

Competitiveness

► Second Quarter 2023 Newsletter by the National Competitiveness Center.

HRH Crown Prince Attends the Kingdom's Official Reception for Riyadh's Bid to Host World Expo 2030

► **IMD: Saudi Arabia Ranked
17th Globally in World
Competitiveness Yearbook
2023**

► **High-Level Saudi Delegation
Explores Strengthening Saudi-
British Trade and Economic
Partnership in London**

► **NCC Organizes UK-
Saudi Business, Trade,
and Partnership Forum
in London**

Editorial

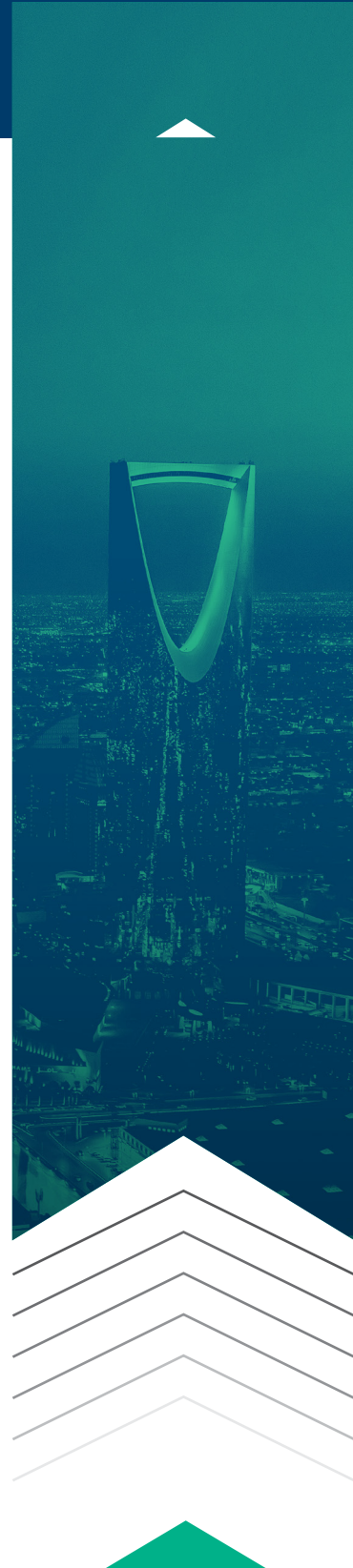
The “Competitiveness” newsletter for the second quarter of 2023 keeps track of the Kingdom’s local and international developments, as well as the most prominent activities and work of the National Competitiveness Center, through which the NCC seeks to improve the business environment and raise the Kingdom’s competitiveness locally and globally.

The newsletter covered His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdelaziz, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City participation in the Kingdom’s Official Reception for delegates of 179 member countries of the Bureau International des Expositions, which was held in Paris by the Royal Commission for Riyadh City to support Riyadh’s bid to host the World Expo in 2030.

The newsletter included coverage of the Kingdom’s advancement by 7 ranks compared to last year in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023, published by the World Competitiveness Center of International Institute for Management Development (IMD), ranked 17th globally out of 64 countries that are the most competitive in the world, surpassing countries with advanced economies.

It also highlighted the visit of a high-ranking Saudi delegation to London, with the goal of enhancing intra-trade in products and services and raising the level of economic partnership between the two friendly countries, as well as reviewing a number of projects to boost the Kingdom’s competitiveness in various sectors.

Further, the newsletter reviewed the most notable studies and research published by international organizations in the second quarter of 2023, as well as the NCC’s local and global activities, including holding the “UK-Saudi Business, Trade and Partnership Forum” in London, in collaboration with the Saudi British Joint Business Council and the Federation of Saudi Chambers, as well as the NCC’s efforts to support the legislative environment through seminars, workshops, and meetings that discussed the Kingdom’s promising opportunities, as well as the exchange of experiences and best practices in related fields with a number of foreign delegations.



What is Competitiveness?

It is the state's ability to make the best use of all of its resources, policies, and institutions to improve the adequacy and quality of services provided to individuals and businesses, thereby contributing to the state's long-term development and placing it in a leading competitive position.

Our Vision



is for the Kingdom to be one of the top ten most competitive countries in the world by 2030, with a focus on investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity.

Our Mission



is to improve the Kingdom's competitiveness and align government entities' strategies around a unified vision by developing the legislative and procedural environment.

June 20, 2023

HRH Crown Prince attends the Kingdom's Official Reception for Riyadh's bid to host World Expo 2030



► His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdelaziz, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City, attended the Kingdom's official reception delegates of 179 member countries of the Bureau International des Expositions, which was held in Paris by the Royal Commission for Riyadh City to support Riyadh's bid to host the World Expo in 2030. The Riyadh Expo 2030 is an opportunity for the Kingdom to showcase its story of exceptional national transformation to other countries and

peoples from around the world.

This event is part of the nomination procedure to host the Riyadh Expo 2030, and it aimed at showcasing the capital's readiness, plans, and projects to host the Expo, as a prelude to the vote which will designate the host city at the next General Assembly in November 2023.

This comes as the Riyadh candidacy file is receiving unconditional support from the Kingdom's leadership, along with joint efforts from all government agencies, as well as the contribution of Saudi society.

June 20, 2023

IMD: Saudi Arabia Ranks 17th Globally in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023

► Saudi Arabia ranked 17th globally out of 64 countries that are the most competitive in the world, to become one of the top 20 countries for the first time in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023, published by the World Competitiveness Center of International Institute for Management Development (IMD). This report is one of the major competitiveness reports that the National Competitiveness Center monitors and analyzes in collaboration with the relevant government entities.

The Kingdom advanced (7) ranks in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023, owing to strong economic and financial performance in 2022 as well as improved business legislation, ranking the Kingdom as the 3rd most competitive economy among its G20 peers, ahead of countries of advanced economies such as Republic of Korea, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, India, United

Kingdom, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Turkey.

Reacting to the Kingdom's positive performance, the Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), Dr. Majid Al-Kassabi, confirmed that the Kingdom's positive results in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023, as well as other prestigious international reports, are a reflection of the economic transformation process implemented by the Kingdom's government in accordance with HRH Crown Prince's directives.

The Kingdom made progress in three out of four main Competitiveness Factors assessed by the report: from 31st to 6th position in economic performance; from 19th to 11th in government efficiency; from 16th to 13th in business efficiency; while maintaining its previous infrastructure ranking (34th).

**Continuous
Progress
Toward Global
Competitiveness**

17th

Globally out of (64)
most competitive
countries

IMD

03rd

Among the G20
countries

G20

The Kingdom made
progress in the four
main Competitiveness
factors globally in:

06th Economic
Performance

11th Government
Efficiency

13th Business
Efficiency

34th Infrastructure

April 13, 2023

Saudi Arabia Launches Four New Special Economic Zones to Diversify Economy and Improve Investment Environment



► His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdelaziz, Prime Minister announced the launch of Saudi Arabia launched four special economic zones, which are regulated by Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority, reflecting His Highness's desire to develop and diversify the Saudi economy and improve the investment environment, enhancing the Kingdom's position as a leading global investment destination.

HRH the Crown Prince stated that the new special economic zones will open new horizons for development, relying on each region's competitive advantages to support pivotal and promising sectors, including logistical, industrial, technical, and other priority sectors, as the new special economic zones are distinguished by strategic locations in Riyadh, Jazan, and Ras al-Khair. And King Abdullah Economic City, which is located north of Jeddah.

Special Economic Zones

01 Special Legislative Ecosystem

02 Development of the Local Economy

03 Development of the Saudi Business Community

04 Accomplishment of Vision 2030's Goals and Objectives

05 enhancement of supply chains

June 04, 2023

High-Level Saudi Delegation Explores Strengthening Saudi-British Trade and Economic Partnership in London



► His Excellency the Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC) Dr. Majid Al-Kassabi visited the British capital of London, leading a high-level Saudi delegation, to engage in a series of bilateral meetings with the government officials and business representatives, with the aim of strengthening

bilateral trade in goods and services and further advancing the economic partnership between the two friendly nations.

The delegation that visited London included H.E. Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of the NCC, and 45 officials from 22 government, private, and non-profit entities.

June 07, 2023

NCC Organizes UK-Saudi Business, Trade, and Partnership Forum in London



► The National Competitiveness Center, the Saudi-British Joint Business Council, and the Federation of Saudi Chambers organized the “UK-Saudi Business, Trade, and Partnership Forum” in London, with the participation of the Minister of Commerce, H.E. Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kasabi, the UK Minister of Investment Lord Dominic Johnson, and 300 business leaders representing the business community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

The forum’s activities were attended by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdelaziz, Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the UK, Mr. Neil Crompton, British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Sir William Russell, Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Forum’s Goals and Objectives ▼



Reviewing the progress of Saudi Vision 2030 implementation



Exploring business relationships and further UK/Saudi trade, and investment opportunities



Increasing cooperation in a variety of areas



June 22, 2023

Approval of Saudi Arabia's Accession to 'International Sale of Goods' Convention

The Convention aims to



01

Provide a unified legal framework for cross-border contracts for the international sale of goods



02

Provide a neutral and independent international regulatory framework for handling disputes for the international sale of goods



03

Provide a modern set of legal rules that take into account economic and social aspects



04

Boost cross-border business transactions

The Convention's accession contributes to

01

Supporting alternatives for dispute settlement

02

Facilitating the selection of the applicable law in the event of a dispute

03

Avoiding any doubts regarding the applicable law



وزارة الاستثمار
Ministry of Investment



وزارة العدل
Ministry of Justice



وزارة التجارة
Ministry of Commerce



المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration

► His Excellency the Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC) confirmed that the Cabinet's approval of the Kingdom to join the UN Convention on the international sale of Goods (CISG) reflects the Saudi government's efforts to boost the growth of the business sector and keep pace with Legislative reforms and new regulatory frameworks that enable the integration of the Saudi economy with regional and global economies.

Further, Al-Kassabi added that the Convention, to which the National Competitiveness Center submitted a proposal for the Kingdom to join, will allow for the adoption of regulatory and legislative frameworks for cross-border trade, which helps in the adoption of a unified

ecosystem governing the conclusion of these contracts and boosts the growth of the Saudi economy in light of the Convention's accession by 95 countries, which account for roughly two-thirds of the global economy.

The Convention aims to provide a unified and flexible legal framework for cross-border contracts for the international sale of goods, as well as a neutral and independent international regulatory framework for handling disputes for the international sale of goods, as well as the inclusion of a modern set of legal rules that take into account various economic and social aspects and contribute to the removal of obstacles in international commerce and development, as well as efforts to diversify the economy and improve cross-border business transactions of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

June 10, 2023

Meetings with a Number of British Ministers



► The Minister of Commerce, H.E. Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kasabi, met with British ministers in order to improve intra-trade in goods and services and increase the level of the economic relationship between the two friendly countries.

The meetings were attended by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdelaziz, the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the UK, and H.E. Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of the NCC.

During the visit, Al-Kassabi met with five distinguished ministers in the United Kingdom, including the Secretary of State for

Energy Security and Net Zero, Grant Shapps, the Secretary of State for International Trade, Kemi Badenoch, the Minister for Investment, Lord Dominic Johnson, the Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, Lord Tariq Mahmood Ahmad, and the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb. Additionally, he held meetings with the Vice Minister for Science, Innovation, and Technology, Viscount Camrose, the Prime Minister's Business and Investment Advisor, Franck Petitgas, the Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Education, Sir Steve Smith, and the CEO of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, Matt Gantley.

Important Agenda Items Discussed During the Meetings:

01

Strategies and programs of Vision 2030

02

Fostering high-quality investments between the two countries

03

Encouraging British companies to expand their presence in the Kingdom

04

supporting and financing innovative startups in research-driven fields

05

Exchanging insights on the British experience in promoting entrepreneurial ventures.

June 10, 2023

Meetings with the Business Sector in London



► The Minister of Commerce, H.E. Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kasabi, held a series of meetings with representatives from the British business sector in order to improve intra-trade in goods and services and increase the level of the economic relationship between the two friendly countries, of particular note is his meeting with Mr. Tufan Erginbilgic, the

CEO of Rolls-Royce, as well as taking part in a panel discussion hosted by the Asia House, an esteemed institution focused on facilitating trade between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

The itinerary featured a visit to Dulwich College, aiming to explore Britain's exemplary practices and experiences in education.

May 22, 2023

Reviewing Women's Reforms with the United Nations Regional Director of (UN Women)

► The Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), H.E. Dr. Majid Al-Kassabi met with Susanne Mikhail Eldhagen, the Regional Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in the presence of the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, who reviewed reforms aimed at increasing Saudi women's participation in economic development.



May 24, 2023

Al-Kassabi Focuses on Enhancing Saudi-British Commercial Partnership with the British Counterpart



► The Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), H.E. Dr. Majid Al-Kassabi, explored with Kemi Badenoch, the Secretary of State for International Trade and accompanying delegation, enhance the Saudi-British economic partnership and trade opportunities

between the two friendly countries.

Over the course of the meeting, the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, highlighted the impact of the Kingdom's economic reforms on its global competitiveness and the attractiveness of its business environment.

May 08, 2023

Swedish Export Agency Delegation Visits NCC

► H.E. the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, received at the NCC's headquarter in Riyadh, Mr. Sven-Eric Söder, chairman of Board of Directors of Swedish Export Agency and the accompanying delegation. Over the course of the meeting which was attended by Petra Menander, the Swedish ambassador to the Kingdom, Al-Mutairi addressed the partnership between the business sectors of the two friendly countries, and reviewed the impact of the Kingdom's economic reforms on its global competitiveness and the attractiveness of its business environment, referring to a number of initiatives, programs, and strategies launched by Vision 2030.



May 28, 2023

Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Delegation Briefed on NCC's Business Model



► H.E. the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, met at the NCC's headquarter in Riyadh, the Undersecretary of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Ministry of Oman, Ibtisam bint Ahmed Al-Farooji and the accompanying delegation.

Dr. Al-Mutairi praised the partnership

between the two countries' business sectors, highlighting the impact of the Kingdom's economic reforms on its global competitiveness and increasing the attractiveness of its business environment as well as referring to several advanced initiatives, programs, and strategies launched by the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

The meeting discussed ▼

01

The NCC's Business Model

02

Ways of trade exchange enhancement and knowledge sharing between the two countries

03

The role of "the public consultation" and "private sector feedback" platforms



A Summary of the Kingdom's Performance in International Reports and Indicators Monitored by the National Competitiveness Center

within the 2nd Quarter of 2023

► In order to achieve the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030 related to raising the Kingdom's competitiveness regionally and globally, the National Competitiveness Center (NCC) studies, analyzes, and follows up on about 27 significant international reports to monitor the Kingdom's performance in the indicators of those reports through monitoring and analyzing global indicators and reports related to competitiveness and comparing the Kingdom's performance with other leading countries, as well as listing the most important indicators and

specialized reports in various fields, referring them to the concerned government entities, and proposing appropriate recommendations for their implementation. The significance of these global reports stems from monitoring and analyzing the country's competitive performance within the context of its strategy in a way that reflects the development and improvement efforts made to improve the country's indicators and contributes to raising competitiveness and strengthening its global position.

Reports in which the Kingdom's performance has improved



World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023

The report includes

- 04 main competitiveness factors
- 20 sub-factors and +300 sub-indicators.
- 64 countries measured by the report

The report is published by the World Competitiveness Center of International Institute for Management Development (IMD), and is considered as a reference point to international organization and institutions.

It compares 64 countries on the basis of four main competitiveness factors and more than 300 sub-indicators, with the goal of analyzing countries' ability to create a supportive and stimulating environment for competitiveness.

The Kingdom advanced (7) ranks in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2023, to rank 17th globally, owing to strong economic and financial performance in 2022 as well as improved business legislation, ranking it as the 3rd most competitive economy among its G20 peers, ahead of countries of advanced economies.

Advanced ranks in sub-indicators

1st globally in public finance efficiency

1st globally in understanding the need for economic and social reforms

1st globally in technical development financing

1st globally in public and private partnerships support for technical development



Logistics Performance Index

This report is issued by World Bank.

According to the World Bank report, the Kingdom advanced by (17) ranks in the Logistics Services Performance Index "LPI" and gained (38) rank globally. As a consequence of a number of reforms and efforts, the Kingdom's performance in all sub-indicators improved significantly compared to 2018.

Advanced ranks in sub-indicators

08th globally in infrastructure

10th globally in track and trace

11th globally in quality of service and logistic service efficiency

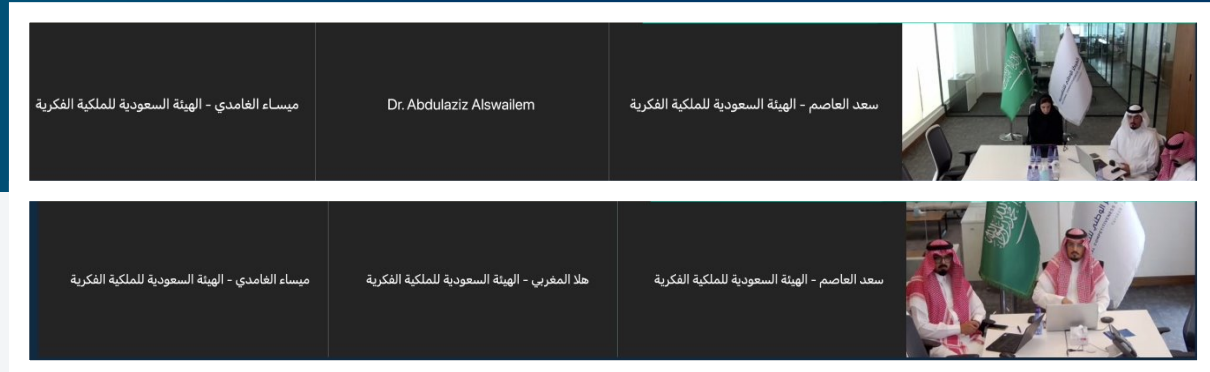
13th globally in custom

14th globally in international shipments

21st globally in timing accuracy

May 04, 2023

NCC Organizes a Workshop on “Intellectual Property Law”



► The National Competitiveness Center, in cooperation with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, organized two workshops on the “Intellectual Property Law” and “Development of Patents, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties and Industrial Models Law”, to highlight the most prominent provisions of both projects, in the presence of Her Excellency the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi and H.E. the CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, Dr. Abdelaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem. The first workshop which was attended by more than 200 participants from relevant government

entities and the private sector aimed at achieving the project’s goals, which included improving the intellectual property legislative environment.

While the second workshop titled “Development of Patents, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties and Industrial Models Law”, emphasized a series of main topics, most notably splitting the protection issues described in the project system into four autonomous systems and presenting utility models in the Kingdom as one of the intellectual property areas.

May 05, 2023

NCC Holds Training Workshop on “Enhancing Productivity” in Collaboration with the World Bank



► The National Competitiveness Center, in collaboration with the World Bank held a workshop on “Enhancing Productivity- Measurement Procedures, Drivers, and Policies” two workshops on the “Intellectual Property Law”, aimed at developing the competencies of Center personnel and workers from various government entities.

The two-day workshop focused on defining productivity theory, discussing basic concepts in productivity analysis, differentiating between total worker productivity and labor productivity, and the differences in productivity analysis between manufacturing and service fields.

The most prominent studies and researches issued by the international organizations within the 2nd quarter of 2023, on developments in productivity, inclusivity, sustainability, and adaptability:

The Future of Jobs Report 2023

World Economic Forum



This report aims to provide a comprehensive vision of labor market transformations and the impact of technological and economic changes on jobs in the near future, as it reviews the basic occupations and skills in future jobs that will develop over the next five years, by analyzing employers' expectations in order to provide new insights related to economic, social, and technological trends that shape the workforce of the future.

Stagflation

Arab Monetary Fund



The Arab Monetary Fund published a report on "stagflation" in order to define the term, which combines two types of difficulties confronting the world's economies: "inflation and stagnation".

The report reviews general frameworks, policies, and recommendations to combat stagflation, which must be implemented in parallel with several considerations, such as taking into account the environment in which these policies will be implemented, targeting the most harmful groups and sectors, balancing short and long-term considerations, and achieving a balance between dealing with inflation and dealing with stagnation.

How Space Applications Can Benefit Agriculture

World Economic Forum



The World Economic Forum published a study titled "Studying Space Technology Applications in the Agricultural Sector and Their Importance," which aimed to review the applications of satellite data and remote sensing to improve agricultural information and insights, as well as their role in providing solutions to food insecurity, climate action, and water availability.

This study compares satellites as a source of agricultural imaging with other sources in terms of cost criteria, flexibility, degree of complexity, and risks, as well as shedding light on the World Economic Forum's most prominent proposals to improve satellite use and address any obstacles and challenges.

منصة استطلاع

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLATFORM



The National Center for Competitiveness' public consultation platform allowed the public, as well as the private sector and government entities, to express their opinions and provide feedback on law and regulation projects related to economic and development affairs before they were approved, thereby contributing to the improvement of the business environment and the Kingdom's competitiveness.



The Public Consultation Platform in the 1st quarter of 2023



76

proposed
projects



1717

submitted feedback



24

government
entities



The most prominent sectors



Commerce,
economy, and
investment
sector

Financial and
control sector

municipal, urban
planning and
development
sector

tourism and
archeology
sector

energy,
industry
and mining
sector



The most prominent proposed projects:



sport law

intellectual
property law

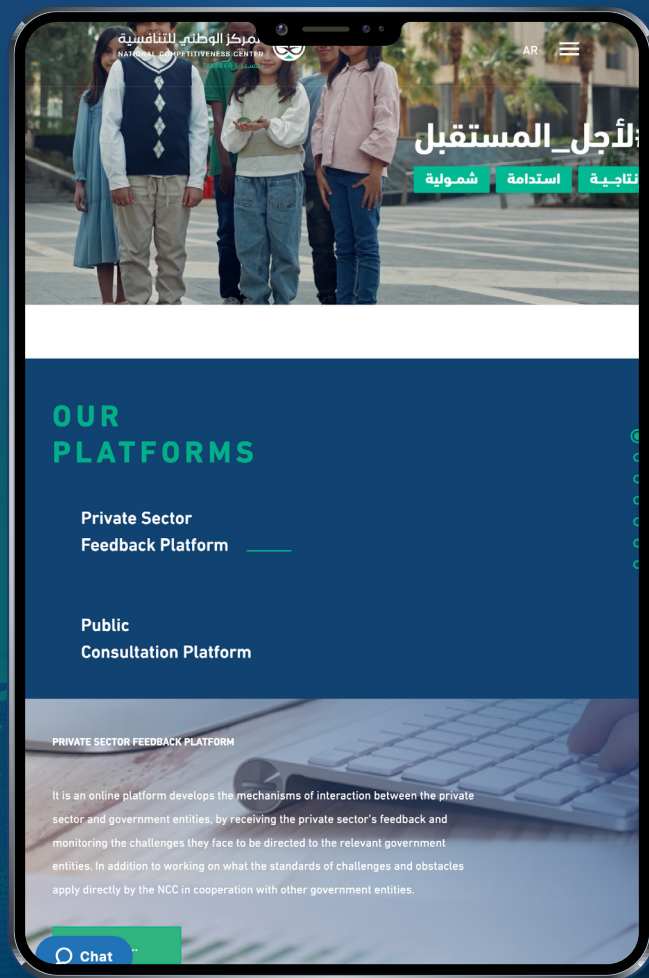
Amendment of
implementing
regulation of travel
documents law

Regulation
of traveler's
rights pro-
tection

Companies' reg-
ulation in special
economic zones

Facing Challenges in the Business Environment?

The "Private Sector Feedback Platform"
is your gateway to reform



The Contact Center

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