientific and environmentally friendly manner, and is the first of its kind in the Sultanate

3. Establishing a System For an Integrated Environment

- **Al Hajar Al Gharbi Starlight Reserve**
This reserve is the first dark sky reserve in the Sultanate and in the Arab region. **With a surface area of 386 square kilometers**





3. Environmental Sustainability

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1. Water Scarcity and Innovative Initiatives

- **The Rainmaking Project**

This project uses sustainable technologies that provide freshwater, with the aim of developing water resources



- **Wadi Dayqah Dam Project**

Provides continuous irrigation water to the Mazara village, feeds the underground stock, and provides a touristic outlet that attracts hundreds of thousands of annual visitors



- **Aflaj Irrigation Systems:**

An ancient method of irrigation, with a total of 4,112 channels (falaj), including five listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Oman is Ranked 29th out of 113 countries

in the 2018 Global Food Security Indicator. According to the British magazine (The Economist).

2. Sustainable Food Supply System

- **Million Palm Project**

Used as a model to achieve the objectives of sustainable development through environmental, social, economic and health measures and use the best practices in farms productivity and management through the implementation of Drones technology.



- **Fish Farming**

Aims to raise fish production and the efficiency of the fisheries sector in a sustainable manner





4. Peace

the cornerstone of Sustainability

A Society That Can Accommodate All

Playing an Active Role in Achieving International Stability

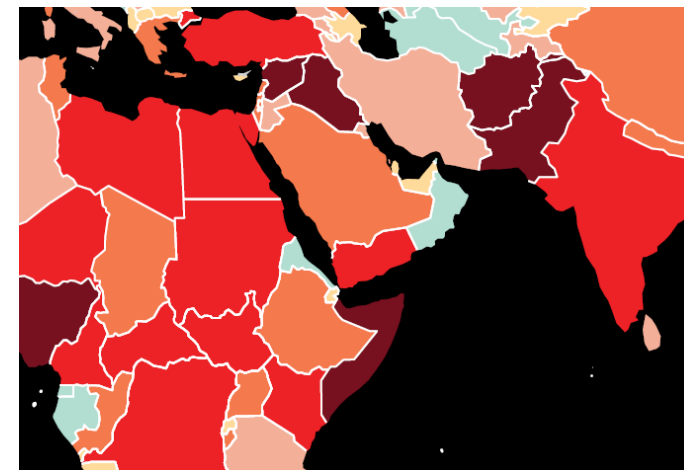
The Sultanate has successfully Encouraged Common Human Values, and Continues to Foster:

- Accommodation and acceptance to people of all backgrounds
- The creation of a stimulating society full of opportunities
- Frequent Exchange despite diverse viewpoints
- Partnerships and mutual interests
- Communication with common human values
- Appreciation of humanitarian achievements

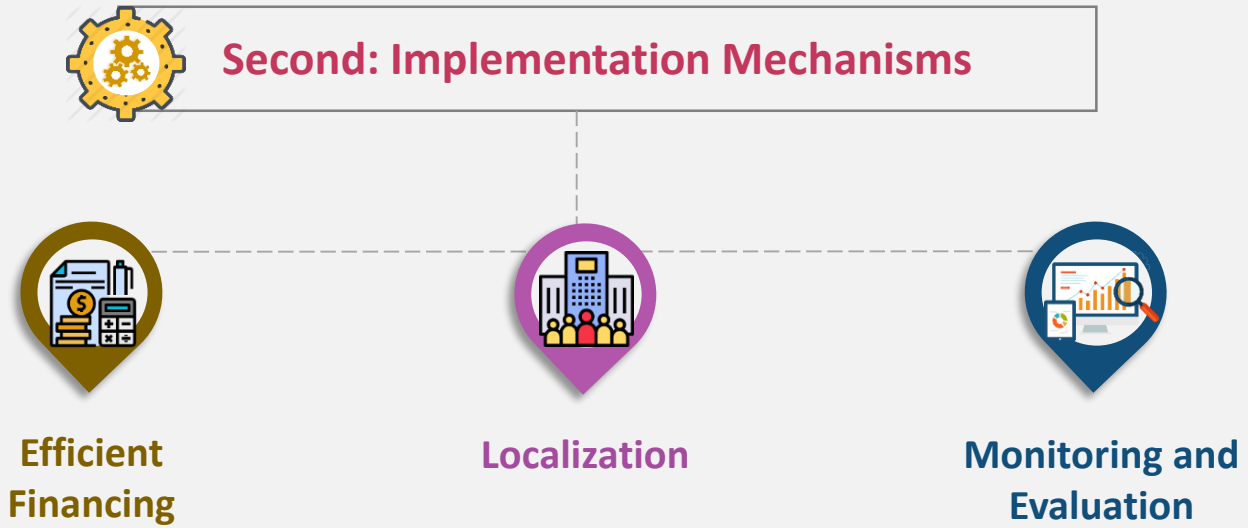
• Oman’s Message of Peace:



- The Sultanate of Oman is a Middle Eastern Country that is free of terrorism and its repercussions :



Report of the “Economy and Peace” Institute in its 5th International Terrorism Index of 2018





1. Efficient Financing

Budget Allocation is as Important as Providing Financing

There is an ongoing shift towards the implementation of program and performance based budgets and plans. This shift will not only define the direct relationship between national priorities and their eventual allocated budgets, but will also provide a tool for tracking accountability and performance



2. Localization

- **All of Oman**

This initiative aims to reinforce communication values in each Governorate by embracing diversity, and most importantly, involve the public in formulating Oman 2040





3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Sultanate has confirmed that “What cannot be measured cannot be achieved”, hence the Sultanate created an integrated system for monitoring and evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

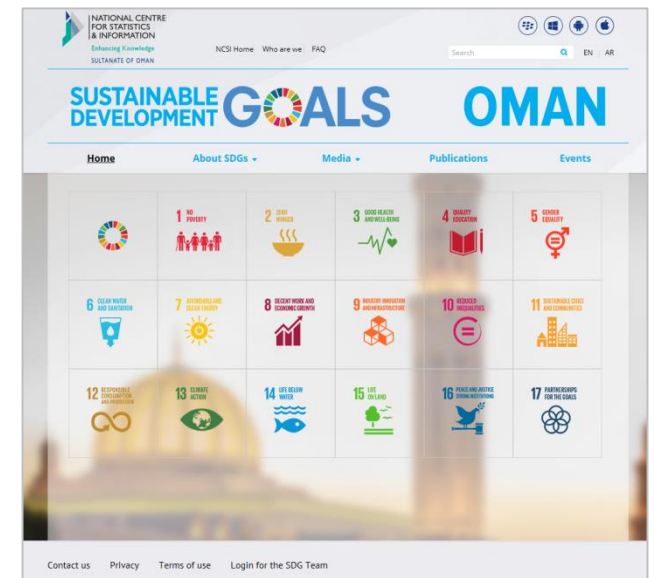
- Data Availability Rate:



- Dashboard:



- Sustainable Development Portal:



The Sultanate of Oman trusts that the exchange of experiences and knowledge of countries in such a high-level forum will play a major role in achieving the agreed objectives