Hanafy: To Join the 4th Agricultural Revolution by Developing Digital Innovation Technologies

The Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, Dr. Khaled Hanafy, affirmed that “the main key to sustainable food security is the partnership between the public and private sectors,” noting “many Arab chambers have modified their activities to respond to the challenges of the pandemic, and are supporting the initiatives of their countries and digitizing their services, organizing workshops remotely, and providing new services, especially for small and medium enterprises.”

Hanafy’s words came during his participation in the Arab Agriculture Day held this year under the title: “Rural prosperity is a necessity to achieve food security in the Arab region in light of the Corona pandemic,” organized by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

Hanafy explained that the Union of Arab Chambers had from the beginning the issue of the repercussions of the “Covid-19” virus, especially for the tiny and medium production units, explaining that these organizations are a reliable partner for the private sector and can play a positive role in the efforts to respond to the challenges of the pandemic, especially by ensuring the stability of food prices.

Hanafy stressed that domestic production is the main solution to achieve food security in the Arab region, and that this necessitates the development of digital innovation technologies, providing services and organizing online workshops, highlighting that many Arab chambers have modified their services, organizing workshops remotely, and providing new services, especially for small and medium enterprises.

Hanafy added that, "the gap of basic food commodities is estimated at around $32 billion, most of which is concentrated in cereals (especially wheat), which constitute about 50% of the gap, followed by vegetable oil and sugar crops. On the other hand, food security is the partnership between the public and private sectors, organizing workshops remotely, and providing new services, especially for small and medium enterprises.”

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The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Global Compact have launched the “COVID-19 Private Sector Global Facility”, which is a global initiative that aims to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors to help local communities recover better from the epidemic.

Commenting on the initiative, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Thani, the Chairman of Qatar Chamber and President of ICC (Qatar) indicated that “the inauguration of the COVID-19 Private Sector Global Facility is an important step to launch the wheel of transformation and development in the countryside,” affirming that “the importance of maintaining free trade and avoiding protection measures, as there is no country

in the world that can produce all the food it needs,” therefore, interdependence and diversity remains the most reliable and most effective guarantee of food security.”

Source (Union of Arab Chambers)
President of Oman Chamber: We Will Continue our Efforts to Serve the Private Sector

The BOD of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which convened under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Council, Eng. Redha bin Juma Al Saleh, and in the presence of the members, discussed the date of the Chamber’s General Assembly meeting, during which it was agreed to set a date for the next Sunday, October 18.

During the meeting, it was emphasized to continue and strengthen efforts to advance the service of the private sector and raise its contribution to the national product. In its meeting, the Council approved the extension of the decision to exempt renewal fees for expiring companies for an additional 3 months, until the end of this year, which comes from the Chamber’s concern and its observance of the current conditions that the private sector is going through due to the outbreak of the new Coronavirus (Covid-19), as the decision stipulated that the collection of fees should be for only one year of total years of delay, plus renewal for the current year.

The meeting discussed a number of private sector issues of economic concern, which are represented in the issue of the lack of liquidity and the challenges that this issue causes, and what are the solutions presented at the present time, as well as the challenges facing the private sector that have to do with the labor market, which will be submitted to the competent authorities. The Council also discussed the challenges and needs of the private sector, which are monitored during field visits organized by the Council in the governorates, which aim in their entirety to revive the private sector in the governorates by finding appropriate solutions in cooperation and coordination with government and private agencies in a manner commensurate with the nature of each governorate.

Source (Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Edited)