

1 – Sustainable development of historical and heri- tage locations in Iraq

التممية المستدامة للمواقع التاريخية والتراثية في العراق



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Abstract:

Preserving and sustaining the cultural heritage is a fundamental goal of civilized countries, and since Iraq was a center of ancient civilizations, its land embraces archaeological and heritage sites of great human and cultural importance, and it has the credit

for the progress of humanity. Because of the large number of these sites, Iraq must work to preserve its legacy and work to achieve sustainable development for them, work to protect them from risks, and create a local community that participates in the sustainable development process.

Keywords: sustainable development, heritage, Iraq

الملخص:

من المعروف أن التراث في العراق يعيش حالة من الصراع مع الجديد الذي يظهر ويحاول أن يجد له مكاناً في حقائق الحياة، ومع الأسف فإن ميزان الصراع أخذ يميل الى جانب الجديد الذي يحاول أن يزحزح القديم من مكانه ليحتله إيماناً منه أن ما يطرحه هو المناسب في الظروف الزماني من أجل اللحاق بركب التقدم الحاصل في العالم، الامر الذي سبب إصابة الموروث الحضاري بالإهمال.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمية المستدامة، التراث، العراق.

Introduction:

The world today strives to preserve and sustain the cultural heritage, because this is an essentially and pivotal matter in its strategy. And since Iraq is a country of civilizations, its land embraces archaeological and heritage locations of great human and civilizational importance and to be surplus with progressing humanity. Because of the large number of these locations, Iraq must work to preserve its heritage and achieve sustainable development according to the scientific methods Sequenced globally, by constructive national capacities capable of implementing such development, and protect it from dangers, and creating a historically educated local community to participate in

the sustainable development process. Part of which is achieved in activating the tourism promotion of historical and heritage locations, with the need for there to be a conscious policy in the field of urban planning, which must be inspired by the historical and heritage spirit in its patterns, and not affect the sanctity of those locations.

From this point of view, we will try to research how to achieve sustainable development for the historical and heritage locations in Iraq.

First: What is sustainable development?

The concept of development has become one of the prevailing concepts in our time, and through its many definitions, it affirms that development aims at man, his environment, his culture, and the development of his social conditions in order to exploit all the resources devoted to him . (1)

With the many definitions that compete with each other, they all mean that “the development of compatibility between environmental, economic and social development combines the three dimensions, and is economically effective, socially just and environmentally feasible. (2)

That is, development that respects natural resources and eco-

(1) **OSAMA ABDUL MAJEED AL-ANI, Islam and Sustainable Human Development: A Comparison of Objectives and Resources**, research published in Studies in Sustainable Human Development in the Arab World, BAYAT ALHIKMA, AL-MATBAA AL-ARBIAA, 2001, p. 151; SABAH BOKJAJI, Speech of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, published in the book Human Development in the Arab World, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, 1995, pp. 36-37

(2) SALAH ABDUL HASSAN, the conceptual framework used in the processes of measuring sustainable human development and determining its levels, research published in the book Studies in Sustainable Human Development in the Arab World, House of Wisdom, Baghdad, 2001, p. 85.

systems, supports life on Earth, and ensures the economic aspect, taking into account the social goal, which is manifested in combating poverty, unemployment, inequality and the search for justice .⁽¹⁾

Second: The importance of sustainable development of historical and heritage locations :

In this axis, we will talk about the place of history and heritage in the countries of the world. It is his cultures and civilization, and it is a basic link between the population. Therefore, there must be strong ties between the historical and heritage components and the development process in order to form a solid base to get out of poverty and backwardness and reach progress and prosperity. The development that we dream of It must be in consideration of the cultural dimension, because heritage and historical locations are a non-renewable source that is subject to extinction, so care must be taken for them by all standards.⁽²⁾

Third: International agreements and sustainable development of historical and heritage locations in Iraq:

Among the most important international treaties in preserving heritage are the Hague Treaties of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Convention of 1949 with two protocols, and the Hague Treaty of 1954 and its two protocols. Taken together, these treaties address the danger of the four threats to cultural heritage, namely,

(1) ISSA MAIZAH and SUMAYAA CHAKIRI, Urban Heritage Sustainability, Arab Scientific Heritage Magazine, first issue, 2017, p. 26.

(2)- MAHDI MUSTAFA AL-HADI, the word of the Arab League published in the book Human Development in the Arab World, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, 1995, p. 28; ISSA MAIZAH and SUMAYAA CHAKIRI, op.cit, pp. 29-31; SALAH ABDUL HASSAN, op.cit, pp. 86-90.

willful attack, accidental destruction, pillage and theft. ⁽¹⁾

It is necessary to refer to the Iraqi efforts to benefit from these international legislation in mentioning the findings of the International Coordination Committee for the Protection of Heritage in Iraq with UNESCO and the relevant Iraqi authorities, which reached a number of recommendations in order to preserve the historical, cultural and urban heritage, which were represented in:- Assisting the Iraqi Ministry of Culture in reforming its institutions and improving its capacity, training its cadres and assisting it in establishing relationships and preparing mechanisms for cooperation with international partners for the rehabilitation of the National Library, the National Archives and other libraries, and providing assistance to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture to reconsider national legislation related to cultural heritage, as well as libraries and archives, and providing assistance to the Iraqi Museum in order to prepare a comprehensive plan for protection, as well as the application of science related to museums in order to increase the Iraqi national capacity in research, documentation and preservation of cultural heritage, and assistance in preparing a national program for registration, documentation, evaluation and demarcation of historical and archaeological sites and elements of urban heritage with Proposal to establish a national official registry, and a plan for heritage protection and preservation In addition to preparing plans for the protection and

(1) RAOUF MOHAMMED ALI AL-ANSARI, *Tourism in Iraq and its Role in Development and Reconstruction*, 2nd Edition, Iraqi Publishers Union, Baghdad, 2013, p. 59; ISSA MAIZAH and SUMAYAA CHAKIRI, op. cit., pp. 35-36; SALAH ABDUL HASSAN, op.cit, pp. 76-80; UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization that works to promote, identify and protect cultural and natural heritage. See:- The official website of the UNESCO office in Iraq: <http://www.unesco.org/new/ar/iraq-office>

promotion of the intangible aspects of the Iraqi cultural heritage, with the need to coordinate with the International Labor Organization and the International Relief, on a bilateral or multiple basis ⁽¹⁾

Fourth: Obstacles to the sustainable development of historical and heritage locations in Iraq.

One of the most prominent obstacles to development is the view of history and heritage as being at a lower level in the hierarchy of priorities, as it is given secondary importance with care, because all efforts are directed towards addressing the security situation and various service, Therefore, it is necessary to raise the ceiling of attention to history and heritage and to view them as a spiritual and civilized need, because this is an indispensable requirement ⁽²⁾

It is known that the civilizational heritage in Iraq is in a state of conflict with the new that appears and is trying to find a place for it in the realities of life. Unfortunately, the balance of conflict has begun to tilt towards the new, which is trying to displace the old from its place to occupy it, believing that what he presents is appropriate in The temporal circumstance in order to catch up with the progress taking place in the world, the cultural heritage was neglected.

Therefore, we will try to search for the causes that stand against achieving sustainable development for the historical and heritage locations in Iraq, which can be summarized as follows:

(1) Ibid.

(2) Ibid, p. 55

1 – The success of sustainable development requires addressing the risks of scientific and technological backwardness, as building human capacities and building production bases is based on investment in scientific and technological development, so efforts must be made by the state or the private sector to achieve that goal ⁽¹⁾

2 – Development efforts in Iraq in recent decades revealed the extent of the importance of the cultural dimension in development. Values and culture constitute the heritage of society and the elements it contains of renewal, some of which are rapidly changing, such as patterns of organization, aspirations and strategies for living and survival, which sometimes respond simultaneously to the needs of the population. Survival, patterns of social and economic organization, knowledge, creativity, and mutual contacts between culture and behavior, such as commercial exchanges and consumption patterns, while others are long-term variables, but reach the level of constants, including traditions and beliefs, consistency of values, social, family, legal, moral and spiritual standards, institutions and structures of power, patterns of life, thinking, production and other forms intangible heritage. To advance development and development from the perspective of sustainable development to sustainable development. ⁽²⁾

(1)- AMAL AL-SHALASH, Sustainable Human Development: The General Perspective and the Privacy Perspective, research published in the book Studies on Sustainable Human Development in the Arab World, BAYAT AL-HIKMA, Baghdad, 2001, p. 31; HAMID AL-SAADOUN, Political Development and Modernization in the Third World, Amman, Memory for Publishing and Distribution, 2011, pp. 24-43.

(2) – AMAL SHALASH, same reference., pp. 31-32; GEORGE AL-QASABI, Human development, a critical review of the concept and content, published in the book Human Development in the Arab World, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, 1995, pp. 92-93

3 – The lack of strengthening the international mechanisms for managing the global antiquities present in Iraq. (1)

4–The lack of strong cooperation between civil society organizations and non–official forces to play their role in order to direct the necessary and effective care to those sites in Iraq.(2)This means giving way to civil society forces to expand participation and stimulate community initiatives, and this does not mean that the state abandons its role in development. (3)

5– The lack of a tendency to benefit from the initiatives of donating people in local communities everywhere and to enhance synergy in the measures taken by the international community, the private sector and the government. (4)

6– The absence of technologies and methods of environmentally sustainable development, and the provision of incentives in order not to create damage to the environment. (5)

7– Absence of what is appropriate to the subject of care on the part of decision–makers and economic policy–makers . (6)

8–The absence of real attention to studies and research related to the sustainable development of historical and heritage sites in Iraq, as well as the absence of Iraqi scientific competencies known for their scientific standing and experience in administrative positions that have the reins of decision–making.

Fifth: – Ways to achieve sustainable development of the

(1) OSAMAH ABDUL MAJEED AL–ANI, op.cit, p. 154.

(2) Ibid .

(3) AMAL SHALASH, op.cit, p. 29.

(4) Ibid .

(5) Ibid .

(6) ALI ABD MOHAMMED SAEED AL–RAWAI, op.cit, 181 p.

historical and heritage locations in Iraq

It must be believed that development is a human right, especially human rights in permanence and survival and economic, social and cultural rights ⁽¹⁾. In addition, the cultural heritage in countries with a civilized history cannot be replaced by anything else. This applies to Iraq, which represents a national historical and cultural figure. Heritage and history are a continuous wealth for the country, because oil is subject to depletion in the future, unlike tourism, agriculture, industry and services, they remain, and it is possible that they may be the basic rules of the Iraqi economy, and according to what was issued by the World Heritage Fund, Iraq will become the most important tourist and cultural destination in the Middle East Because of its geographical location and its historical and religious position, second after Egypt, and in order to benefit from these data, Iraq must strictly protect its cultural heritage, otherwise Iraq will lose one of the most important sources of its economic power in the future. ⁽²⁾

From this point of view and in order to achieve sustainable development of historical and heritage locations, it is necessary to take into consideration the most important ways to achieve sustainable development of historical and heritage sites in Iraq as follows:

- 1- Building a strategy: This strategy must be scientifically planned and based on specific foundations, by forming advisory committees that work diligently and diligently in order to implement

(1) BASIL YOUSIF, Human rights as a conceptual reference for human development, research published in the book Studies on Sustainable Human Development in the Arab World, House of Wisdom, 2001, p. 71.

(2) RAOUF MOHAMMED ALI AL-ANSARI, op.cit, 56-57.

the outline of that strategy.⁽¹⁾

- 2- Benefiting from the global support for Iraqi history and heritage, because preserving the Iraqi heritage will be of importance to other countries of the world, because its land is the first cradle of civilizations that provided mankind with varieties of knowledge, science, arts, literature and law, as well as the three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam have historical commonalities in Many locations from Iraq. ⁽²⁾
- 3- Implementing the laws related to the construction of modern buildings in the old areas of a historical and heritage nature, including the areas surrounding the holy shrines.
- 4- Issuing laws that define historical and heritage areas and ancient cities to protect and preserve them, and forming committees specialized in following up their preservation.
- 5- Providing support to civil society organizations concerned with preserving historical and heritage sites to play their role in society.
- 6- Issuing immediate laws to remove industrial uses, storage and other economic activities outside the historical and heritage sites and old cities that do not fit with their status.
- 7- The role of the awareness media to work on the concerted efforts of the government and society to spread the culture of protecting and preserving heritage and considering the sanctity of history.
- 8- Allowing the private sector to manage some facilities of a

(1) RAOUF MOHAMMED ALI AL-ANSARI, op.cit, 134-140.

(2) Ibid , p. 57.

public and local nature alongside the state, and that sector must have specific characteristics and considerations, for example, that the private sector undertakes that from the residents of those facilities and by their choice, and that he enjoys a position that qualifies him to take over those facilities. The secretariat, and the involvement of the private sector will give the state an opportunity to devote itself to taking care of the utilities of a national dimension, because the participation of the population in the development program will be a key element in the success of the sustainable development scheme. ⁽¹⁾

9 – Providing job opportunities because the rehabilitation of historical and heritage monuments and old cities will be one of the reasons for economic recovery, as it provides job opportunities for many who suffer from unemployment and increases the vitality of the city. wheel of economic progress.

10 – Providing an education system that develops the spirit of national identity and a sense of historical responsibility towards the historical and civilizational depth in our country ⁽²⁾. Therefore, the Ministry of Education must adopt a policy of creating pride in the history and heritage of Iraq among school students since the first stages of education. It creates a conscious generation that possesses a mentality that realizes the moral and material value of those sites. Therefore, we see reforming education systems as one of the main fundamentals in changing cultural misconceptions and behavior in a way that contributes to the achievement of what helps in a real awareness of the current

(1) Ibid , p. 140.

(2) HAMID AL-SAADOUN, op.cit, pp. 96-97.

changes in our society and the world, in addition to the fact that achieving these variables according to their positive trends will have an impact on achieving development. For those sites that are sustainable, it is necessary to adopt an honest and sober national campaign to eliminate historical ignorance of the precious value of our civilizational heritage . (1)

11 –It is necessary to develop religious, historical and heritage locations and work to highlight their features in a decent appearance through taking care of Islamic architecture because of its impact on tourism prosperity, developing feelings of self-esteem, awareness and developing high-end architectural traditions, because they are living arts and effective in their material and moral impact (2). To achieve this, it is necessary to rely on plans and scientific studies to re-plan and develop Iraqi cities, so that the additions are inspired by the designs of the wonderful religious and heritage buildings, so that these cities, especially Islamic and religious ones, turn into Islamic museums that dazzle the attention . (3)

12 – Rehabilitation of heritage buildings with the aim of preserving them, for example, making those sites government departments and tourist attractions at the same time.

13– In addition to stopping the excavation work due to the lack of the necessary conditions for its maintenance and rehabilitation .

14– The state must also intervene quickly and purchase build-

(1) Ibid, p. 97.

(2) RAOUF MOHAMMED ALI AL-ANSARI, op.cit, p. 61

(3) Ibid ., 62-63.

ings that bear the historical and heritage character to protect and preserve them from loss, because some owners resort to some illegal methods to remove those buildings that are usually in strategic and commercial locations, for the sake of economic benefit⁽¹⁾. And that the price is so attractive that it encourages everyone who has similar buildings to submit for sale to the state, and one of the results will be knowledge of the unregistered buildings, as well as the state protecting those priceless buildings, and then investing them as a museum or rehabilitating them to be a government building that combines heritage and tourism ⁽²⁾

15- By looking at the methods of preserving historical and heritage sites in Spain, we have noticed the keenness to preserve the newly discovered sites by carrying out some maintenance work for modern buildings and in order to preserve them from loss and extinction and due to the existence of an economic crisis. One of the simplest ways was to put a base of glass that Suitable for walking on hard and strong ground. I saw it in a fashionable clothing store in Granada. These antiquities remain protected until appropriate conditions are provided for exploration, research and study, and the most beautiful is the patriotic sense of the owners of the store in reporting what they found of antiquities in their workplace, and the spirit of cooperation and understanding remains in the laws and legislation in the way such cases were dealt with.

Therefore, we suggest the formation of a committee that grants

(1) Ibid .

(2) Interview with Prof. SAADI IBRAHIM AL-DARAJI, a teacher at the Heritage Revival Center and a specialist in Islamic antiquities, on 16/9/2019.

broad powers to take quick steps for protection and maintenance, as well as the use of global expertise and the formation of teams that bring together Iraqi and international experts to rehabilitate these locations.

Conclusion :

The research entitled (Sustainable development of historical and heritage locations in Iraq) reached a number of results, the most important of which are: Since Iraq is a country of civilizations rich in its historical and heritage locations, it must take the lead and be a role model in planning and implementing what is known as the sustainable development of archaeological and heritage locations. It must also be one of the active and proactive countries in its role in the conventions and treaties related to heritage and history, being the spiritual father of the human heritage in its land that is witnessed by far and near. Despite this fact, the reality tells the opposite, as Iraq needs concerted efforts from In order to protect and save its monuments and heritage, in order to preserve its heritage for present and future generations, by identifying these locations, rehabilitating them and integrating them with urban expansion without compromising their historical value.

In conclusion, there must be a comprehensive national vision that bears full responsibility, foremost of which is the selection of the competent and responsible national elements, to prepare and plan for the sustainable development of historical and heritage locations, in order to compensate for what we have missed in time and opportunities, and to realize the remaining and pre-

serve it from loss and extinction.

Especially that the general conditions that Iraq has experienced in the past years, resulting from political instability, have clearly affected the work of the institutions concerned with the issue, which have the responsibility to preserve that cultural heritage.

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