

Competitiveness

▶ A Quarterly Newsletter Issued by the **National Competitiveness Center**



The Council of Ministers

Praised the Progress in Women's 2021 Report, and the Kingdom's Competitiveness Regionally and Globally

▶ Al-Qasabi to the Media:
**Enhancing competitiveness
is for our children**

▶ Saudi Shura Council requests
**financial and human
cadres' support for NCC**

▶ Translating over
600 documents

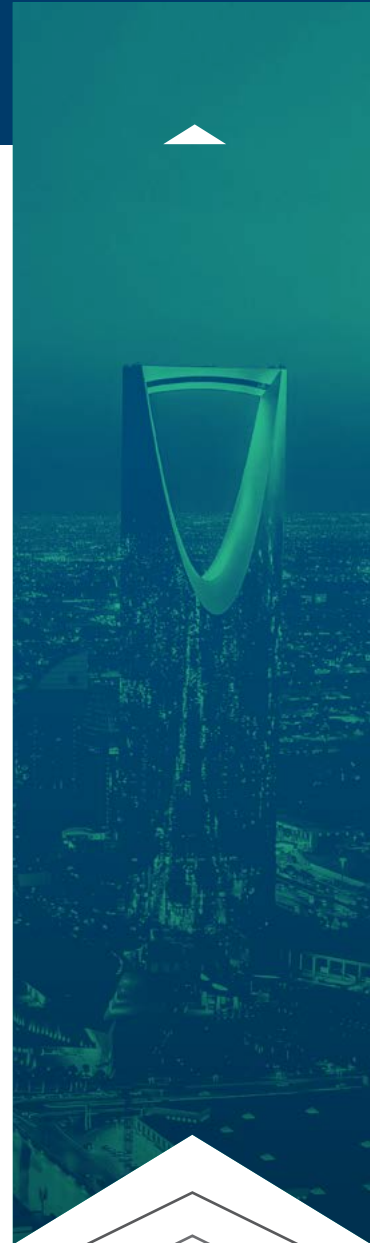
▶ Enhancing the competitiveness in
Al-Jouf and Jazan regions

Briefs

The National Competitiveness Center (NCC) presents its newsletter for the first quarter of 2021 to keep pace with the unprecedented progress and achievements the Kingdom is witnessing locally, regionally, and internationally. Most notably, the progress made by the Kingdom for the second year in a row in the “Women, Business and the Law 2021” report issued by the World Bank, which aims to compare the level of gender discrimination in the field of economic development and entrepreneurship among (190) countries.

The newsletter included His Excellency Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi’s statement during the first media meeting organized by the NCC, as His Excellency confirmed that the Kingdom is undergoing an unprecedented transformation and mobility in all aspects, indicating that the aim of enhancing competitiveness is not for further progress in international reports and indicators, but for the country and its citizens.

The newsletter also highlights what Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi said during the media meeting with heads of state, writers, and journalists. She confirmed that NCC is working in cooperation with more than 50 government entities and the private sector to improve the business environment in the Kingdom and raise its global competitiveness.



What is Competitiveness?

It represents the state's ability to optimally invest all its resources, policies, and institutions to raise the efficiency and quality of services provided to individuals and the business sector, thus contributing to the state's sustainable development.

Our Vision



To make the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia among the ten most competitive economies in the world by 2030, by focusing on investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity.

Our Mission



To strengthen the Saudi economy's global competitiveness by promoting investment and business-friendly regulatory environment and aligning all government sectoral strategies around a unified vision of competitiveness.

2021.03.02



The Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers Praised the Kingdom's Progress for the Second Year in a row in the Women, Business and the Law 2021 report

His Excellency, the Minister of Media, Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi, stated during the Saudi cabinet's weekly meeting, chaired by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Kingdom's progress for the second year in the Women, Business and the Law 2021 report recently published by the World Bank Group. The report ranked Saudi Arabia among the leading countries in the MENA region for the empowerment of women.

Dr. Al-Qasabi said that the initiatives implemented as part of the Kingdom's



Vision 2030 have helped to support the introduction of legislative reforms designed to enhance and expand women's role in the nation's economic development and make the Kingdom more competitive regionally and globally.

Saudi Shura Council demands financial and human cadres' support for the National Competitiveness Center and the expansion of its international partnerships

The Shura Council held a session to discuss the National Competitiveness Center's (NCC) annual report for 2020 and requested to support the NCC's budget with the necessary financial allocations and human cadres to raise the operational efficiency and achieve its goals.

The Shura Council called on developing effective communication mechanisms and expanding international partnerships with organizations concerned with the investment environment reforms, thus contributing to competitiveness reports and building national competitiveness-related capacities.



The economic and energy committee of the Shura Council had begun to discuss the NCC's annual report at its meeting held in December 2020, chaired by Dr. Faisal Al-Fadhel. With Her Excellency's participation, the Assistant Minister of Commerce, CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi.

Al-Fadhel pointed out that the committee's discussion of NCC's report comes as an embodiment of the Shura Council's supervisory role, pointing out the NCC's important role in raising the competitiveness of government services and its advancement.

2021.03.09

**Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi during his meeting with journalists and writers:
“Improving competitiveness is not for the world, nor for international reports, but for our sons and daughters and our nation.”**



His Excellency the Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi, stated that the Kingdom is making serious steps towards achieving its objectives in building a business environment that attracts local and foreign investment.

“The Kingdom is undergoing an unprecedented transformation and mobility in all aspects,” Said Al-Qasabi during a media meeting at the NCC headquarters, indicating that promoting competitiveness is not for the world, nor for international reports but for our children.

During the meeting, the Assistant Minister of Commerce, CEO of the NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, said that the center is working in collaboration with more than 50 government entities and the private sector to improve the business environment in the Kingdom and raise its global competitiveness. Therefore, more than 770 reforms were launched and implemented to address the private sector’s challenges, including reforms related to legislative and procedural aspects.

It is noteworthy that the NCC’s media meeting aims to highlight the most prominent economic reforms to improve the business environment in the Kingdom.

More than 770 reforms aimed at addressing the challenges facing the private sector were launched and implemented

**CEO
of the National Competitiveness Center**



World Bank:



Saudi Arabia Maintains its strong Reform Momentum in Women Legal Reforms

For two years in a row, Saudi Arabia has achieved notable progress in the “Women, Business and the Law (WBL) Report”, a global measure of women legal reforms published by the World Bank Group.

On a scale of 1 to 100, the Kingdom scored 80 in WBL 2021, up from 70.6 in WBL 2020. Its performance is most remarkable in five indicators on which it scored at the top of the scale: mobility, workplace, pay, entrepreneurship, and pension. These scores put Saudi Arabia on a par with many advanced economies with long traditions of women legal reforms.



The Kingdom’s strong performance comes as a result of a raft of reforms that it implemented last year to further expand women’s participation in the economy. Saudi Arabia equalized women’s access to all types of jobs in the labor market, lifted restrictions on their employment in sectors previously considered unsafe, and eliminated the ban on women’s night work. Commenting on the results, His Excellency Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of the National Competitiveness Center, indicated that the Kingdom’s performance reflects the commitment of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to enable Saudi women to fully participate in the social and economic development of their country. They also reflect the unwavering attention that HRH Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman has

dedicated to ensuring an effective whole-of-government approach to implementing women legal reforms.

Saudi Arabia’s new reforms build on a succession of similar reforms that it has implemented since the launch of Vision 2030 in 2016, including lifting restrictions on women’s mobility, equalizing access to public services, guaranteeing equal benefits in the labor market, and instituting protections against harassment in the workplace and in public spaces, among other reforms.

Women, Business and the Law report, a yearly publication of the World Bank Group, assesses and reports on women legal reforms in 190 countries around the globe, using an index with eight indicators: mobility, pay, parenthood, assets, workplace, marriage, entrepreneurship, and pension.

These results place the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia among advanced economies with a historical depth in implementing reforms in laws and regulations related to women.

190 Countries measured by the report

8 Main Indicators

35 Sub Indicators

The report measures women legal reforms around the globe

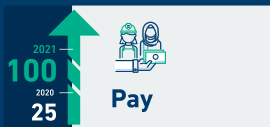


Saudi Arabia's score out of 100 in the report

70.6 Points in 2020

80 Points in 2021

Indicators' Results



Saudi Arabia introduced many important amendments to the Labor Law related to women



Expanding women access to employment opportunities in all sectors



Level-playing field for men and women in terms of jobs and working hours

2021.03.02

Saudi Minister of Commerce Launches “Public Consultation Platform”



His Excellency Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi, launched the “Public Consultation Platform”, which is a unified electronic platform aims to receive the views and feedback of the public and the government entities.

The goal of “Public Consultation Platform” is to enable the public and the government entities to express their views and feedback on law projects, regulations related to economic and development affairs before they are approved; and that is in implementation of the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (476) on March 10, 2020.

In this context, the National Competitiveness Center “TAYSEER” has developed the work and governance mechanism for the “Laws and Regulations Support Unit”, as well as the “Public Consultation Platform”. In addition to circulating that to government entities, organizing the publishing process, and collecting the public consultation feedback on any proposal related to the economic and development affairs for the law projects, regulations, and decisions of a regulatory nature or amending the applied ones. Moreover, a form was developed to evaluate and measure the regulatory impact, and some guidelines were prepared to enable representatives of government entities to use the platform efficiently.



Those interested can reach the platform via this link:

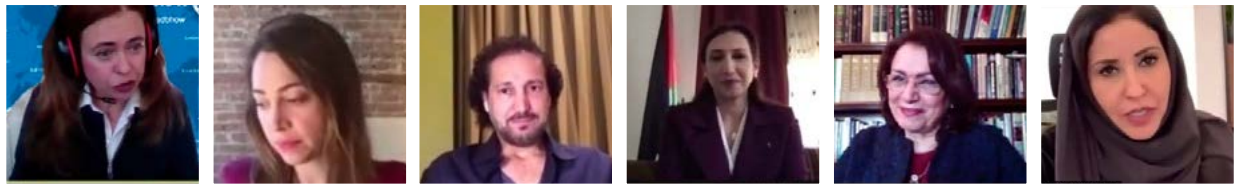
istitlaa.ncc.gov.sa

منصة استطلاع
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLATFORM



2021.03.09

Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi Participates in a Discussion Organized by the World Bank to Celebrate International Women's Day



To mark International Women's Day, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, Assistant Minister of Commerce and CEO of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), participated in a discussion organized virtually by the World Bank on Monday, March 8th, 2021. Al-Mutairi confirmed Saudi Arabia's progress in enhancing women's economic opportunities after the recent legislative reforms implemented.

Joining the World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Ferid Belhaj, and notable influencers and leaders in the MENA region, Al-Mutairi, highlighted the Kingdom's efforts in lifting the ladder for Saudi women. She also discussed the country's legislation's improvement, which boosted the

Kingdom's ranking in the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) report.

Al-Mutairi pointed out that Saudi Arabia's rank in the WBL report rocketed within one year, lifting the Kingdom from the lowest ranking in 2019 to the top in 2020 with 45 points increase.

"I think it was the biggest jump ever. We (Saudi Arabia) were the first in the Gulf region and the second in the Arab world. To us, that gave us a lot of pride. This complete change of laws and regulations happened in almost less than two months."

She also mentioned how the Kingdom had become a pioneer for the Islamic world in legislative reforms for women.

2021.03.02

The National Competitiveness Center Launches its #Local_To_Global campaign

In cooperation with the Official Translation Division and (40) government entities, more than (600) laws and regulations have been translated to enhance the business environment's transparency in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The National Competitiveness Center (NCC) launched the #Local_To_Global campaign to enable the investor to access all the information related to the business sector via electronic platforms, facilitate procedures in the business sector and support investors. Moreover, it creates an attractive business environment for investors.



2021.01.05

Governor of Al- Jouf Region Welcomes Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi



HRH Prince Faisal bin Nawaf bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Al-Jouf Region, welcomed in his office in the Emirate, Her Excellency the Assistant Minister of Commerce, CEO of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi.

During the meeting, Al-Mutairi discussed ways to develop the competitive environment in the Kingdom and unify the efforts of government entities and its competitiveness vision to raise

the country's ranking in global reports. Moreover, Al- Mutairi explained NCC's role in analyzing the challenges and obstacles of developing Al-Jouf region and proposing reforms and following up on their implementation.

Prince Faisal stressed the importance of supporting the NCC and its work to develop and enhance the competitive environment following the Kingdom's vision 2030.

In Al-Jouf Chamber's meeting: Challenges and Obstacles of Developing a Business Environment



Al-Jouf Chamber organized a meeting with entrepreneurs in the region, attended by Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, to discuss the challenges and obstacles facing investors and ways to solve them.

The meeting that joined ten government entities with more than 45 entrepreneurs

in Al-Jouf region helped in identifying 24 challenges. These challenges varied between many sectors, including the agricultural industry, the municipal sector, the financial sector, the industrial sector, the transport sector, the real estate sector, and the health sector.

2021.01.26

Institutionalizing the Government Entities Efforts to Improve the Business Environment

Her Excellency the Assistant Minister of Commerce, CEO of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, gave a comprehensive presentation to HRH Prince Muhammad bin Abdul Aziz bin Muhammad bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy Governor of Jazan region, on institutionalizing the efforts of government entities to improve the business environment.

Al-Mutairi explained that the NCC works with government entities and the private sector to enable the Kingdom to be among the world's ten most competitive economies.

She added that NCC also enhances cooperation



and partnership with the business sector, thus contributing to improving and developing the competitive environment, upgrading the Kingdom's ranking in global reports, and achieving economic development.

His Highness emphasized the Center's importance in developing the region's competitive environment following the Kingdom's vision 2030.

Discussing the Private Sector's Challenges to Jazan Chamber



The National Competitiveness Center (NCC) discussed the challenges and obstacles facing investors and businessmen in the region in the presence of the CEO of NCC, Her Excellency Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, in a meeting organized by Jazan Chamber aiming at improving the business environment in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Mutairi presented an overview of NCC and its relationship with the private sector and

government entities and their unified efforts to enhance the Kingdom's competitiveness.

Al-Mutairi explained NCC's role in clarifying reforms and targeted sectors and their impact on the investor's journey, automate procedures, and develop systems and regulations to enable the private sector to contribute to achieving economic development.



The Competitiveness of the E-commerce Sector

The National Competitiveness Center held a workshop on “The Competitiveness of the E-commerce Sector” attended by a group of private sector companies specialized in e-commerce.

The workshop aims to identify the obstacles and challenges investors face in the

e-commerce sector, provide views, and suggest initiatives to develop and improve the sector’s competitiveness in the Kingdom.

The workshop discussed the most prominent opportunities, solutions, and the role of the e-commerce sector in achieving the goals of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030.

► Highlights of the meeting

Reviewing the most prominent challenges facing the business sector in e-commerce.

Offering solutions and initiatives to address potential challenges.

Discussing the role of the e-commerce sector in achieving the goals of Vision 2030.

الموارد البشرية
والتنمية الاجتماعية



Human Resources and Social Development Amending Articles of the Labor Law

The National Competitiveness Center held a virtual workshop, attended by a group of private sector representatives, to discuss the “Amending Articles of the Labor Law” project in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

The workshop aims to include the public and private sector’s views and feedback regarding amendments to the labor law articles, listening to their proposals about the amendments, and answering inquiries.

► Highlights of the meeting

- ▶ Reviewing a set of labor law amendments by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.
- ▶ Listening to the private sector’s proposals regarding labor law amendments.
- ▶ Responding to private sector’s inquiries.

An Open Meeting with the Secretaries of the Ministries of Justice, Trade and a group of lawyers:

Al-Qasabi: Lawyers are essential partners of the judicial system; they enhance the course of justice in commercial courts



His Excellency Minister of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the National Competitiveness Center (NCC), Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi, held a virtual open meeting with a group of lawyers to review the most prominent reforms and achievements that serve investors in the Kingdom to start their commercial activity.

The meeting also highlighted the most significant reforms in the legal system, identified the most prominent challenges to study, and suggested appropriate solutions.

During the meeting, Al-Qasabi discussed how lawyers are essential partners of the judicial system in achieving justice and realizing rights and enhancing the course of justice in commercial courts, affirming that the Kingdom witnessed a remarkable renaissance in this field.

Al-Qasabi referred to the recent cabinet decision to correct the status of investors and said: "Behind every violation of the Commercial Concealment Law is a Saudi person,"

Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce will work

with the Saudi Bar Association to correct the parties' status.

Al-Qasabi emphasized the Ministry of Justice's efforts to achieve an unprecedented development to improve the commercial environment systems and facilitate lawyers' work.

The Deputy of the Minister for Laws and International Cooperation, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sulaimi, confirmed that the ministry had made a quantum leap in the court systems. This leap helped strengthen the parties' role in organizing litigation procedures, activating alternative means, determining electronic litigation procedures, and enabling the public to access commercial case data. "The new litigation law established specific mechanisms to prove many issues," Al-Sulaimi said.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce for Commercial and Investment Business, Abdulsalam Al-Mana, said: "The investor's journey to start a commercial activity has become easy and flexible."

► Highlights of the meeting

- ▾ Showcasing major reforms and achievements that serve investors in the Kingdom to start their commercial activity.
- ▾ Presenting the latest developments in the activation of reconciliation in the courts as a means of resolving disputes.
- ▾ Identify the most prominent challenges to study and suggest appropriate solutions.

Enhancing the Legislative and Regulatory Environment and Supporting the Kingdom's Competitiveness

>>>>>

▶ **+10_k**
thousand
feedback

▶ **101**
projects
presented so far

▶ **26**
government
entities presented
their projects

▶ **+3_k**
thousand
participants

▶ **48**
Posted Feedback
Summary

<<<<<<

The National Competitiveness Center (NCC) has played an active role in legislative and procedural reforms to improve the business environment during 2020 by working with all government entities and the private sector despite the challenges that the world has faced due to the spread of COVID-19.

NCC played its prominent role in enhancing the Kingdom's competitiveness and harmonizing government entities' strategies around a unified vision by developing the legislative and procedural environment to make the Kingdom among the world's top ten competitiveness countries in 2030.

NCC launched the Public Consultation Platform "Istitlaa" to achieve its strategic objectives. The platform aims to enable the general public and government entities to provide their views and observations on draft laws and regulations related to economic and development affairs before they are approved. That is in implementation of the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (476) on March 10, 2020.

NCC develops the work and governance mechanism for the "Laws and Regulations Support Unit" by preparing survey forms and collocate notes on laws and regulations related to economic and development affairs in the Kingdom, by preparing the poll models to evaluate their

impacts and circulating them to government entities. In addition to some guidelines prepared to enable representatives of government entities to use the platform with high efficiency.

Several law projects and regulations were proposed through the Public Consultation Platform, most notably the draft Labor Law amendment project and the draft laws for the anti-concealment law prepared by the Ministry of Commerce. The draft anti-concealment law aims to support small and medium businesses and protect the investor and consumer from the harmful practices resulting from the phenomenon of concealment and curbing the sources of concealment and the supply chains associated with it.

In addition to the draft criteria for licensing real estate consultancy and analysis of real estate markets, the draft calculation rules of Zakat of the taxpayers estimated for the second issue, the draft guideline for the requirements for approval of advertising medical devices and products, the draft amendment to the executive regulations of the commercial names law, the draft of the Agricultural Development Fund law, the draft amendment of the corporate governance regulation, and other projects in addition to the regulatory guides such as the guide for Swak, and the guide to Child-Resistant and Senior-Friendly Packages.



What did they say about competitiveness?



“Saudi Arabia had been one of the top reformers in the region, removing restrictions on the types of jobs women could have, which is a massive progress for the Kingdom.”



Ferid Belhaj

World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).



“The Kingdom has adopted a package of legislative reforms that have significantly transformed the lives of women. Women’s participation in the labor market in Saudi Arabia increased from 22 percent to nearly 30 percent...The Kingdom is continuing its bold women-related legislative reforms despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be reflected positively in achieving the Vision 2030 goals.”

Issam Abu Sulaiman

World Bank's Regional Director for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Private Sector Feedback Platform

NCC.GOV.SA



Your
suggestions

on Private Sector Feedback Platform
make us move forward towards
an integrated improvement for the business
environment in Saudi Arabia

المركز الوطني للتنافسية
NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS CENTER



رؤية VISION
2030
المملكة العربية السعودية
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

KSANCC
199077

NCC.gov.sa
info@NCC.gov.sa