

**SESRI Regional Conference:**  
**The Role of the Private Sector in Achieving the 2030**  
**UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Middle East and Gulf**  
**[Expected date: Feb/March 2022]**

**Background and Aims**

The development landscape has progressed significantly since the start of the twenty-first century. The acceleration of globalization has driven shifts in technological development along with financial and geopolitical power in the global economy, with countries of the Middle East – and especially the Arab Gulf region – gaining significant weight in the international system. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines seventeen goals to guide countries' progress toward more prosperous, equitable, and environmentally-friendly societies. The Middle East's diverse private sector – ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multi-national companies – is well-positioned to contribute to or indeed lead work on these objectives.

Until now, however, such private-sector involvement in contributing to sustainable development in the Middle East and Gulf regions is not well documented or understood, and academic knowledge and the experiences and expertise of private sector partners has not been widely shared. More generally, despite the widespread popularity and formal adoption of the concept of sustainable development, actual operationalization of sustainable development strategies remains in its infancy in many countries and for many individual citizens around the world.

Against this background, the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University will host a regional conference in **[Feb/March 2022]** highlighting the leading role of the private sector in advancing sustainable development in the Middle East and Gulf, with specific reference to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The [in-person] convening aims to generate a multidisciplinary knowledge network regarding the increasing role and share of the private sector in achieving the SDGs. Local, regional, and international academic and private sector experts and stakeholders will come together to exchange knowledge,

ideas, experiences, and expectations surrounding the creation of more sustainable societies. The conference will highlight and share information about successful models of private sector-led sustainable economic development in the region, and suggest ways of incorporating best practices instituted in other parts of the world. It will also contribute to furthering knowledge about the SDGs among the public and decision makers, in line with United Nations suggestions for promoting individual- and national-level adoption.

### **Motivation of the conference**

1. Increasing demand of the private sector participation and economic diversification in the region
2. Although the private sectors have an obvious role in SDGs, their participations are not documented very well and still unknown in the region
3. The need to create a social networking to monitor the progress made towards the achievement of SDGS and exchange and transfer experiences
4. Provide a platform for decision-makers from government institutions, officials and entrepreneurs to discuss the most important opportunities that the private sector can contribute to achieving international sustainable development goals.

### **Organization and Themes**

The conference is organized around the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with individual SDGs categorized into 7 thematic panels. These are:

- Panel 1: Food Security (Goals #1 and #2)
- Panel 2: Health (Goal #3)
- Panel 3: Education (Goal #4)
- Panel 4: Equality, Justice, and Peace (Goals #5, #10, #16)
- Panel 5: Economic Development and Diversification (Goals #6, #8, #12)
- Panel 6: Innovation and Sustainable Living (Goals #9, #11, #15)
- Panel 7: The Climate and Clean Energy (Goals #7, #13, #14)

Each panel will be chaired by a keynote speaker from academia or industry who will provide an overview of the role of business in achieving the respective SDGs. The remaining 2-3 panelists will contribute first-hand experiences or company case studies that highlight success stories and outline best practices that might provide examples and motivation to other participants and stakeholders. SESRI intends that all panels should include a mix of local, regional, and international perspectives.

A full list of sub-themes associated with each panel is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1. Panel Themes and Sub-themes**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub-themes</b>
<b>1. Food security</b>	Greenhouse and vertical farming; energy, water and fertilizer efficiency effective food processing recycling and reuse of food waste Efficient cage based aquaculture Seafood processing General waste and water management
<b>2. Health</b>	Pharma and medical technologies, integration between public and private health institutions, promoting a healthy lifestyle
<b>3. Education</b>	Early childhood centers, disability centers
<b>4. Equality, Justice and Peace</b>	Population sustainability, social protection, women empowerment
<b>5. Economic Development and Diversification</b>	Hospitality and Tourism Industry (infrastructure projects, hotel facilities, and cultural facilities): Heavy Industries (petrochemical industry) and Fertilizer Industry.
<b>6. Innovation and Sustainable Living</b>	Green building, sustainable urban cities
<b>7. The Climate and Clean Energy</b>	Energy technologies – energy storage, energy market and systems, energy efficiency and renewable energy (solar). Hydrogen as energy storage and large-scale

**Table 2. Key Stakeholders, Partners, and Potential Speakers**

Themes	Local Partners
<b>1. Food security</b>	Qatar Chamber Board of Directors Ministry of Municipality and Environment -Food security Department
<b>2. Health</b>	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
<b>3. Education</b>	Qatar Foundation, Doha Institute For Graduate Studies, HBKU
<b>4. Equality, Justice and Peace</b>	UNESCO office in Doha
<b>5. Economic Development and Diversification</b>	Ministry of economic - Qatar free zone and Economic Committee for Encouragement of Private Sector Entrepreneurship Center
<b>6. Innovation and Sustainable Living</b>	GORD,CES, Sustainable development center and Environmental Studies center
<b>7. The Climate and Clean Energy</b>	Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development

**Table 3. Potential Partnership**

Potential Partnership	Descriptions
<b>ACUNS (Academic Council on the United Nations System)</b>	A global professional association of educational and research institutions, individual scholars, and practitioners active in the work and study of the United Nations, multilateral relations, global governance, and international cooperation. We promote teaching on these topics, as well as dialogue and mutual understanding across and between academics, practitioners, civil society and students.

<b>Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)</b>	Through its strong association with the United Nations, HESI provides higher education institutions with a unique interface between higher education, science, and policymaking
<b>The SDG Accord</b>	The SDG Accord (The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals) Inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society
<b>UNSDSN (UN-Sustainable Development Solutions Network)</b>	Promote integrated approaches to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation.
<b>SCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>FAO</b>	United Nations Food and Agriculture organization
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental program
<b>CEFAS</b>	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) at the United Kingdom government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>UNESCO</b>	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.

### **Example for one panel: FOOD SECURITY**

Chairperson: Masood Al Marri head of food security department -MME

Role: submit report on “role of private sector in the achievement of food security in Qatar”

Baladna Company: share their experience on their role in food security

Hasad Company: share their experience on their role in food security

A famous company in food security I Kuwait

Leading private sector Company in Pakistan

So there will not be call for paper, we will identify speakers;

Send them invitations to participate;

Identify incentives for the speakers

### **Outputs of the panel**

1. Report of the role of private sector in the achievement of food security in the region
2. Recent statistics from leading private sector companies in food security in the region
3. Regional experience of private sector participation in food security
4. At the end of the conference, we will have seven reports (each for one theme). These reports will merge to create the national report for UN.

Potential experts/scollors who were part of writing global UN reports such as MDGs

Professor Rashid Hassan: University of Pretoria

Professor Rashid Sumaila : Head of Fisheries center : Canada

Professor Wisdom Akpalu : UN university in Ghana

The first two professors own Sheikh Zyed Price twice