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The report *A profile of sustainable human development in Lebanon* seeks to assemble a factual picture of various aspects bearing on the life of people in the country and reviews related national policies and their relevance to the achievement of sustainable human development.

The report consists of four chapters. The first defines and explores the sustainable human development concept, both at the general level and in the Lebanese context; and, reviews the human development performance at the national level. The second chapter deals with the evolution of the economy since the early 1970s and with the government plans for reconstruction and development; the former includes a review of the effects of the war period and the action towards economic stabilization in the first half of the 1990s. Chapter three consists of a review and analysis of sectors, thematic areas and situation of key social groups in relation to sustainable human development, covered in twelve sections: poverty, safety nets, labor, foreign labor, housing, health, education, women, youth, children, displaced and environment. The fourth and last chapter examines the subject of social capital formation as it relates to sustainable human development; it also contains an analytical review of the elements forming the social fabric and their respective roles, and of the relevance of political and democratic involvement in building social capabilities; the chapter concludes by suggesting potential areas for action to achieve this purpose.

The data presented in the report has been drawn from both original sources and topical studies, and however imperfect represents the best currently available. In keeping with the sustainable human development approach, as enunciated in the literature published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the subject, qualitative aspects of development are also reviewed.

A new approach

Lebanon is in the phase of reconstitution of its political, economic and social structures and institutions, following a long period of instability and violence which started in 1975 and ended in October 1990. This aspect imparts special importance to the choice of forms and content by which development manifests itself so as to render it more than an act of mere replacement of what was in place previously.

In this sense, development cannot be a recapturing of the past, no matter how much this past was synonymous with prosperity. It needs to be rather a forward-looking endeavor and laying of foundations to meet future challenges. Hence, the urgent need to draw lessons, both positive and negative, of the past and to put them to good advantage. In addition to dealing with the effects and consequences of war, the national development strategy must rectify structural imbalances which have developed over time and prepare to confront current and future challenges, at both regional and global levels.

Development - sustainable human development - is viewed in the report as a process which aims to expand people's choices and enable them to participate in decisions that affect their lives and well-being, in a manner that responds to their ambitions and expectations. The concept thus formulated is based on four essential components: productivity, social justice, sustainability and, participation and empowerment of both individuals and groups; the latter component is novel and

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essential to the approach to development.

Sustainable human development is predicated on a forward-looking vision, and on a new approach and mechanisms for dealing with problems of development that have people at their core, both as a means and as an end. It combines a long-term strategy with programmes that deal with temporary and urgent issues. In this sense, development is viewed as a process embracing all facets and levels of human and social endeavor. It is important that the new paradigm of development be put in practice.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator of development which provides a good measure of performance. According to the HDI, Lebanon ranks in the middle of the medium human development category (UNDP 1996 Human Development Report). This position is explained by the effect of war on per capita income, which will take a considerable time to recover. The social indicators of the index were relatively unaffected by war, and in this respect the country has remained at a relatively high level, particularly when compared to neighboring countries. To improve the measurement of development performance of the country, there is an urgent need for data development (in priority national accounts data and basic surveys). This will also enable the formulation of a country-specific index to seize the particularities of the country and of a gender-sensitive human development index, as well as a human development index at sub-national level to measure regional differences.

The economic dimension occupies thus a prominent place in this process, especially in the circumstances of Lebanon. Sustainable development will not be possible without achieving strong economic growth and high levels of productivity to meet the growing needs of the population. International experience confirms a strong link between economic development and human development; indeed, there can be no sustainable economic development without human development, and vice versa. Yet, according to this perception, economic growth on its own is a necessary but not sufficient condition for sustained development.

Assets and Opportunities for Development

1. End of war and re-establishment of civil peace

The conclusion of the Taif Accord of 1989 brought an end to violence and destruction and led to the re-establishment of security, ensuring the safety of citizens. People could, once more, move freely and interact with each other, having been confined within segmented areas during the war period. The state was able to regain its functions which had been confiscated during the war. Democratic process was reestablished and is being strengthened.

In the first years following the war the authorities also prepared for reconstruction which initially has concentrated on the rehabilitation of the infrastructure as the necessary basis for relaunching the economy.

2. Strong fundamentals of the society and economy

Since independence in 1943, Lebanon - a multi-cultural society, organized mainly on sectarian basis - has been characterized by large public freedoms, which have given it a distinctive position that made it a haven in the region, a place where different ideas, currents and trends can be exposed and interact. This is reflected in civil society, the composition of which is particularly diverse and the activities of

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which are rather well developed; and which is endowed with considerable potential.

The country is governed as a parliamentary democracy with authority concentrated in the center. A strong central role is necessary for local government to function and develop smoothly. The organization of elections at different levels is indicative of the re-establishment of democratic process.

Economic life is organized under a liberal economic system with a high degree of openness. With an economic tradition and environment favorable to private investment, individual initiative and entrepreneurship have made the private sector the dominant force in the economy. To this should be added the advantage inherent in the network of Lebanese emigrants - individuals and economic entities - in different parts of the world. These constitute invaluable human, economic and moral assets that can contribute to the development of the country. The benefits that these positive features could bring to the process of development should be fully incorporated in the national development strategy and policies.

These attributes, which were important elements in the country's economic and cultural prosperity in the past, and which survived the war, constitute an important source of strength for Lebanon to draw on in its efforts to rebuild the country and revive the economy.

3. Remarkable initial recovery

The war and its consequences notwithstanding, the economy was able to withstand, and adapt itself to, the variety of pressures to which it was exposed. Developments in recent years indicate that the country has regained economic initiative and vitality in more than one area.

The policy of exchange-based economic stabilization has been successful since 1993. It has gradually restored and strengthened confidence of the business community in the economy. The exchange rate was stabilized and on a year-to-year basis has been slightly appreciating. Inflation has been brought under control. The rate of dollarization was reduced significantly. A high rate of growth was achieved during the 1993-1995 period (7.1 percent per year). Sustained large capital inflows have more than offset the persistent deficit on the current account of the balance of payments. The capacity of the banking and financial services sector was safeguarded and is being re-established in priority, as a pivot for the regional role which the country aspires to. In the latter connection, an open system of education and information and relatively advanced health and engineering services sectors are other assets of the country.

The first phase of reconstruction and development, namely the rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure, initiated in a significant manner in 1993, has been completed and has largely re-established normal operations of public services. This performance has been facilitated by the Council for Development and Reconstruction, the public institution entrusted with planning, mobilization of external finance, and with overseeing that the implementation of reconstruction and development conforms to international standards. The steps which have been completed in reconstruction and development constitute an encouraging start of a long-term process which will extend over a generation. The progress which has been achieved so far is - by comparison with international experience - remarkable and allows optimism as to the success of the ongoing programmes.

4. Human resources and institutions for development

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People are the main asset of Lebanon. The country, in general, does not suffer from scarcity of skills and qualifications, except for technical and semi-skilled manpower. The relative abundance of human resources provides a real possibility for the country to forge ahead with development in the economic, social and cultural fields, especially that the potential in terms of human, construction and supply capabilities - including public, private and civil society institutions - is sufficiently large and adaptable to cover the basic needs, when used properly and in a complementary manner.

Hundreds of non-governmental organizations and institutions are active in the social welfare and development fields in the different regions. These organizations and institutions were able to confront war-related problems and to respond in an efficient manner to urgent needs of the population in emergency situations. They attract thousands of young volunteers - men and women - which form a large pool that can be drawn upon to promote development. There is a need, however, to shift from relief and social welfare to developmental activities and to improve programmes and methods of work.

The information media, characterized by dynamism, multiplicity and high standard, constitute an important developmental resource, with respect to the role they can play in mobilizing and educating public opinion for development.

5. Framework for national recovery and development

The Horizon 2000 plan (1995-2007) is the framework for the country's reconstruction and development effort, incorporating overall objectives that fall within the broad aim of achieving sustainable economic development, and focusing on the rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure and the rebuilding of institutional capabilities. Strategic options and priorities of recovery reflect the competing claims of the many complex burdens of the past, and the challenges of the future. The plan is flexible and the approach is dynamic, in that priorities and project implementation are adjusted in accordance with the availability of financing and changes in various other parameters.

The formulation of integrated sectoral planning frameworks, which incorporate both physical investment and capacity development in terms of policy making, standard setting, monitoring and enforcement, and reform and development of public institutions, including human resources, would further enhance efficiency and impact. Action at this level would also address the development of planning and coordination capabilities of line ministries.

The ongoing efforts to build the physical, institutional, and legal frameworks must be accelerated. Good progress has been made in the financial field; as a result, the country has succeeded in securing from public and private sources the necessary financial resources to start the reconstruction process. A number of initiatives have been taken to promote and establish public-private partnerships.

The strategic vision of the country's recovery plans is based on placing Lebanon back on the map and recovering a regional and international role. This approach implies building the necessary capacity to participate in the global economy. To recover a regional and international role, two important and favourable factors are the space for multicultural interaction, on the one hand, and an extensive network of Lebanese presence abroad, both individuals and institutions, on the other.

Challenges of Sustainable Human Development

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The war which Lebanon endured interrupted the normal course of development and was the major cause of the deterioration in political, economic, and social conditions. The war also caused the country to fall behind with respect to the transformations that were taking place at the global and regional levels. Moreover, the recovery effort is faced with a number of deep-seated structural problems.

The burden from the past taxes the present efforts to forge ahead with development, especially at a time when regional and international circumstances are particularly challenging. The fact that the regional dimension of the country's crisis has so far remained unsolved constitutes a serious obstacle to development efforts.

Globalization and communications are setting new standards and rules of performance, to which it is imperative to adjust as soon as possible. This implies, among others, rules governing international trade and the standards exports should meet, and growing importance of private sector financing for development amidst dwindling resources of development assistance, particularly for medium-income countries.

The main challenges confronting development in the country are summarized as follows:

1. Strengthening the sustainability of economic development

Notwithstanding improvements in the overall economic situation, the economy still faces numerous difficulties, some of which are of domestic origin and others of regional and international considerations. It is evident that the improvements which have taken place so far have not yet generated the momentum of self-sustaining development. Indeed, the distance that still needs to be traveled is considerable - as may be gauged from the level of per capita GDP, which in 1995 was estimated at just over 50 percent of the 1974 level.

A major challenge concerns the ability of the country to rapidly reduce the annual public deficit and to sustain the burden of debt, which impacts on future generations; this is to be dealt with through continued proper management of debt.

The industrial and agricultural sectors have demonstrated a capacity to withstand, and adjust to, the difficulties and pressures to which they have been exposed. Development strategy should, therefore, provide the environment and incentives for these sectors to grow and to employ the returns generated to deal with poverty, rural-urban migration, and the deterioration in the environment.

2. Increasing social productivity

The war has had serious effects at different levels and aggravated social problems, as manifested in the increased incidence of relative poverty and socio-economic differentiation. It is necessary to restore in priority the basis for social cohesion and national integration and a climate propitious for development through remedying in full one of the most serious consequences of war, namely, displacement and the many problems it brought along. Some, but unsatisfactory progress has been recorded in the return of the *displaced* to their areas of origin. The process is wrought with obstacles, including inadequate resources. Payment of compensation, made in priority for evacuation, has acted as a safety net rather than as development support. The notion of the return of the displaced as a simple reverse

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process must be transformed into integrated capacity development based on achieving local potential. Increased priority is required to coordinate the provision of public services infrastructure and provision of incentives to reactivate economic, social and cultural life. Existing mechanisms for promoting reconciliation and participation are to be further strengthened and developed. "*Aidoun*", a UNDP-supported project, has provided technical support to the Ministry for the Displaced and limited support for socio-economic rehabilitation, which merits to be increased considerably.

Poverty in its absolute form is rare compared to prevalence of relative poverty. Accurate assessment is not possible until the ongoing work towards defining poverty at the national level and measuring it are completed. Recent survey results have revealed a significant discrepancy between income levels and spending needs, to the extent that a significant number of households face difficulties in meeting their basic needs. This can be explained largely by the fact that low productivity commands low wages. Considerable wage adjustments in recent years were simply not enough to catch up with the steep rises in the cost of living of earlier years. Action to increase economic productivity alone cannot remedy the situation. Strong action is equally required to increase social productivity. This implies increased availability of quality public services and universal access to services and resources. To overcome the manifestations of poverty, it is essential to fully enlist the participation of poor individuals and groups in development .

The legacy of the war period and the present phase of transition and adjustment have brought considerable pressure on the economically disadvantaged and on vulnerable groups which have not benefited from growth. *Social safety nets* in terms of broad support and compensatory measures are therefore important. These take the form of social insurance, which benefits roughly half of the population only; social welfare through the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs - and NGOs; and, compensatory payments to displaced and other persons affected by the war. There is a strong case for rationalization and consolidation of social insurance systems and for generalizing coverage. Safety nets can also be promoted through targeted programmes to generate employment and to reduce poverty, and to improve infrastructure and institutions for the delivery of social welfare services. The Ministry of Social Affairs is entrusted with an important role to realize, through participatory approaches and community development, the social development potential.

Access to resources in the first place means well-remunerated and secure employment to ensure sustainable livelihood. The *labor* market is rather well endowed, but lacks diversification in skills and specialization to meet new requirements from lagging behind in scientific and technological progress; and, from the uneven geographical distribution of available skills. The labor participation rate was 32 percent in 1996. There is a problem of under-utilization of the young and of the capabilities of women (the latter represented 21 percent of the labor force only). The labor market is characterized by considerable overt unemployment estimated between 12-14 percent, with a much higher rate for young people, and high levels of hidden unemployment. There is an important structural problem manifested in the ineffective relationship between education and employment.

Foreign labor , the presence of which is massive and unregulated, contributes in a significant manner to the reconstruction and economic recovery of the country. There is need to regulate the presence of expatriate labor and to enforce regulations. There is also a need to guarantee human and social rights and to ensure minimal basic needs to foreign workers.

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The *housing* situation is particularly difficult for new households and economically disadvantaged categories of the population. The real estate and construction boom of the early 1990s led to a striking imbalance between supply and demand for housing. Meeting housing needs of the majority of the Lebanese will have to be conceived within a framework of balanced development, including allocation of capital investment and economic growth, and in particular geared towards improving the quality of life, rectifying rural-urban distortions, tax incentives, and housing legislation and finance for better utilization of urban space and planning.

The health profile reveals a population in demographic and epidemiological transition, with life expectancy increasing and natality, fertility and infant mortality decreasing. Infants less than one year old die mainly of largely preventable respiratory diseases. The leading cause of death among adults is non-communicable diseases, mainly cardiovascular and cancer and an increasing incidence of chronic diseases. The health care system is characterized by an inverted structure with resources concentrated in heavy technology. There is a strong case for adaptable, simple and affordable technologies at the first and secondary levels, and for heavy emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation services. Health costs are high. The medical bill is mainly paid for by households, notwithstanding social insurance and the fact that the Ministry of Public Health, acting as a safety net provider, disburses more than 80 percent of its budget on hospitalization costs in private hospitals for persons not covered by social insurance schemes. An ambitious health sector reform programme is ongoing, managed by the Ministry of Public Health. In addition to rehabilitation and capacity building of the health system, the programme focuses on human resources development, health finance reform and an increased direct role of the public sector in health care delivery, including the rehabilitation and construction and the management of hospitals and health care centers.

Education and human resources development are at the core of sustainable human development. Education is, both at the individual and national level, a strategic investment *par excellence*. The country has not yet achieved universal, compulsory basic education; the enrollment rate of children aged 10-14 year was 93 percent in 1996. Access to, and capacity of, technical education and vocational training are particularly limited, and not in tune with the needs of a country in the process of reconstruction. Access to basic education suffers from high cost, and from limited capacity in the public sector. Education achievement constitutes a problem. Large discrepancies exist between the standards and orientation of education among different schools in the public and private sectors, which does not help in promoting social cohesion. A comprehensive plan to reform the sector was adopted in 1995 and is under implementation by the Ministry of Education and the Center for Education Research and Development. A new education programme structure was approved in 1996. Considerable progress has been made in developing new programmes to be introduced at the different levels.

At an overall social level, *children* (0-14 years) remain essentially a family concern, as there no effective legal or social protection for them outside the scope of the family. Significant progress has been achieved in the field of health as the infant mortality rate for infants below five years dropped to 32 per thousand in 1996 (infants below one year 28 per thousand); and immunization against polio and triple vaccine have been nearly generalized. Also, substantial progress has been achieved in school enrollment, even though at the pre-school level only 43 percent are enrolled. Important discrepancies are observed in achievement according to regions, social affiliation and the level of educational attainment by parents. There is need for an effective child policy and for its strict enforcement.

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Youth (15-24 years) are the future wealth of the country; they are important agents of development. To realize their potential, they must be geared towards developing qualifications that will respond to their aspirations and that will secure productive employment; this aspect raises the issue of the relevance of the education system to the requirements of the labor market. Young people also need to have ready access to housing to enable them to settle and build families. Finally, youth must be encouraged to participate in public life and develop their ability to integrate in society, a process to be facilitated by strengthening the cultural and societal environment.

There has been some progress towards gender balance in development. There appears to be no discrimination between men and *women* with respect to health care and education - which is a significant achievement. Distortions still exist with respect to illiteracy; 17.8 percent for females compared to 9.2 percent for males; but more pronounced in the case of females above 45 years. Women account for slightly over one-fifth of the labor force. There is discrimination with respect to remuneration and other working conditions. Distortion is glaring in female participation in political, economic and social decision making, both at the national and local levels. Failure to take advantage of the qualifications of women in the process of development is a most important source of lost opportunity. It is also an indication of continuing social, economic, and legal discrimination against women. Priority objectives are elimination of all discrimination and accession to related international instruments and minimum levels of representation, if necessary to be ensured at the political level during a medium-term period by establishing quota - both will favorably affect sustainability of development.

3. Establishing environmental sustainability

The environment is in a dire state. Deterioration is such that preservation of the natural resource base is compromised, and constitutes a threat to economic growth and makes regeneration of a healthy environment a complex and costly matter. Sustainability of the environment is to be ensured by adoption where needed, and effective enforcement, of national policies and regulations; the latter implies capacity development for environmental management.

Data indicate high pollution levels, in both urban and rural environments, threatening health and natural resources. This includes air pollution caused by cars, factories, electricity plants, and quarries; pollution of potable and sea water, and of the soil, brought about by the improper disposal of liquid and solid waste, deficiencies in sewage networks, and chemical pollution.

There is also considerable waste and misuse in the utilization of resources as evident from soil erosion, desertification and misuse of forest and forest fires, despite agriculture being the mainstay of the rural population; and archeological and natural sites are not well-preserved. Urban development patterns are unsustainable due to chaotic quarrying, privatization of maritime public property, uncontrolled expansion of urban centers and traffic congestion compounded by the weakness of public transport.

The absence of an effective environmental policy has resulted in a serious aggravation of the situation and in considerable losses that can only be remedied in the medium to longer term. In addition to capacity development, there is an urgent need to increase environmental awareness among people, to adopt and enforce policies and regulations and to implement at an accelerated rate government programmes to regenerate a healthy living environment.

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4. Reducing regional disparities and eliminating distortions

Sustainable human development advocates that people are the central concern and prime beneficiaries of development; this implies that benefits be spread widely among individuals and groups and among regions. The origin of many of the existing disparities and distortions can be traced to the pre-war and war periods. Government intentions and plans aim to address these issues over time, and action at a number of levels has been initiated in this respect. Gender disparities, particularly at the economic and political levels are important and are re-emphasized as a priority target for alleviation.

Economic growth of the past few years was generated mainly by real estate and construction, and finance, banking, trade and tourism, the benefits of which mainly accrued to the capital region and main cities. This has tended to weaken the development impact which did not cover, to the extent desired, all regions and groups, and distanced it from the requirements of sustainable human development.

Indicators concerning different sectors and groups consistently show regional socio-economic differentiation, with a wide gap between remote rural areas and the center. It is in remote rural areas where poverty thrives: economic activity remains confined to low productivity agriculture; unemployment rates are high; immunization of children, school enrollment, and female participation rates are low; and, illiteracy rates are high.

5. Social Capital formation for human development

Development requires building and developing the capabilities of society and its various components to enable people to make decisions and participate in development. This is an essential task for successful development, which is rendered difficult by the sequels of war which caused divisions in the social fabric.

Traditional social structures and ties continue generally to prevail as modern and civic relations have not yet penetrated the social base. Social institutions and groups (notably the family, the school and the media) tend to reproduce primary affiliations of a family, sectarian, or regional nature, at the expense of the notion of belonging to one country and society.

Social capital formation cannot occur at random and spontaneously. Achieving it requires willful intervention, by public institutions and organizations of the civil society, to delineate appropriate policies. International experience indicates that the viable approach is through the promotion of democracy, participation and decentralization; establishment of civic fora and platforms for citizens to interact; and, according special importance to the education and information dimensions, be it with respect to content or active means that strengthen the feelings of belonging and collective action.

6. Promoting mechanisms of participation and democracy

Lebanon aspires to develop further the parliamentary system in place since independence with a view to steering away from conflict and building consensus to fit the requirements of a lasting civil peace, in which law is sovereign and development is anchored in genuine democracy, and which makes it possible to bring the Lebanese together and reduce conflicts between them. Mechanisms for interaction between parliament and civil society are to be developed.

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Decentralization and municipal elections are key to strengthening political representation at the local level and unleashing the potentials of individuals and groups. Increased communication between citizens and the authorities at the local level will contribute to stimulating interest and participation in public life.

Essential prerequisites to achieve objective of political sustainability are good governance in general and an efficient administration in particular. A major point is the imperative need to achieve the separation of politics and public administration; so that the latter, once streamlined and reformed, can implement in an efficient manner the responsibilities it is entrusted with.

There is also wide scope for more effective forms of dialogue, cooperation and coordination at the level of civil society and its different components, and between government and civil society.

Conclusion: A Partnership for Development

Development is not only a concern of the Government; it is also the responsibility of every citizen and of the society as a whole. The promotion of development requires the mobilization of all domestic resources within the framework of a strategy based on the principle of participation in decision making and implementation. This requires having space for interaction and dialogue among the stakeholders - the state and the different social forces - to agree, first, on the instruments of dialogue, and second, on the scope and contents of the development options and programmes.

A salient conclusion of the report is the endorsement of and strong support for the idea - which has been deliberated by official, private sector, labor union and other social bodies - to establish new and effective mechanisms to promote dialogue between the government, and the private sector and representatives of the civil society, towards a *social contract for sustainable human development*. Such social contract involves a partnership to realize the full potential of people, particularly of less advantaged groups and individuals, and put the acquired potential to good use. The law establishing the Economic and Social Council provides a useful framework, but the initial important step needs to be completed by its formation and activation. Other mechanisms are to be established and/or strengthened.

The purpose of a social contract for sustainable human development is to reach agreement on the opportunities and resources available for progress and development centered on people, and on the main obstacles related to it; and, in the light of this to agree on priorities, areas and modalities of intervention, and policies to ensure a fair sharing of the burdens and returns of development by the different groups of society.

Successful negotiation and implementation of a social contract for sustainable human development would greatly contribute to overcoming the main consequences of the war period, on the one hand, and would be instrumental in starting to confront the challenges resulting from globalization, on the other. The regional and global challenges will engage the best of the capabilities of the state and society, particularly if the objective of sustainable human development is to be achieved.

The adoption of such approach to define the course of development implies a simultaneous and integrated effort on four parallel and interrelated axes.

1. Cohesion and unity of the state and society, and of their institutions: by agreement on the roles of government, the private sector and the civil society in

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the development process; through reform of mechanisms of national and local representation; through promotion of civil society mechanisms of dialogue and for development, including the media as channel of communication and means of monitoring and accountability, the schools as space for national interaction and local development, and non-governmental organizations and trade unions as important stakeholders in development; and, by implementing decentralization and strengthening democratic mechanisms based on participation at the grass-roots level.

2. A broad-based approach to sustainable development, in which the state is entrusted with "*engineering development*":

- Defining a long-term vision and strategy,
- A balanced development process supported by an enabling environment for private sector development,
- Rapid reduction of public deficit in the medium term and careful management of the stock of debt,
- Policies ensuring strong growth and rapid productivity increases, particularly in the productive sectors,
- Generating employment opportunities, in particular through promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Bringing about a small, highly efficient administration through its streamlining and capacity development.

3. Human development policies aimed at increasing social productivity and alleviating poverty through:

- Access to key basic services, specifically basic education - which must be compulsory and universal - and basic health care and shelter;
- Access to resources, in priority remunerative and stable employment;
- Putting to full use the potential of all groups, in particular women and youth - a specific effort is required to realize the potential of participation of women in political and economic decision-making;
- Generalizing basic social insurance and spreading social safety nets, in the broad sense of support and compensation to assist vulnerable social groups failing to benefit from development;
- Enhancing the participation of disadvantaged groups and civil society at large in development; and importantly,
- Social integration by accelerating and completing in priority the return and reintegration process of displaced persons.

4. Rational management of natural resources and the environment to preserve assets and to equitably share the burden of development between present and future generations in a manner that ensures sustainability. This will involve special attention to the quality of life, including consumption patterns, urban development, exploitation of natural resources, and to curbing pollution and the destruction of nature.