

The Cooperation Council for the
Arab States of the Gulf <GCC>
Secretariat General



The Revised Long –Term Comprehensive
Development Strategy For the GCC States
<2010-2025>

Economic Affairs

Commerce and Industry Department

**In the Name of Allah, the Most
Gracious, the Most Merciful**

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Background

Based on the recommendations of the Ministerial Council, the Supreme Council has endorsed the document 'Long-Term Comprehensive Development Strategy for the GCC States (2000-2025)' at its 19th session (Abu Dhabi, 18th - 20th Sha'abaan 1419 AH, corresponding to 7th - 9th December 1998 AD.).

Over the past ten years following approval of the above document, the GCC Member States as well as the ministerial and technical committees, in collaboration with the Consultative Commission, have exerted intensive efforts to ensure fulfillment of the strategy goals. Many objectives outlined in the strategy have been achieved so far.

There is no doubt that the sequences of the rapid progress and new events, which characterized the presence globally, have positively impacted the cooperative exertion of the Member States. Furthermore, the document states that 'the Ministerial Committee for Planning and Development shall review the strategy on a regular basis to cope with the local, regional, and global success'. Thus, the committee at its 17th meeting, (June 2007, Riyadh), assigned a specialized working group(WG) to review and improve the strategy to be in an equal footing with the local and international developments.

The WG has worked for two years to develop the strategy in light of the relevant GCC organizations' observations and comments. The WG added 'The economics, regional and international issues' to the previous strategy issues. Moreover, the strategy goals and their proposed techniques and tools to accomplish these goals have been re-phrased by the WG to achieve sustained and integrated development in all fields.

This revised strategy has stressed synchronizing and strengthening the activities which are outlined in the national development plans to be consistent with the other Members' plans in order to enable all GCC Members to adapt to the new prevalence and challenges of the 21st century.

As a result of the constant efforts of the technical team entrusted with this task, and after a careful review in light of the suggestions and views of the Member States on the findings made by the committee set up by the Committee of Planning Agencies, this document was approved by the Ministerial Committee for Planning and Development in its 20th meeting (June 2010, Kuwait), which has decided as follows:

“The revised GCC Long-term Comprehensive Development Strategy (2010 - 2025) GCC was approved and the GCC council was assigned to submit it to the Ministerial Council at its next session for approval.”

This revised document contains a brief review and exposition of the GCC achievements in terms of development which were made collectively as well as individually. It also presents an objective assessment of the challenges facing the Council in various areas. Based on this objective estimation, the enhancement of strategic goals and basic objectives of the Comprehensive Development Strategy have been laid down. The development process and the mechanisms for achieving the goals and objectives were also set forth on the same basis.

While publishing this document, the Secretariat General hopes that everyone concerned with planning affairs in the GCC states will benefit from this document and use the relevant development policies and plans contained herein to achieve its goals. Certainly, the Planning and Development Committee will remain keen to implement the key objective, which is to achieve sustainable and integrated development for the GCC states.

Introduction

The current period constitutes a critical juncture for the joint action initiated by the GCC States, because the current period is characterized by challenges and new developments, which have to be addressed based on a vision and thought different from those prevailed at the beginning of the second half of the 20th century.

As the establishment of the GCC within the Arabian context was a historical necessity in the early eighties of the last century, so it is also a historical necessity that should continue. This is confirmed by the outputs of its process as well as the challenges currently encompassing this process.

Therefore, there is urgent pressing need for the GCC States to reconsider all available opportunities and restraints imposed upon them as well as the challenges facing them building order to be able to draw up new trends towards the future that cope with the hopes and aspirations of their peoples looking forward to a better tomorrow for their generations. It is a matter that entails learning useful lessons from the achievements of the development process and its failures in each GCC State. This should be done in order to develop better development plans so as to facilitate the movement towards the goals and objectives laid down for the early decades of the 21st century.

This document contains a brief description of the achievements, the current situation and threats prevailing in the GCC states at the local, regional and international levels in economic, social, political, and security fields. It also deals with the broad outlines of the Long Term Comprehensive Development Strategy (2010-2025), which has been designed to address the challenges posed in the first quarter of the 21st century.

The Strategy also outlines the key objective associated with several other objectives, which have been classified under the category of integrated

development issues that will be addressed within the time frame of the strategy.

The Document concludes with identification of the institutional, organizational, technological and legal mechanisms, which must be followed in order to implement the proposed strategy.

Situations and Challenges

The establishment of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the GCC (GCC) in May 1981 came as a culmination of the serious efforts imbued with faith in its objectives and conscientious of its need at all levels of intellectual and political activity since the second half of the 1970s. Thus, the Council came as a realization of the great dream of the peoples of the Arab States of the Gulf, embodied in the collective efforts aimed at achieving economic, social and political integration GCC . The GCC GCC unity entails all historical, cultural, human, and material factors required to face the challenges threatening its civilizational process, to ward-off the various threats emerging against its existence or against any of its members at the local, regional, and international levels.

By reviewing and assessing the the Joint Action process of the GCC states, it becomes clear that the Process was able to face the challenges encompassing establishment of the Council. Those challenges were embodied in a group of threats. The joint action was able to position itself against those challenges and threats by ensuring the effectiveness of the cultural and social presence of its peoples in the world arena throughout the period of its existence.

While facing those challenges, all the member states have exerted maximum efforts in order to achieve the objectives laid down in the GCC Charter and the auxiliary agreements and strategies, which originated from the successive sessions of the Supreme Council as well as the major organizations and institutions which evolved under auspices of the GCC Secretariat General.

As far as the review and evaluation are concerned, it can be concluded that the GCC states have stepped tremendous strides in all fields of development work. Indeed, many of the challenges surrounding the development efforts have been surmounted by national as well as integrated policies pursued side by side at the same time. However, the latest international, regional, and local developments have brought forth changes over the past years. These changes are likely to have dangerous impacts not only on the development process in the Member State that seeks to achieve economic and social progress - GCC States being among them - but also on the future of the peoples of those countries, the continuity of their existence, and their role in the process of global civilization in the 21st century. There is no doubt that dealing with these new developments will constitute one of the major challenges in any development effort in the future stages.

First – At the level of national (individual) efforts of the GCC States

An objective estimation of the development process in the GCC States confirms the fact that these states have indeed made a number of achievements in their efforts aimed at achieving economic and social development.

There is no doubt that the huge oil revenues which have accumulated during the past period have positively assisted each individual country in avoiding the difficulties of financing their development projects. The oil revenues accumulated during the oil booming years and beyond have enabled them to make heavy spending on implementation of welfare-oriented development plans. The oil revenues have also helped some of the GCC States form foreign assets, as external sources, that would contribute to reinforcing the power of financing the local economies.

The major outcomes of those outlays are evident in the high living standard and improvement in the quality of life of citizens, which were achieved by means of building mammoth infrastructure facilities and social capital. It is also evident in laying down foundations of human development as reflected

in high- quality social services such as (housing, education, health and social care), and with onward heading to build up intelligent smart society and knowledge-based economy. Along the same lines, various sectors of the economy, other than oil, have been promoted. This is in order to begin the process of a balanced development based on diversification of the sources of income as well as by ensuring active participation of the GCC states in international markets, trade, investment and international aid.

On the other hand, the most challenges which have existed and affected the national development processes of the GCC Members over the past four **decades are as follows:**

1. Primary resources continue to dominate the source of income, which in turn leads to limited development options and gaining opportunities.
2. The inability of the industrial sector to meet the local consumer and investment demands. The absorption capacity of the markets is also limited by the difficulties being faced in dealing with new technologies and in capacity building to acquire technological self-sufficiency.
3. The imbalance in the structural expenditures continues in favor of consumption powers instead of saving and productive investment powers.
4. The development structures have been directed to: the services, retails and real estates' sectors.
5. The association of private sectors' investments in the field of building and construction.

Given all these challenges, the imbalance in the population structure is quite obvious. It has negative effects on social homogeneity and the issues of citizenship and loyalty. This imbalance is due to over-dependence on foreign workers, market imbalances and the relative stagnation of the education and training systems and the system of employment and wages.

Despite the fact that dependence on petroleum resources was associated with the phenomenon of constant fluctuation in income and spending, this

phenomenon was not regarded as something for which alternatives should be sought in order for a path of development - stable in all its economic and social dimensions - could be found.

On the other hand, oil revenues had undergone some fluctuations when oil prices had dropped before the end of the eighties of the past century, then, jumped, and then declined during the second half of the first decade of this century. In addition, the continuous increase in the rate of population growth combined with concentration of national workforce only in the government and services sector gave strength to these challenges. These challenges had a great impact on the capacity to finance the development projects. It is reflected in the continuation of deficit in the public budget. This is accompanied with deflationary policies, which have direct and indirect impact on production capacity and growth rate. Such policies also have negative distributive and social effects in the society.

Second – At Joint Action Level:

There are several positive results which can be attributed to the shared characteristics between the GCC states, including the cultural heritage and factors like geography, resources, population and environment. It also includes shared concerns and hopes.

One of the most important results was the creation of strong faith among the peoples in the absolute need for the Council to continue to exist as a framework for facing challenges; and for organizing the development endeavors as well as creating an institutional structure for the GCC joint action in the economic and social fields. In addition, a clear vision has been elaborated to address issues pertaining not just to the political and security challenges but also to address long-term development challenges and its various complexities.

As far as the results of joint action are concerned, which constitute the

factors and pillars of the continued development integration process, this bloc of States constitutes a firm structure to face the challenges and avoid threats; to activate the avenues for dialogue and consultation; and to establish a general framework for mutual understanding in order to prioritize the means of achieving them. Apart from that, this effort was to some extent able to consolidate the essential infrastructure with a view to achieve integrated development. This is evident in a large number of agreements, institutions and applicable laws in all fields of development work including social, political as well as security development. In addition, several joint projects have been set up. These projects constitute one of the basic mechanisms for achieving economic and social integration between the GCC states.

At the level of challenges, these can be grouped in two categories. The first category comprises the outcomes of the development process in all member states, the nature of geo-political situation, the resources and demographic features. The second category comprises the new developments in the world order over the last two decades of the twentieth century.

The First Category:

The following are the major challenges grouped in the first category:

1. The pillars of the economy of the GCC states have been founded on the basis of competition (similarity) rather than integration, which had diminished intra-GCC trade, in terms of volume and variety, and limited integration of production sectors.
2. The development efforts, especially those associated with building capacities for cognitive ability and technological advancement as well as political and administrative development have been launched with national considerations in mind. These efforts have not been made with collective considerations like reducing disparity in the levels of development. Similarly, specific standards have not been set for distributing the fruits of integration

among member states.

3. Scarcity of water resources and the high cost of alternative water resources.

4. The limitation of cultivated farming lands as well as diminishing water and high salinity content.

5. There is incongruence between the role of the private sector in development and the level of incentives provided by the State for institutions of the private sector.

6. Enhancing the concept of "fatherly care" of citizens. This concept ,on the one hand, led to concentration of national workforce in state administrative units and government institutions. On the other hand, it led to non-engagement, of citizens in technical and vocational activities. This in turn has led to dependence on foreign workers with a view to meeting the needs of labor market in non-governmental activities.

7. Incompatibility between the outputs of educational and training systems and the needs of the labor market on the one hand , and economic structures on the other.

8. Predominance of the forces of consumption over those of production, which lead to a continuous low investment level compared to the saving national abilities.

9. Investment decline in the production sectors which help in diversification of income resources.

10. Migration of national capitals abroad by public and private sectors due to limited local investment opportunities.

11. Existence of deficit in the national budget. This, along with the failure of the GCC economies to employ labor and to invest in productive capacities owing to deflationary economic, fiscal and monetary policies had negative social implications.

12. Climate change and its potential impacts on the environmental system in the GCC Member States.

The Second category of Challenges:

The challenges of this category can be seen in a group of global developments. These challenges will have to be addressed by the development efforts in the first decades of the 21st century. These challenges are evident in a number of fields:

The Intellectual Field:

There are two major concepts in the modern development thought: the first being the concept of sustained development and human development which include aspects such as preservation of environment and natural resources. This concept is based on a number of principles. The most important among those principles is increasing the choices of the people, giving them job opportunities to earn a living, protecting the rights of citizens, aiming at sustainable development and linking up the geographic regions for present and future generations. The second concept is related to the new concept of the modern state and its role in the economic and social life. It includes a number of issues such as participation of the private sector, activation of the market mechanisms and horizontal participation by the civil society in all development efforts.

In the field of International Political Relationships: Among the major new developments in this field are:

1. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region.
2. The domination of a unipolar political system on international relationships.
3. The possibility of military intervention by the United Nations forces to resolve regional conflicts.
4. The continued conflict between major powers with respect over oil, of which a vast proportion is concentrated in the GCC States and a few other countries in the region.
5. The growing political and economic role of some countries and

unions.

6. The consequences of the large countries < policies towards the area, in addition to the developments in the Middle East peace process.

International Economic Relations:

Among the major developments in this field are: formation of regional economic blocs; the growing tendency towards globalization of the economy, which includes liberalization of international trade and investment within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO); abandoning centralized planning, adopting decentralized planning, establishing a free market economy and developing economics and technological capacities of the newly industrialized nations.

Among the major developments of this phase are: the continued scientific and technological revolution and its applications, including those in the field of information technology and growing importance of earmarking expenditure on scientific research. The repercussions of these successive revolutionary changes on the vocational structures of manpower and the rate of unemployment in all sectors of the economy are significant. In addition, successive developments in the field of communications and information have had a great impact on the economic and social facets in various countries. Furthermore, the presence of performance flaws in some of the international financial systems along with their consequences that hit the international finance which have been extended to be a monetary and economically collapse, were one of the other features of the recent period.

No doubt, these challenges constitute the objective basis for the GCC states, in light of which, they can form strategies to address these challenges in the first quarter of the 21st century. Similarly, on the same basis, the GCC states can invest all their achievements made through the development efforts since 1981. This would lead to consolidation of the economic, social and political bloc which is not only capable of addressing the challenges of the

next century but also of placing the GCC on a high pedestal globally.

Main Goal and Strategic Objectives:

In light of the achievements made and the challenges facing the joint action process since 1981, the optimal goal for the GCC development strategy for the period 2000-2025 can be drawn up. This main goal is embodied in the following: accomplishing sustainable and integrated development for the GCC states, effecting coordination between the activities of national development plans, imparting the necessary flexibility to serve the goals of development in each state individually and jointly at the level of the Council thereby accomplishing constant rise in the quality of life of the people in the GCC states and instilling the capacity to cope with the developments of the 21st century.

A group of strategic objectives branch out from this main goal. These objectives can be achieved by adopting long-term development plans incorporating appropriate mechanisms and actions. Below are a group of strategic objectives, which have been classified according to integrated development issues:

First: Sustainable Development:

The main strategic and integrated goal of the GCC states will be achieved within the framework of the comprehensive concept of sustainable development. Therefore, the first strategic objective is embodied in the following:

The comprehensive concept of sustainable development should be promoted over the time period in which this strategy will be implemented. This is because the concept of sustainable development stresses the fact that development is a continuous process transcending generations and that it is the outcome of human interaction with the existing resources as well the prevailing conditions that cause constant advancement of society and

increases the efficient use of human, material and technological resources.

That requires adopting the following approaches:

1. Optimal utilization of the available resources and allocation of human and material resources in an appropriate manner.
2. Deriving maximum benefit from the technical capabilities and adapting their use for promoting growth and enhancing human capacities.
3. enhancing understanding of the modern functions of government, which ensure sustainable development and adopting policies that ensure economic and social stability and performance in terms of development.
4. Participation of all community institutions in the development process and seriously handling the options and priorities.
5. Developing the institutional capacities and creating a good environment for the general economic and social policies.
6. Emphasizing correlations between productive work, consumption patterns and development of human resources .
7. Participation of the work force in productive economic activities and guaranteeing their rights and constantly rehabilitating and training them for the job market.
8. Activating the market forces (demand and supply) and safeguarding the fundamentals of free market.
9. Emphasizing the importance of consumer protection.
10. Economic reform and combating financial and administrative corruption.
11. Activating the governance mechanisms and e systems in management of the development in the GCC states.
12. Developing policies and the programs which aimed at achieving food security.

2. Ensuring adequate water resources for development needs:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

1. Developing non-conventional alternatives for treatment of water resources in order to attain self-sufficiency in meeting development needs.

2. Utilizing advanced technologies for management of water resources.
3. Providing adequate resources for alternative energy to meet development needs, as well as the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

1. Increasing the contribution of the renewable resources as sources of energy.
2. Considering all renewable energy sources especially, solar, wind, and biomass energy in labs, research and developments centers.
3. Making available of renewable energy services especially in rural areas.
4. Protection of environment and control of the impacts of climate changes:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

- 4.1 Interating environmental criteria in development policies and plans.
- 4.2 Giving consideration to the issue of global warming in the GCC and national development policies.

Second – Security and Defense Issues:

The strategic objectives for addressing these issues aimas at achieving self-sufficiency in meeting the security and defense needs Of the GCC development process.

Third – Economic Issues:

Strategic objectives related to these issues require the following:

1. Achieving integrated economic partnership:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

- 1.1 Member States shall, individually and collectively, establish partnership between the Government and all community institutions to finance the development projects specified by the development plans and the public budgets of each Member State.

2.1 Removing all barriers impeding Intra-GCC movement of economic resources.

3.1 According the natural as well as legal GCC citizens the same national treatment accorded to the citizens of a member state in all economic activities.

4.1 Enhancing and reinforcing Intra-GCC-trade.

2. Eliminating the sources of vulnerability from the economic environment of the GCC states:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

2.1 Intensive investment in the non-oil manufacturing activities in order to reduce the dominance of the single source of income.

2.2 Extending and enhancing capacity of local economies and achieving integration between external and local economy of the GCC states.

2.3 Adopting suitable sectorial strategies, which serve the objectives of comprehensive development in the GCC states.

3. Deriving maximum benefit from infrastructure facilities as they are principal ingredients of development in the manufacturing sector:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

3. 1. Deriving optimum benefit from suspended or unexploited energy by utilizing the infrastructure facilities like, energy - generation stations, water desalination plants, ports and means of transportation , communication and information.

3. 2. Completing interlinking of the infrastructure network among the GCC states; especially in the field of electricity, transportation communication and information.

4. Establishing large-scale economy GCC projects, as these projects are capable of penetrating into the international markets. They grow by making

individual and collective profit and they have the capacity for technical and scientific applications. Alternative utilization of oil resources must be also considered.

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

4.1. Adopting standards, which strengthen the negotiating and competitive position of the GCC states in the world markets and make them standard bearers of technology and capitalism.

4.2. Laying down the priorities for setting up joint projects in a manner that they hinge around two types of projects. The first type caters to the demands of manufacturing import alternatives and the second enhances export capacity and attraction of GCC and foreign capital, provided should be raised so that it imparts the power to achieve high value-addition and leads to the harnessing of the local natural resources to the optimum. In addition, modern manufacturing technology should be used. There should be a production inter-link and national manpower should be employed.

4.3. Undertaking joint projects in the services sector side by side with the manufacturing sector with emphasis on achieving a competitive edge.

4.4 Adopting best international practices for development of industry.

5. Establishing small-size projects based on appropriate foundations, which will fulfill the objectives of integration between the large-scales projects and reinforces the local economic network within each GGC state and between them:

Achieving this objective requires adoption of the following approaches:

5.1. Adopting appropriate mechanisms for financing. For example, instituting joint funds for financing the private institutions in the GCC states.

5.2. Imparting training to the GGC youth on entrepreneurship.

5.3. Reliance on local production inputs in the small-size enterprises.

5.4. Extending the bridges of cooperation with developed and friendly countries in order to benefit from their experience in managing such

enterprises especially in terms of choosing production methods and devising appropriate marketing strategies.

Fourth – Issues Related to Technical and Scientific Capacity Building

The strategic objective related to these issues includes: building an advanced scientific, technological and information data base, which imparts the economies of the GCC states with increased capacity to diversify and broaden the choices of development and lends the integration efforts a competitive capacity in relation to the economic, regional and global blocs.

This objective can be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

1. Adopting a new strategic vision to fill up national knowledge gap across GCC States.
2. Establishing and supporting institutions that link components of education, research and development, on the hand, and goods and services production on the other hand, and enhance GCC innovations.
3. Giving up the conventional patterns of transfer of technology like visitant and borrowed technology. Instead, transfer of technology should be done on contract basis or it should be bought.
4. Adopting a joint technical and scientific strategy that completes the objectives of comprehensive development. This should be coupled with modernization of the relevant mechanisms.
5. Raising the efficiency of the scientific and research institutions and ensuring that they have adequate facilities; and restructuring the scientific research institutions so that they are able to promote excellence, competition and advancement; and encourage innovation and discovery, thus increasing the number of researchers and scientists.
6. Adopting the various means that take the knowledge base and scientific and technical capacities to the level of excellence, thereby giving the GCC states a competitive edge in the world.
7. Allocating increased funds for scientific researches developments and

general research activities. There should be an appropriate system of incentives to encourage the contribution of the private sector in these outlays. Research activities should be rationalized so as to avoid duplication in conducting research. The results of the research activities should be circulated to the concerned institutions in the GCC states.

8. . Considering education and training to be the main mechanisms for capacity building, making the required advancement of syllabi and the systems for training and increasing opportunities for technical education.

9 Developing mechanisms to attain interconnection between research activities in the scientific and economic institutions and making it easy to utilize the results and the technology that have been locally developed.

10. Establishing specialist scientific and technical institutions to deal with oil and gas resources.

11 Developing mechanisms to protect infant technology and benefit from transferred technology.

12. Building developed and integrated information bases and creating the most efficient ways to profit from them in all fields of development. There should be computer inter-link between the various information bases.

13. Deriving maximum benefit from the global developments taking place in the field of information technology and increasing investment in this field because it is one of the pillars of economic development and diversification of the productive bases belonging to the GCC states.

Fifth – the Issue of Regional and International Economic Relations:

The strategic objective of the regional and international economic relations is to enhance the GCC economic integration objectives represented in broadening and deepening the market, increasing efficiency in the local economies and strengthening their capacity to negotiate and to compete in the foreign markets.

This objective can be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

1. Deepening the bonds of cooperation with the Arab and Islamic

countries as they lend strategic depth to all aspects of sustainable development in the GCC states and constitute the necessary support base in interaction with the international blocs.

2. Coordinating the import-export policies from and to the international markets as well as pursuing the policy of transfer of technology from these markets.

3. Increasing export industries and ensuring an increasing share of the GCC States in the conventional markets of their trading partners, and endeavoring to seek new markets.

4. Developing and harmonizing trade and investment laws and regulatory rules thereof..

5. Organizing more joint exhibitions and encouraging establishment of export promoting companies.

6. Establishing economic partnerships between the GCC States and the other world countries and economic groupings.

Sixth – Social Issues:

The strategic objective in the field of social development under this strategy is to enhance all aspects of social development such as training, education, health and intellectual and cultural development as well as integration of social care programs with a view to maintaining growing levels of welfare and high rates of human output in all fields of life.

This objective shall be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

1. Restructuring the institutions systems and programs for intellectual and cultural development in order to advance every dimension of culture which includes scientific know-how technology concepts, moral and religious values as well as values that foster a sense of belonging and loyalty.

2. Effecting suitable changes in the balance of activities acquired over the past developmental decades as these changes have positive impact on thought and behavior as well as on the pattern of spending and consumption.

3. Fostering the values of self-dependence and participation in all

professions and integrated civilization areas.

4. Providing GCC citizens with the capacity, to assimilate the latest developments in the field of science, technology, and culture as well as the ability to adapt these developments for national needs and employ them for preservation of social and moral constants.

5. Introducing necessary changes in the philosophy of educational and training systems, scientific research and contents of syllabi so as to attain the goals of sustainable development and bring about improvement in all forms of human behavior as well as enhancement of innovative capacities of the GCC citizens.

6. Continuing to paying due attention to the role of woman in society in all aspects of society and economy and reiterating her key role in the familial educational process.

7. Continuing of provision of preventive health care and treatment and rehabilitation and developing its programs.

8. Developing social health care and preventive measures programs to protect some social groups. These programs include unemployment insurance and to continue the social welfare programs for special groups in the society such as the elderly, the poor, the orphans and those with disabilities and others.

Seventh – Population and Manpower Issues:

This objective can be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

Seeking comprehensive treatment of demographic issues and human resources and correcting the imbalance in the population work force composition in the GCC states with a view to achieving demographic and social homogeneity and enhancing productivity and efficiency of the GCC citizens.

This objective can be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

1. Adopting population policies 2. Adopting effective modern appropriate methodologies for the development and management of human

resources and increasing their efficiency and productivity.

3. Continuing programs for national manpower substitution and activating these programs in all GCC States taking into consideration productive capacity and efficiency in performance.

4. Increasing the level of women participation in the workforce.

5. Restructuring the systems and concepts related to educational and training institutions so that they meet the needs of the development activities by employing national labor in all professions in the private sector.

6. Instilling the values of self-dependence in the citizens of the GCC states in order to access labor market.

7. Creating appropriate integrated investment climate that ensures GCC citizens of suitable opportunities to achieve their initiatives and projects in all GCC states.

Eighth – Issues related to the Media:

The strategic objective of media issues is to ensure support by GCC citizens to the GCC integration objectives and policies between the GCC states, and providing opportunities to the citizens to participate in assessing the integrative efforts and to achieve balanced benefit from its outputs. This objective can be achieved by adopting the following approaches:

1. Providing quality media programs and advancing the media in terms of approach and content in order to generate awareness about ways to deal with the current stage of development in an informed and conscientious manner. Joint media programs should also be presented.

2. Raising awareness on a regular basis on the importance of integrated development issues and their positive impact on the GCC citizens. Awareness should also be raised about problems facing the joint action. Participation of the citizen should be sought in soliciting proposals and suggestions to solve those problems.

3. Motivating the private sector to increase its participation in media issues with a view to giving momentum to the modern intellectual cohesion,

which is capable of bolstering the development aspirations in the GCC states and facing the challenges posed by global changes in these fields as well as reinforcing its position.

Mechanisms for Implementing the Strategy:

Indeed, the most important institutional mechanism to implement the proposed strategy falls within the GCC Secretariat and the bodies and committees thereof especially the Unified Economic Agreement and the resolutions taken at the successive sessions of the Supreme Council.

The following are additional mechanisms for the implementation of the strategy.

1. Recognizing the Planning Agencies in the GCC states as the main mechanisms for activating the fields of joint action and development efforts and follow-up of those efforts.
2. Creating non-conventional institutional mechanisms to deal with long term development issues, mainly the issues of technological development, transfer of technology, and alternative uses of oil, management of the water balance, information and human resources.
3. Establishing and modernizing sectorial strategies to be compatible with the latest developments.
4. Adopting modern developments in administrative practices, information systems and the means of communication.
5. Creating media inter-link between the GCC states and concentrating on the impact of the integrated development strategy on the media programs in all the GCC states.
6. Enhancing legislations, laws and resolutions, which are incompatible with efforts aimed at achieving the strategic objectives over the next phase.
7. The GCC states shall take those aspects of this strategy, which suit their priorities, capacities and needs in a manner that it serves the process of joint action between them.

8. The Secretariat General shall, in cooperation with the concerned entities, hold workshops, scientific seminars and symposia with a view to achieving objectives of this strategy. It shall also consult and coordinate with regard to drawing up policies and programs necessary for implementing the provisions of this strategy.

9. The Planning and Development Committee shall review this strategy on a regular basis to ensure that it copes with the local, regional and international developments.

