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THE ROLE OF LAW IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN JORDAN

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INTRODUCTION

This essay is concerned with the intersection of law and the major goals of peaceful economic development that are at the forefront of economic planning in Jordan today. The basic assumption behind this essay is that law should exist as an essential vehicle for the realization of these goals. The overall objective of the essay is to study the general role that a society's array of legislative, regulatory, and court mechanisms can play for, and have played in, the economic development of Jordan. It also examines past and current law, institutions, and development policies. The essay seeks to: sketch how Jordan's laws can operate as an important and a necessary part of its national economic protectionist package; describe how these laws can be transformative and hence deployable as means to the nation's development as other developing nations in diverse economic sectors have done in the past; and address the equally essential issue of the national policies and law reforms that would ensure that imported and other legal reform initiatives and newly crafted laws play a supportive role in their host country's development.

As there are no standard definitions for economic development, soft law definitions suggest that it is a multi-dimensional concept. Economic development essentially entails the transformation of the structure of an economy from predominantly natural resource-based, low-technology goods to mainly high-technology goods and services, which use high-value added components. The nation of Jordan is currently working toward a diversified knowledge-intensive, innovation-driven, service-oriented economy nurtured by a set of capable institutions in a business-friendly environment under the ability to absorb a global mindset.

2. Historical Overview of Economic Development in Jordan

The experience of economic development in Jordan is a story of many different successes, failures, challenges, and opportunities. Over the last several decades, the economy of Jordan has been shaped and reshaped by the development policies and practices of numerous governments. The earliest and most extensive legal changes flowing from the push for development included not only the introduction of new laws but also the direct government involvement in economic affairs. It is important to notice that the majority of large, state-owned corporations, which were mostly dealing with infrastructure, were established during the first three decades, and the private sector was involved gradually but persistently encouraged to enter productive activities. In pursuance of its socialism-oriented national development strategy, the Jordanian government sought to establish and maintain social justice and bring about an equitable and fair distribution of income and wealth.

Over the years, and especially from the early 1990s when economic liberalization began in Jordan, the roles of the state, citizens, and the

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private sector have undergone several revamping processes. From that time, policymakers started referring to the private sector as "the engine of growth." The increasing importance of FDI has also generated substantial practical activities at the policymaking level to attract more investors, which led to several substantial changes in the structure of investment laws and regulations in Jordan. Over the past two decades, numerous policymakers have also made reference to the concept of "good governance" in order to push for socio-economic reforms, but rarely in a legal context, with concrete practical impact on the ground. It is this very experience of trial and error, of historical and contemporary diversity in development trajectories, that suggests it could not be fruitful to frame an understanding of what law is for development as a single historical line or in opposition to any particular institution, program, or strategy.

3. Legal Framework for Economic Development in Jordan

The legal framework for economic development

Economic development is about improving the economic, political, and social well-being of a country and its population. Economic development depends on the availability of a modern and efficient regulatory system, a level of development and implementation of standard-setting laws that ensure business sustainability, create an attractive climate for investment, and stimulate growth by unlocking the potential of unemployed resources. To do this, the state also seeks the development of entrepreneurial activity in all its forms: self-employment, formal or informal employment in any organization, and the establishment of production, commercial, or service organizations. This orientation focuses on macro-inclusive economic growth with social equity. The financial work focuses on young people. With the right training and orientation, they are the main force that can promote economic development and alleviate unemployment. Academic education alone cannot equip young people with the necessary skills to find employment or start a successful business. What is needed is a balanced curriculum that combines theoretical presentation with practical experience. A model was applied in which students were allocated part-time jobs. Places were limited, not enough for all the students. An entrepreneurial experience center was set up specifically for "champions".

There was an appeal to the rural environment, which is "by land, not by industry". A large number of young people have finished primary and secondary education, but they are less prepared for work. The aim is to instill an entrepreneurial spirit so as not to be picky about work, but to create it. The ideal is the development of a mini-perforation. A program has been conceived and designed to impart the basics of entrepreneurship. The law is responsible for creating and providing a legal framework to restore a given economic, social, and organizational system. The starting point of the analysis was the constitutional support on which specific "pillars" ensure the realization of economic rights and, accordingly, special legislation. There are new, clear, and focused laws. The coherence characterizing the system takes into account the requirements not only of subunits belonging to the same legislative whole but also to levels already related to the constitutional-social dimension in the direction of impact that the law can have. Modern rights, ways, economic legislation, and subjects are viewed from the perspective of existing law, legislation, and legal acts in the direction of practical application. Our approach is essential: the investigation of the function of the law in its macro-founding plan, up to its micro-procedural configuration and nodes, can highlight those weaknesses and flaws that could also be assumed as factors that impede the realization of certain purposes. This double reading, analytic and proposal logic, as far as the objective pursued, could crucially favor and justify those reform paths through legal actions.

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3.1. Constitutional Provisions

The Jordanian constitution ensures various rights and responsibilities that are required for economic development. The constitution recognizes and protects property rights and confines the circumstances under which property can be acquired compulsorily by the state. Property rights could also be acquired by virtue of servitudes, and this reflects the promotion of absolute ownership as a fundamental principle of economic freedom. The constitution further protects the freedom of enterprise, including the establishment of economic associations and the freedom of contract. These provisions reflect a regime where enterprise freedom is protected as part of civil liberties to ensure individuals engage in economic activities with fellow individuals, with the lowest restrictions possible from the state and the public sector. The commitment to the principle of enterprise freedom can also be discerned from the recognition of economic rights and freedoms as being part of the protected personal rights. Economic rights and civil liberties are all subject to the principle of equal protection under the law. The regime protects the right of remedy for external damages.

Nonetheless, Jordan's legal system identifies that absolute ownership can be a qualified right. It could be limited by laws, a public need, or a higher public purpose. This text simply reflects the subjectivity in the first principle aimed at preserving property. The question thus arises as to how far the state can interfere in private property and personal rights to promote economic development. To what extent does economic development and the taking of private property take center stage, or is it qualified and subject to challenging and qualifying factors? This question is answered in our analysis based on the constitution, constitutional jurisprudence, and laws, as well as the comparative available legislative and administrative practices. Similarly, legislation enacted to regulate economic activities must comply with the constitution and should not restrict or violate the economic rights guaranteed in the constitution. Economic rights can also form the rationale behind constitutional claims for review and quashing of administrative decisions. The right to property and trade is protected under the constitution, and thus any administrative decision infringing these rights could be annulled by the Administrative Court for being illegal and unconstitutional. The constitution is thus relevant to economic development whether interpreted in slim or broad terms.

3.2. Legislation and Regulations

Several laws and regulations govern economic activities in Jordan. These may be general or sectoral, governing specific economic sectors such as trade regulation, labor relations, labor market regulation, investment promotion, companies, taxation, and many others. This enormous and interrelated system of laws and regulations should create the regulatory spirit and regime necessary for the development, operation, and optimization of economic societies. In light of this, it can be said that the regulations of well-developed regulatory frameworks affect the business environment to stimulate business operations. This is entirely consistent with Jordan's discourse on economic development and its efforts to stimulate its competitiveness in the regional and global business environment. Through the enactment of the commercial law, investment promotion law, foreign trade law, anti-monopoly law, labor code, and several other sectoral laws, Jordan aims to overcome the weaknesses of its business environment by addressing the factors of economic change.

In the realm of investment, Jordan has adopted a comprehensive and robust regulatory framework to stimulate and attract foreign and local potential contributors. Here, it is important to recognize the type of connections and interactions being created by investment promotion law, customs law, and income taxation. Indeed, these three legal instruments are strong evidence of Jordan's commitment to

economic development and building a diversified and vibrant Arab economy. The Jordan Investment Commission Law permits an investment-friendly environment for national and foreign investors. It portrays Jordan as a safe and affordable country that achieves economic prosperity and social justice. Article 10 has attracted attention because it focuses on promoting and facilitating entrepreneurship. Since then, the Jordan Investment Commission has been helping every responsible body shape, implement, and identify solutions for the issues and opportunities facing the entrepreneurial sector. These regulations serve as tools for launching and defending free enterprise. They have proven to be positive, effective, and conducive to investment in the Kingdom. The Anti-Monopoly Law regulates several commercial practices, thereby fostering a fair and friendly investment environment. It increases the competitiveness of the Jordanian market. It is placed in a distinguished position because there are other Arab businesses. For instance, in Palestine, through certain articles, the anti-verbal agreements and anti-concentrations are addressed. Based on a legal approach, this Act guarantees the creation of work before the incorporation is established.

4. Key Economic Development Goals in Jordan

A key objective of Jordan's development strategies is to strengthen the socio-economic stability of the country. For instance, the first indicator to track the implementation of the National Agenda is revenues to the state dependent on natural resources. Strategies are developed to improve the business environment; the status of doing business only measures the ability of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to engage in business and appeal to customers. In a mixed, integrated, and comprehensive approach, achieving the Jordan Forum could then set out to attain the defined goals and objectives by 2020 and truly serve as the cornerstone for reform. 1. Poverty reduction 2. Job creation; employment openings and reduction of unemployment 3. Sustainable and comprehensive economic growth 4. Export development, increasing the share of Jordanian commodities and products in regional and international markets. The Jordanian society is not yet capable of generating economic projects. Insofar as thousands of university students are joining the labor market every year, few employment opportunities are available to accommodate this phenomenon. In addition, a significant percentage of the unemployed hold university degrees. As a result, the money paid to educate part of the population over the years loses its value.

5. Challenges and Barriers to Economic Development in Jordan

The pace of economic development in Jordan has been severely affected by a combination of internal and external events. Of the many elements that have contributed to the stunted development in Jordan, four interlocking ones require special consideration: the unrest between 2011 and 2013 in the wake of the Arab Spring, the ongoing internal conflict in the neighboring state of Syria, the unsettled conflict in Iraq, and the ever-present political tension related to the Israeli-Palestinian situation. These factors, and the volatility that has accompanied them, have made investors uneasy, with a direct impact on business and investment decisions. The economic volatility has been heightened by a variety of other challenges peculiar to Jordan, including large inflows of refugees, instability, and political uncertainty within the Kingdom.

Corruption is a major issue in Jordan and many Arab countries. The importance of corruption should be viewed through the lens of public choice theory. The harm that corruption causes is more than just bribery. It applies to the full range of economic activities of the public and private sectors, in which goods and services required by the general public are produced, procured, financed, or delivered by public institutions or international organizations. This includes procurement, education, health, water, electricity, road construction, public housing,

etc. It is also seen in the criminal field, with some people believing that they can purchase political decisions in their favor in case of dispute or settle cases pending in courts. Corruption thus costs the public money, harms the efficiency and equity of the economic system, and undermines public confidence in the law.

The major challenge emerging from this review of the various significant components of the Jordanian context is that they have, in various ways, influenced the legislative framework designed to promote the desired economic activities and outcomes. The integrity of the judiciary, and all its members and employees, will remain compromised for as long as the judicial system and the enforcement process are ineffective in favor of numerous segments of society. These segments will continue to be inclined to circumvent the enforcement of the law, either by breaking it and knowing that they could escape punishment or by buying justice by corrupting enforcement officials to obtain judgments in their favor. It follows, therefore, that any efforts to strengthen the law should factor in social, political, cultural, and economic circumstances from the outset. A penetrative and comprehensive examination of all reforms in this area should thus be multidisciplinary. This approach is crucial since anger, mistrust, and frustration within neighborhoods, villages, and larger communities are powerful catalysts for disheartened and dangerous action.

5.1. Political Instability

Uncertainty of governance is not only about the identity of the government, but about political stability if a government stays in power, and political instability in the case of potential frequent replacements is a far greater disincentive than the identity of who is running the show. Domestic businesses are unlikely to invest because of the risk of frequent changes in policy, frequent administrative changes, and the possibility of expropriation by a new regime. As for international ones, two reasons are regularly adduced. The first revolves around the fear that foreign investors might not be able to take away from the Kingdom their returns in case of instability. The nature of investments is crucially based on some basic assumptions; if either becomes doubtful, the projects are no longer of interest. This risk thus touches on the domains of constitution and other aspects of public law that touch on conflict between states over boundaries, and over who rules who. This is the mainstay of outflow control. Here it creates international tension, especially in Jordan.

This is particularly true for certain countries that contrived changes of constitution and who now risk interventions on the side of the anti-regime forces by international organizations. But there is a much stronger reason for international investors not to invest in politically unstable environments; social disputes frequently accompany political ones. When workers go on strike, they directly disrupt the economic activities of the company with which they disagree. This risks affecting the civil predisposition to invest in Jordan. Even without this direct loss in production, there is still the risk of destruction of capital in the production process. This kind of risk to the factor of production gives rise to national regulatory institutions. Political instability also compromises the effectiveness of law, especially if the statutes agreed to by Parliament are too often played with by it. It will discourage foreign investors as a result also. Crown diplomats take every opportunity to point out Jordan's internal stability as an island of peace and calm amidst the tumult of the region. They add to it Jordan's strategic position in the region. Of course, the first claim encourages investors to establish in the Kingdom, knowing that their investments are likely to be safe. The risk of expropriation is low. Even when there is frequent turnover in government, international business is somewhat reassured by the fact that there are substantial elements of government that are not elected. The relationship between social stability and investment is even clearer in effect. Given specialists, entrepreneurial skills, and

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above all capital inflow, could facilitate economic development in Jordan according to this analysis. This directly shows the primacy of law in economic development. If this is in part reformable by creating typical and purpose legislation, it must also be taken into account that, especially as Jordan has also experienced, political power also affects competency to judge situations. Government interference can thus be encountered even in those cases where a theoretical businessperson is "equally efficient" as another. Development in this case might take place to spur economic development but also to maximize profits. Expansion of elite members or other groups interested in business sector development would need governance reforms. It also shows that reforms cannot stop at the microeconomic level alone; there need to encompass changes at the political level as well to facilitate the achievement of the common objective of economic development.

5.2. Corruption

Corruption is another significant problem that hinders economic development in Jordan. A report is especially useful in understanding ordinary people's perceptions. The report shows that 62 percent of respondents believe that corruption is a problem in public employment, and 56 percent believe that corruption is a problem in state services. In public employment, politicians or administrative staff take advantage of their authority or position for personal gain, rather than to promote the public's interest. In state services, public employees take bribes in exchange for the provision of public services or speeding up certain procedures.

Corruption is an extensive phenomenon and can take many forms. Public institutions that are designed to foster economic development have been shown to be extensively corrupt. Corruption in public institutions takes many shapes and forms, such as direct provision of public services in return for bribes, to severe embezzlement of public resources. Corruption in Jordan also takes on many of the same characteristics as it does in the developing world. It erodes confidence in the public sector, distorts markets, diverts resources from public utilities, and reinforces inequality. Countries like Jordan, striving to meet development goals, must view corruption as both a cause of continued conflict and as an impediment to economic development.

To combat corruption, Jordan has adopted international standards and has become a member of several international actions and initiatives, including signing a convention against corruption and activating the peer review process. It also endorsed a convention against corruption and is an active member of a group against corruption. Although Jordan has taken several legal and institutional reform initiatives to combat corruption, there has been very little enforcement or accountability for corrupt behavior. Moreover, corruption has negative effects. It generates enormous costs for the renewal of public ends and objectives, especially for developing countries. Corruption leads to pernicious inequality. It risks destabilization and civil war. At the same time, excessive effort to control corruption undermines social capital.

6. Role of the Judiciary in Economic Development

The judiciary is a critical partner for economic development. It is the judiciary that will enforce the laws and regulations that Jordan uses to create rights and enforce obligations that are vital to business. Commercial law rests on two foundational elements, namely the ability to enter freely into contracts and the availability of legal mechanisms to resolve disputes over the performance of these contracts. In countries such as Jordan, the possession of these rights and the functioning of these mechanisms are directly related to the level of foreign direct investment and thus to the nation's ability to improve the collective well-being of its citizens. Indeed, legal institutions are seen as one of the three broad policy areas where all international

development agencies hope to achieve investment reform. The role of the judiciary in economic development is to ensure the laws that are in place, that reflect Jordan's values through its legislatures, are enforced in a fair and impartial manner. The judiciary must be able to resolve commercial disputes in ways that are efficient, transparent, and effective so that investors and entrepreneurs can have the confidence that their contractual relations, as well as their regulatory environments, will be fairly interpreted and implemented. An independent, professional judiciary is also necessary because the rule of law, defined as the principle that legal rules be followed in order to secure and implement fundamental rights, is also a key element of economic development. Moreover, judicial integrity was considered by one report to be one of the three elements necessary for legal, regulatory, and judicial effectiveness. The inability of citizens, through corruption, to gain access to the judiciary and to enforce legal decisions discourages entrepreneurial activity and erodes public confidence.

6.1. Enforcement of Contracts

Although there is a variety of roles that the judiciary should play in order to foster economic development and create an attractive environment for investment, a key function of the judiciary is the enforcement of contracts. Contract law, which is based on precise legal provisions, creates a certain degree of security and predictability in the course of commercial and other transactions. However, when conflicts emerge, only formal legal procedures can redress grievances and provide remedies. In addition to contract law, there are other mechanisms available to help resolve potentially litigious matters, such as business mediation, conciliation, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. However, formal courts are still the main avenues of redress that are used to settle disputes. One of the responsibilities of the judiciary, therefore, is to ensure that both the letter and the spirit of these contract laws, particularly those concerning the implementation of the judicial system, are enforced effectively so that the two parties to a conflict can enjoy the benefits of working with reasonably secure contracts. Disputes are a regular aspect of contracts across the globe, and the need for effective ways to solve contract issues is not only relevant to Jordan. Solving such disputes greatly encourages economic growth. Yet enforcement brings a number of problems, ranging from issues related to delays in going to court, a lack of government resources, and the social significance of the legislation, particularly in developing countries. A comprehensive understanding of how contract execution works may be helpful in policymaking, judicial reforms, and facilitating economic development throughout the globe. In the conclusion of this brief, several successful examples of countries that have embraced the value of contracts are discussed. It also examines whether the reforms contribute to a better business climate and promote economic growth. It can also provide some input into the future path of policymaking in the country. Evidence indicates that the point of conflict in the economy may play an important role in the investment process. In principle, it was stated that foreign residents increased by 14% last year. However, it may not be ideal if the contract provides a full solution, including damages. In courts that provide only limited financial allocation and where meeting the necessities of solving disputes can severely impact poor individuals, the need for commercial regulation can be substantial. It is possible to enforce contracts either in the event of a breach by the courts or through relaxed terms of access to meetings. In the world, although lawyers spend an average of 53 days enforcing contractual agreements, there are significant differences between countries. In the commercial world, there is a tendency to delay the impression that it would be possible to apply for legal proceedings by an average of 545 days. Even though a lack of money and resources is clearly at the root of these problems, in part these were

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enhancements where courts did not provide reform.

6.2. Protection of Property Rights

B. Overview and Legal Framework

12. A key component of economic development is the protection of property rights. Guaranteeing people's rights to dispose of their property is fundamental to a developing economy. It encourages people to invest, in both human capital and financial assets, by providing assurance that the fruits of that investment will not be taken away from them. One of the driving forces of entrepreneurship is that individuals have the chance to profit from their initiatives. As a result of this operation, activities become more efficient, innovative, and produce a greater return to those with the relevant knowledge and abilities. Additionally, protecting property rights encourages entrepreneurial activities by allowing organized capital markets and credit markets where funds can be used effectively.

13. Following Jordan's 1952 Land Distribution Law, similar to many states during these times, citizens possessed the right to use the land but not own it. This did little to encourage investment and security of the land. The 2004 land law removed many of these restrictions and simplified procedures for the purchase and transfer of land and properties. Furthermore, a mortgage law was passed in 2008 which aimed to eliminate the restrictions, making it easier for real estate to act as a security. The judiciary also forms a part of property rights enforcement, with contracts and agreements often being subjected to the scrutiny of the judiciary under Jordanian law. However, multiple stakeholders noted that bureaucracy and court delays resulted in time-consuming processes that undermined property rights.

C. Incidence

14. It is widely accepted that there is a direct relationship between property rights and GDP growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. A good example is the impact of private land ownership on the USSR breakup in 1989 - by giving land rights to individuals, the agricultural hustle soon became productive and exploitative. It was also found that in those countries where property rights for females are guaranteed, females are more likely to start their own businesses. Inasmuch as land reform is a key pro-poor intervention, stimulating growth – and consequently employment – in the agricultural sector, it would also pave the way for the development of a financial sector that would enhance entrepreneurial activities. On a comparative note, people reported that the underlying 'discriminatory' framework gives the local population a virtually 'free' status with regard to illegal possession.

D. Reform and Recommendations

15. The biggest challenge in making sure that property rights are guaranteed and protected is to make them affordable. Conversations firmly stated that the biggest issue of land case abuse in the country was, in fact, the very bureaucratic paralysis of the Ministry of Lands Affairs and Survey and the government at large. They are often not able to respond effectively to issues of wrongdoing in land disputes. Despite the many improvements in land laws and bureaucracy in the past decade, there are still a number of issues a long-term investor must take into account with regard to property rights. It is essential that future law should prohibit flouting due process in all dealings, i.e., equitable principles of justice, good faith, fairness, the inequity doctrine, and without reasonable notice. These principles, it is thought, should permeate throughout and also mean in practice that any agreement or decision reached in an unlawful, illegal, or discriminatory manner is unequal and unjustifiable and assert a de validitate effect.

7. Impact of International Law on Economic Development in Jordan

International laws directly influence the economic life of the nation, and this is true in the case of the economy of Jordan. Many international agreements and treaties have

shaped the economic policies and regulations in Jordan. Many of these agreements have created obligations for Jordan to align its economic policies and legislation with the norms of such agreements. For a developing economy, international law can serve many developmental purposes. For instance, it can help in attracting foreign investments, expanding trade relations and access to foreign markets, and also help in transferring modern technology and know-how. Jordan has also sought the assistance of various international organizations and agencies for the purpose of formulating and implementing projects and programs that are at the foundation of Jordan's growth strategies. Such programs support Jordan in the fields of education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, industry, tourism, and many other fields of human activity. Compliance with international norms may be difficult and hard to achieve due to a number of objective and subjective constraints. These constraints and challenges include the nature of other legal commitments signed by the country with other contracting parties and could also be a result of political considerations and obligations. In addition, the differences in levels of economic and social development could lead to divergence in priorities among the various members of international trade, as well as among domestic economic operators. Nevertheless, international norms also play a major role in formulating the directions of law reform in developing economies, in addition to obliging the promotion of implementation, enforcement, and promulgation of reforms, helping the country to be more aligned with such international norms.

9. Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Law in Economic Development in Jordan

Efforts to enhance the role of law in economic development in Jordan and to reduce the pressures of the informal economy should include partnerships from higher legal and judicial institutions. A portion of these partnerships could focus on capacity development to ensure formal laws and regulations are developed to complement and support the functioning of markets and to bring these processes more in line with emergent international best practices and norms. Efforts to better align these legal reforms with norms and best practices must work in concert with efforts to enhance the capacity of entities tasked with implementing the law. Although many laws exist in Jordan to support safe business activities, regulation of intersecting institutions remains fragmented and underdeveloped. One specific recommendation is to consider adopting clearer laws that define specific roles, anticipatory guidance, new regulations, and minimal thresholds.

Drafting comprehensive laws and/or regulations to govern these entities will support income and job creation and will also generate the documentation needed by these stakeholders in conducting business legally. Technically and administratively, the creation of a one-stop shop for registering and regulating the various enterprises that are involved in business and infrastructure would create a facilitating role for investment, economic growth, and development in Jordan and enhance local capacity development in drafting complementary laws and regulations. To build public trust in legal norms, rules, regulations, and standards—and the judiciary—efforts are needed to support judicial independence and ensure credibility, transparency, and low costs to access formal law and justice. Even with many reforms and changes, such as creating business fora and investor consultative forums, there are no efforts to forge broader partnerships engaging both sectors.

The public and private economic and social sectors, non-governmental organizations between rural and urban zones among services, communities, political bodies, religious groupings, academia, media, and activist associations ought to be more actively involved through all-inclusive public–private capacities to act together. This approach should facilitate efforts—while recognizing the need for the

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intellectual abilities of groups to suggest such changes and reforms that would affect indirect stakeholders. Hopefully, efforts will benefit from formal and informal training and education programs in the formal and non-formal educational sectors, making the law and rule of law an important aspect of national reform agendas and even of sectoral reform. Knowledge and information generated should then be used in any decision-making process that can contribute to ensuing policies, strategies, rules, standards, and other initiatives at the macro, meso, and micro-economic levels. This enhanced expertise and capability will enhance the diversification of various sectors of economic and social policies designed to maximize the economic and social advantages to minimize trading-offs. Efforts to interfere with the characteristics of law, as suggested above, have the potential to increase sustainable, realistic, and environmentally sound development opportunities and to comply with broader regional and international competitiveness.

10. Conclusion and Future Outlook

The importance of the law in reaching the goals of economic development in Jordan has been established throughout this essay. Although the existing legal context, efforts, and initiatives are impressive, they are hindered by several challenges and, due to the limited scope of the national strategy for sustainable development, may not achieve the single focused goals for encouraging economic development and attracting more foreign direct investment. Depth in research has not been achieved, and future work can be done to bridge existing knowledge gaps. Attention to the existing ambiguity in laws and lack of cohesive and consistent coordination among different government entities led to uncertainty in the business community and undermined their confidence in reform initiatives if not preceded by addressing such risks of the current strategy for development. The legal framework at the macro level plays an essential role in serving this vision because it is a facilitator of the possibility for laying down the rest of the necessary policy and for achieving the desired value for the foreign investor and its targeted sector. As to the outlook for possible reforms, several have been proposed, and research gaps for each need have been identified. At the macro level, this focuses on amendments to promote the laws of investment and companies and regulate the relationship between companies and the workforce. On the sectoral level, licensing systems and regulations for three selected sectors should be revisited, and the role of investment and competition laws in controlling these actions should be boosted. Overall, it has become more important to identify and put in place laws that are consistent with the requirements of sustainable development, and this area needs to be researched in more detailed work. Coherence and cohesiveness are essential principles in this domain. What we have now is ad-hoc policies in some areas only, such as restricting engine capacities. These are recommendations only, and further detailed empirical research needs to be done to determine what can be done at the sectoral and institutional levels to make these recommendations practical. Given the fast pace of technical and scientific change, today's advice may be obsolete in a few years. Adaptation mechanisms for this domain need to be put in place in the future. Ongoing assessment is proposed as a necessary part of the law. It is also essential for all relevant stakeholders to participate in reaching a consensus. There must be interagency coordination between different entities concerned with economic development in the various developmental axes of the country.

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