

**National Report of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Progress
Made in Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action+30***

2019–2024

Family Affairs Council

* This English version was prepared by UN-Women. It has not been officially validated by the submitting Government and is provided solely for informational purposes. To access the full report, please refer to the original submission.

Section 1: Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognises the integral role of women in strengthening society. As such, the Kingdom's policies and regulations provide robust guarantees for the rights and status of women. Saudi Arabia is committed to advancing women's participation across all sectors and has implemented measures to safeguard their rights. The Basic Law of Governance establishes the primary framework governing political, social and economic matters within the Kingdom. Notably, Article 26 of the Law stipulates: "The State shall protect human rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia."

Saudi Arabia consistently works to uphold the rights of its citizens and ensure a dignified standard of living for both men and women, in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, and regional and international agreements. The Kingdom is a signatory to several key treaties aimed at supporting and empowering women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified by royal decree in 2000. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia is a party to numerous regional and international human rights instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Royal Decree No. M/7, dated 27/08/1427 AH / 20/09/2006 AD). Additionally, the Kingdom has joined sixteen International Labour Organization agreements focused on empowering women in the workforce, ensuring their rights, preventing discrimination and forced labour, and promoting wage equality.

The achievements and efforts outlined in the report are the result of programmes and policies designed to promote and protect human rights, including women's rights, based on principles such as prioritization, gradualism and inclusiveness. These initiatives draw upon national laws, international and regional agreements, and recommendations from relevant committees overseeing the implementation of these agreements. Cabinet Resolution No. 308, issued on 18/7/1437 AH (25/4/2016 AD), approved "Saudi Vision 2030," which introduces development plans across economic and social sectors. The vision encompasses several programmes, including the Government Restructuring Programme, the Visions and Directions Programme, the Systems Review and Performance Measurement Programme and the National Transformation Programme. These programmes address various human rights, including the right to security, health, education and training, employment, family protection, women's empowerment, participation in political and public life, freedom of

association, and cultural participation in sports and recreational activities. Approximately 26 initiatives have been identified within three programmes related to the vision, focusing on areas such as empowering women and families, increasing participation in public and political life, freedom of association, and access to cultural, sports and recreational activities.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that the measures outlined in this report represent key initiatives and efforts undertaken to safeguard women's rights. The Kingdom remains committed to further advancing and protecting women's rights by enacting appropriate legislation, implementing effective measures and developing programmes and plans aligned with its international commitments.

This report highlights the principal achievements of the past five years, as well as the ongoing efforts in the fields of women's empowerment and gender equality. These accomplishments are the result of comprehensive policies and programmes dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights generally, and women's rights specifically. Preparation of this report was overseen by a committee within the Family Affairs Council and is based on input from relevant authorities and institutions. In addition, various government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector entities engaged in issues relating to women contributed to the drafting process, reflecting the broad national participation required for such undertakings.

The preparation of this report involved several distinct stages:

Phase 1: A technical committee, comprising members from the Family Affairs Council, was established to gather relevant information and data and prepare the report.

Phase 2: A national Steering Committee was formed, including representatives from the Family Affairs Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Human Rights Commission, the General Authority for Statistics and the National Centre for the Non-Profit Sector, to oversee the team's activities and review and approve the report.

Phase 3 (information collection): During this stage, all necessary information required for the report was collected, adhering to core principles such as transparency and thorough documentation. Communication was maintained with representatives from all pertinent government entities, civil society organizations and 51 private sector institutions to ensure the provision of comprehensive information, data and statistics.

Phase 4 (drafting): The technical and steering committees held a series of intensive meetings to compile all requisite data and information, conduct a detailed review of the draft report and fulfil all project requirements to finalize the document.

Phase 5: National review and consultation were undertaken.

Phase 6: Final approval was obtained in accordance with regulatory requirements.