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# THE ALGERIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL REFORMS AFTER THE "ARAB SPRING"

#### Abstract:

The Algerian government won a third term in 2009 was boycotted by some political parties. After the "Arab Spring" protests swept neighboring Tunisia and Libya, this introduced some political and economical reforms, including an end to state-of-emergency restrictions that had lasted almost two decades. The socialist model adopted after Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962 has hampered development. Formal-sector unemployment remains persistently high, and there is a housing shortage. Algeria is the world's sixth-largest exporter of natural gas and has the world's 10th-largest natural gas reserves and 16th-largest oil reserves. in 2010 The government began a five-year, \$286 billion program to modernize infrastructure and appears to be trying to attract foreign and domestic private investment and to diversify the economy.

The Problematique is what is the vantages and the

inconvignants of theses reforms?

## **Keywords:**

Arab Spring, The Algerian government, reforms, program investment, economy

#### Introduction

Algeria is a large country in the Maghreb region of Northwest Africa with Algiers as its capital, when referring to its land area, The country is bordered in the north by the Mediterranean Sea. in the west by Morocco in the northeast by Tunisia, in the east by Libya, in the southwest by Western Sahara, Mauritania, and Mali, in the southeast by Niger, and Its size is almost 2,400,000 square kilometers (926,645 sq mi) with an estimated population of 37.1 million as of 2012. Algeria is the tenth-largest country in the world. It is also the largest country in Africa, Maghreb and the World. and It is also the largest of the countries bordering the Sea; so; Algeria is a member of the Arab League, the African Union, OPEC and the United Nations. The country is also a founding member of the Arab Maghreb Union. Algeria has enormous possibilities to boost its economic growth, including huge foreign-exchange reserves derived from oil and gas1 so; Oil and gas export earnings made up more than 97% of total exports.2 In This country.

Despite this remarkable location's economic development is still long compared to other similar countries which are the main cause of why various popular protests to maintain peace after the dark decade and not lose with what happens in Arab countries (after 2009 the Arab Spring)the government adopts various strategies and policies which we will outline the most important with their drawbacks and especially their benefits.

#### 1- Algérian economy:

Algeria has the 10th largest reserves of natural gas in the world and is the sixth-largest gas exporter.3 It ranks 16th in oil reserves. Strong revenues from hydrocarbon exports have brought Algeria relative macroeconomic stability, with foreign currency reserves exceeding \$200 billion4 and a large budget stabilization fund available for tapping. In addition, Algeria's external debt is extremely low at about 2% 5of GDP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD/countries/order%3Dwbapi\_data\_value\_2012%20wbapi \_data\_value%20wbapi\_d

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jump up^ http://www.andi.dz/index.php/en/presse/828-le-fmi-prevoit-une-croissance-de-3-3-pour-l-algerie-en-2013 (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Jump up^ http://www.aps.dz/Algeria-Inflation-declines-in.html (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Jump up^ http://www.aps.dz/Algeria-s-unemployment-rate-down.html(Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Jump up^ "Doing Business in Algeria 2012". World Bank. Retrieved 2011-11-21. (Wikipedia)

Long-term economic challenges include diversifying the economy away from its reliance on hydrocarbon exports, bolstering the private sector, , and providing adequate jobs for younger Algerians. attracting foreign investment with different ways:

## >Support to encourage foreign direct investment:

The intervention of the state in economic activity limits the mechanisms dragged the market and creates obstacles to the flow of capital and especially foreign capital, which adversely affects the domestic investment, and thus Fund recommends that the State should create favorable conditions supporting the activity of foreign direct investment, and it followed the procedures the following<sup>6</sup>

Exemption of foreign capital from all types of taxes and fees, either totally or partially.

- Provide guarantees to encourage investment of these funds
- Not to restrict social investments in certain areas and to give them the opportunity to access in all activities such as investing in the public sector.
- Give a new dynamic to the freedom of capital including the transfer of profits abroad.
- Make adjustments in the legislative field to ensure the application of the rules and mechanisms of the market economy.
- These measures make the flow of foreign investment provides foreign exchange and advanced technological and scientific expertise and administrative added to the national economy<sup>7</sup>.

<u>1-1Algerian economy before the Arabic spring</u> - investment: In 2006 external debt was estimated at US\$4.4 billion, down from US\$23.5 billion in 2003.8 And foreign direct investment (FDI) in Algeria totaled US\$1.8 billion. The petrochemical, transport, and utilities sectors have been recent beneficiaries of FDI. FDI into the oil sector was expected to rise as a result of a hydrocarbons law approved in April 2005 that created

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> civilians Dr. chahra, Professor of Economics, University of Ibn Khaldun - Tiaret, the policy of economic reform in Algeria and the international financial institutions, edition 2008, p 39 (Arabic book)

<sup>7</sup> civilians Dr. chahra, Professor of Economics, op cit, p 40(Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Jump up^ "Export Partners of Algeria". CIA World Factbook. 2012. Retrieved 2013-07-27 (Wikipedia)

a more even playing field for foreign oil companies to compete with Algeria's stateowned oil company, Sonatrach, for exploration and production contracts. Algeria also is seeking foreign investment in power and water systems.<sup>9</sup>

Cumulative World Bank assistance to Algeria totaled US\$5.9 billion in August 2006, encompassing 72 projects. Currently, the World Bank is pursuing seven projects, specifically budget modernization, mortgage finance, natural disaster recovery, energy and mining, telecommunications rural employment, , and transportation economic assistance to Algeria from the United StatesIn2005;amounted to US\$4.4 million and the European Union contributed US\$58 million to Algeria's economic development under the Euro Mediterranean Partnership.<sup>10</sup>

#### <u>Labor</u>

Unemployment is a chronic problem and an important challenge to the government now after new entrants to the workforce and the lack of emigration options and, the hydrocarbons industry is not in a position to employ many job seekers.<sup>11</sup>

Algerian society Suffered during the period of application of the economic reform program of the various images of unemployment, where reforms have affected adversely in the rate of employment growth<sup>12</sup>.

Foreign economic relations: Algeria is seeking more trade and foreign investment. In its foreign economic relations For example, Algeria's profile as a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and achieved association status with the European Union (EU) so Algeria has signed bilateral investment agreements with 20 different nations, including many European countries, , Malaysia China, Yemen and Egypt,. In July 2001, the United States and Algeria agreed on a framework for discussions leading to such an agreement, but a final treaty has not yet been negotiated. Ultimately, trade liberalization, customs modernization, deregulation,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Jump up to:a b c d Algeria country profile, p. 14 (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Jump up to:a b c Algeria country profile, p. 15. (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Jump up to:a b Algeria country profile, p. 13 (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Economic reform and employment policy (the Algerian experience), Dr. Madani Bin chahra, first edition 2009, p 304 (French book)

and banking reform are designed to improve the country's negotiating position as it seeks accession to the World Trade Organization.<sup>13</sup>

Algeria achieved a positive current account balance of US\$31.5 billion. High prices for Algeria's energy exports are the main driver for the improvement in the current account balance. <sup>14</sup>

Year	Gross Product	Domestique	US Dollar Exchange	Inflation Index (2000=100)	Per Capita Income (as % of USA)
1980	162,500		3.83 Algérien Dinars	9.30	18.51
1985	291,600		4.77 Algérien Dinars	14	15.55
1990	554,400		12.19 Algérien Dinars	22	10.65
1995	2, 004,990		47.66 Algérien Dinars	73	5.39
2000	4, 123,514		75.31 Algérien Dinars	100	5.17
2005	7, 493,000		73.44 Algérien Dinars	114	7.43

**Source:** For purchasing power parity comparisons, the US Dollar are exchanged at 70.01 Algerian Dinars only (updated May 24, 2007). Average wages in 2007 hover around \$18–22 per day.

In 1995 and 1996, oil and gas sector expansion contributed to a recovery in growth since 1995, narrowing the budget deficit. And reducing inflation since 1999Algeria's economy has grown at about 4% annually. And country's foreign debt has fallen from a high of \$28 billion. in 1999-2000 The spike in oil prices and the government's tight fiscal policy, as well as a large increase in the trade surplus and the near tripling of foreign exchange reserves has helped the country's finances.. The government pledges to continue its efforts to diversify the economy by attracting foreign and domestic investment outside the energy sector; but that has had little success in reducing high unemployment and improving living standards.. In 2001, Algeria signed an Association Agreement with the European Union; it has started accession negotiations for entry into the World Trade Organization.

Gross **domestic product** (GDP The GDB is vulnerable to changes in global energy prices. More than 50% of the government's revenue is currently derived from the hydrocarbon sector, and oil and gas account for around 97% of total exports.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Jump up to:a b c d Algeria country profile, p. 14 (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Jump up to:a b c d Algeria country profile, p. 14(Wikipedia)

Industries Agriculture, Government budget:-In 2007 government revenues of US\$58.5 billion exceeded expenditures of US\$41.4 billion. Receipts from the hydrocarbons industry usually account for roughly 60 percent of revenues.<sup>15</sup>

Since 2000; Algeria's foreign currency reserves have grown rapidly, reflecting rising prices for exported oil. So; In 2007 Algeria posted a positive merchandise trade balance of US\$37.2 billion. it achieved a positive current account balance of US\$31.5 billion. High prices for Algeria's energy exports are the main driver for the improvement in the current account balance.

The Algerian government introduced some political and specially economical reforms, after the Arab spring

## 1-2: the Arab Spring:

#### 1-2-1- different definitions of The Arab Spring:

"the Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in early 2011. But their purpose, relative success and outcome remain hotly disputed in Arab countries, among foreign observers, and between world powers looking to cash in on the changing map of the Middle East."

**1-1-2-2Reasons for the Arab Spring**: <sup>17</sup> Many causes for the Arab spring are appeared:

#### a. Arab Youth: Demographic Time Bomb

Political and economic development in most Arab states simply could not keep up with the staggering increase so the population in Arab countries more than doubled

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Jump up<sup>^</sup> (French) "La Russie efface la dette algérienne". Radio France International. March 10, 2006 (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Jump up^ The economy of Algeria remains vulnerable to energy prices, aboutalgeria.com. (Wikipedia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Jump up to:a b c d Algeria country profile, p. 12(Wikipedia)

between 1975 and 2005 to 314 million for example In Egypt, two-thirds of the population is under 30 years<sup>18</sup>

B: Unemployment: The Unemployment is still So Highland and the jobs that have been created are mostly low

3: Corruption Economic hardships can be tolerated if the people believe there is a better future ahead, or feel that the pain is at least somewhat equally distributed. Neither was the case in the Arab world, where the state-led development gave place to crony capitalism that benefited only a small minority.

4-Globalization: well as a greater ease of travel, was also highlighted as a contributory factor as frustrated young people became "acutely aware" of their relative deprivation and understood there existed alternatives to the repressive governments under which they lived. That the important question is: Was Arab Spring a Success or Failure? Arab Spring was a failure only if one expected that decades of authoritarian regimes could be easily reversed and replaced with stable democratic systems across the region. 1-3-The Arab spring

## and the Algerian economy

Like the "Arab Spring" countries, the Algerian economy is stagnant. A growing number of people are fed up with the failed official policies to deal with unemployment. The country is yet to take advantage of the oil revenue to increase the productivity of Algerians. But that is easier said than done. The state is still spending too much money on the patronage system. Worse, education and health care have been on the backburner. That state has not yet provided enough funds for these two important sectors. Needless to say, the country is fraught with cronyism and corruption.

1-4-Algerian economy after the Arabic spring: This table summarizes the general situation of Algerian economy in this crucial period:

Economy of Algeria After 2009 :		
Currency	Algerian dinar (DZD)	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Jump up to:a b c Algeria country profile, p. 15(Wikipedia)

Trade organisations	OPEC, GECF, WTO and others		
	Statistics		
GDP	\$325.0 billion (2012 est.) <sup>[1]</sup>		
GDP growth	3.3% (2013 est.)		
GDP per capita	\$7,600 PPP (2012 est.)		
GDP by sector	agriculture: 8.4%; industry: 61.1%; services: 31.5% (2011 est.)		
Inflation (CPI)	3.9% (2013 est.)		
Labour force	11.31 million (2012 est.)		
Unemployment	9.8% (2013 est.)		
Main industries	petroleum, natural gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical, food processing, steel		
Ease-of-doing-business rank	148th		
External			
Exports	\$76.84 billion (2012 est.)		
Export goods	petroleum, natural gas, electronics and petroleum products 97%		
Main export partners	United States 16.1%		
	Spain 13.9% Canada 10.4%		
	Netherlands 8.4%		
	France 8.0%		
	Brazil 5.6%		
	United Kingdom 5.1% (2012 est.)		
Imports	\$48.27 billion (2012 est.)		
Import goods	capital goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods		
Main import partners	France 17.2%		
	China 11.5%		
	Spain 9.4%		
	Italy 9.1%		
	Germany 4.6% (2012 est.)		
FDI stock	\$17.34 billion (31 December 2009 est.)		
Gross external debt	\$5.413 billion (31 December 2009 est.)		

Public finances					
Public debt	8.5% of GDP (2012 est.)				
Revenues	\$79.32 billion (2012 est.)				
Expenses	\$84.29 billion (2012 est.)				
Foreign reserves	\$190.5 billion (31 December 2012 est.)				
Main data source: CIA World Fact Book					
All values, unless otherwise stated, are in US dollars.					

Algeria has enormous possibilities to boost its economic growth, including huge foreign-exchange reserves derived from oil and gas. A development strategy targeting stronger, sustained growth would create more jobs, especially for young people, and alleviate the housing shortage the country is facing. The national strategic option is therefore to revitalize the process intended to diversify the economy starting with the non-oil sector while deepening the reforms needed for the structural transformation of the economy.<sup>19</sup>

<u>2 the principal economic policies after the Arabic spring in Algeria:</u> After the "Arab Spring" then in 2010 The government began a five-year, \$286 billion program to modernize infrastructure and appears to be trying to attract foreign and domestic private investment and to diversify the economy without forget the different policies adopted by the government concerned Formal-sector unemployment that remains persistently high, and a housing shortage

<u>2-1, the</u>

#### building

#### 2-1-2- building before the Arabic spring

Accommodation in Algeria is not considered in this period as the answer to a need. On the contrary; it is an instrument of differentiation behavior of the employer by segregation in all its forms. It allows processing needs with thresholds differences in quantity.

Thus, there are three degrees of segregation:

1- The basic segregation is that of access or lack of access to housing.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> http://www.afdb.org/en/countries/north-africa/algeria/algeria-economic-outlook/ (Wikipedia)

- 2- The second is the location and standing outside of housing.
- 3- Three è me is housing itself Even m (é Tense).<sup>20</sup>

## 2-1-3- building after the Arabic spring

Two million homes scheduled With a budget Moreover 3700milliards dinars, the equivalent of 50 billion allocated to the housing sector over the period 2010-2014, the estimates of the new five-year plan materialize the program of the President of the Republic,

Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who scored the deficit reduction in housing as a separate priority in government action,. Mobilizing nearly 20% of loans of equipment, the housing sector has a development plan on a scale never equaled before. For the next five years is to build two million homes that is programmed. A total of 1.2 million housing units will be delivered during the five year 2010-2014 while the remaining 800,000 units, will be completed between 2015 and 2017 the state will mobilize even more heavily on its resources for national development.

Algeria must continue its efforts to catch up finally all delays. As such the state will spend over the next five years the equivalent of \$ 150 billion of public resources for development, while continuing to mobilize the support of domestic and foreign "investors.

Algeria will split INDJAB GSP, the Management Company of state ownership in the building, five structures spread over the country. The reorganization is designed to improve the efficiency of public action and push up public production of 15,000 units per year today to 80,000 within a few years.

The needs of Algeria amounted to 250,000 units per year. The current production capacity is only 80,000.

This project aims to meet the objectives of decentralized management and increased production set in September 2013.

Currently, SGP-Sinjab has 56 players in the building divided into four groups (OLA construction Sogcor, Injiaco, GREPCO) and 13 consultants sector. They will all be grouped into five new public economic enterprises (FIEs) based in Annaba, Algiers,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> FATMA SALHI, labor housing crisis and large enterprise market, where the steel industry, has ANNABA - EL HADJAR, office of university publications, Ed, 1990, P. 271.

Oran, Ouargla and Bechar. Each of the SPA (joint stock company) will cover more specifically an area of territory. The Algeria associates to build housing 21

A project is ambitious and open to foreign partners

With this restructuring, Algeria intends to boost annual public production and make him earn 10 000 to 20 000 homes each year until an expected annual production level of 80,000 units.

In addition to the improvement of production (time, quality, costs), these new structures will have to rely on building partnerships with foreign companies. While acknowledging that the record in this matter is disappointing so far he plans to change the terms and facilitate the signing of agreements with business groups.

Growth projections for 2014 and 2015 appear to be consistent with these new ambitions. Of 4,600 units built in 2013, the public company has produce 15,000 at 16 000 this year and expects an annual output of 24,000 units in 2015.

In Algeria, the occupancy rate of 4.68 people per dwelling. It is 3.8 to 2.02 in Morocco and France.

These five future entities will thus have the responsibility to carry alone a significant portion of the 1.6 million new homes planned<sup>22</sup> in the 2015-2019 five-year program launched by the present government.

Algeria and provide a pleasant living environment for future generations.

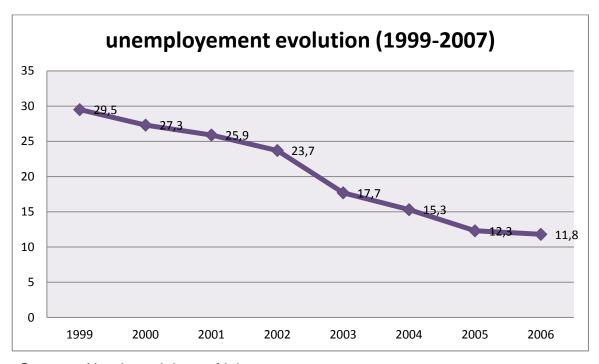
the housing is Regarded as sector among the priorities in investments in Algeria where centered perceptions about the organization of the old cities and expand and develop the housing of the country life and update urban centers in the United and departments, municipalities, and sent new cities in the areas of highlands and the desert and the renewal of old districts on the basis of design of the modern facilities and integration as well operating at least for agricultural areas in order to prevent loss of valuable land for cultivation

## 2-2employment:

## 2-2-1-Labor before the Arabic spring

These official figures show:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Jump up "Echorouk Online - IMF report: Algerian monetary system going from bad to worse". Retrieved 2010-10-31 (Wikipedia)
<sup>22</sup> Jump up^ Algeria Financial Sector Country Profile (Wikipedia)



**Source:** Algerian ministry of labor

A constant decrease of the unemployment rate since 1999 The ONS says that it used the International Labor Organization definition of employment/unemployment in its study. Everyone who had worked at least one hour in one week (the week targeted by the study) is counted in the employed group. This includes regular workers, informal sector workers and also all those who benefited of the governmental aid jobs.

-In 2000, things changed. Employment did not rise but Productivity continued to do, so; Technology has replaced many middle-income workers. The jobs that a being created are in two categories: those high-paying ones that require skills to manage the technology (software engineer), or low-paying ones that computers can't replace (fast-food worker).

May we were through the study to know the policies and strategies applied by Algeria to treat the problem of unemployment, whether it's traditional solutions or solutions of non-conventional served as a set of temporary solutions and scattered policies that have worked on the problem temporarily postponed and may Contributed indirectly to increase the size of Alor is explicit unemployment and rates and the bow to all that came in the economic reform program and its application to make each project to reduce the severity of unemployment fragile and lack of knowledge of the results where the work piece and the lack of knowledge of the results where the torch is serves as the main link in Ltinayma social, perhaps that social development is

considered in the eyes of international financial bodies as a product of internal imbalances and is not considered the extent of the impact of these programs for the social life of the countries that apply this type of policy <sup>23</sup>.

Change the overall structure of unemployment in the light of the economic reform program as an unemployment peaked among young people so that there are more than 80% of the unemployed do not exceed the age of 30 years with a high number of the unemployed educated and who are looking for opportunities to work for the first time and need university graduates, and increasingly Unit this unemployment among females than males, reaching warned 38% of the unemployed is not qualified and they demanded action for the first time, suggesting the existence of marginalization, where is unemployment higher among disadvantaged social groups with an estimated 44% of the poor , as well as increased growth rates of rural unemployment from those of civilization, reflecting the state of development of rural and agricultural under this program and the duration of unemployment of any duration Find the position for the job has moved from 23 months in 1989 to 24 months in 1996 where the percentage of the unemployed who lasted their search for jobs more than a year of 55% while those who took their search for work for two years 35.4%<sup>24</sup>

The devices in the face of unemployment under the application of the economic reform program is very modest and did not provide enough of these devices since its inception only 23,000 jobs annually or roughly about 245.00 a permanent position, about 60% of permanent jobs and 40% of temporary jobs and if Um exclusive employment of permanent only and is pay the most accurate, this ratio will be only 2.7% and it is a very limited number of jobs sustained compared with the work piece temporary activities liability for the social network and operating solidarity (subsidy for activities of public benefit, jobs leased local initiative, decades before the operation, development of complementary, unemployment insurance, and the rest of the operating configuration) <sup>25</sup>.

## 2-2-2Labor after Arabic spring

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Economic reform and employment policy (the Algerian experience), Dr. Madani Bin chahra, first edition 2009, p

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Economic reform and employment policy (the Algerian experience), op cit, p 306 <sup>25</sup> Economic reform and employment policy (the Algerian experience), op cit, p 306

The exit from the economic crisis experienced by Algeria is to work on a new development pattern is aimed at achieving a high level of employment and the reduction of the unemployment problem and the drawing and implementation of programs to develop the productive sectors with speeding towards the development of labor markets in particular.

There are some national and foreign investments which created jobs; their levels are certainly not high enough to explain the unemployment rate decrease alone. The same comment applies to the ANSEJ's <sup>26</sup> financed projects.

Our disagreement point is on the foreign workers (Chinese, Egyptian and other workers). Many of them are not the highly-skilled profiles who are usually hired as expats. And we believe the Algerians can easily take their place given that they're controlled and paid correctly. Algerian government has failed to ask foreign firms to give jobs to Algerian youths, firms has imported foreigners for jobs that Algerians can easily done, they are equal to chines Egyptians and others.

So Sahara populations aren't benefiting from wealth (oil and gas reserves), and can't get jobs with the oil companies. That is one of the problems which the government should maid face.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Jump up "Algeria's trade surplus". Nuqudy. 2010-12-27. Retrieved 2010-12-29. (Wikipedia)

#### Conclusion

The Arab Spring uprising is one that has impacted many countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa with large Arab populations. The unrest has forced many countries like Algeria to change the ways in which they do economic planning. It has put pressure on governments to increase economic opportunities. Ways in which governments do this is through providing more jobs or by increasing wages paid to the workers and developing housing.

And in the light of the recommendations are as follows:

- Work on the database and provide accurate statistics about the labor market until the analysis of each sector and reduce the distortions in the labor market and be using publishing tools and constantly updated and practical way to follow the scanning process.
- Reactivate operations capital investment until it reaches the rate of growth to 07
   % Annually to unemployment rates currently.
- Adopt a policy of rehabilitation and employment according to the requirements of modern scientific methods and.
- Encourage small projects and give priority to projects and investments with Art productive most widely used component to work with the development of the investment heavy use of work with provide an appropriate environment to support small businesses by reducing the restrictions and the stability of laws and decisions and raise the efficiency of the banking system and activating the role of the bank in support institutions.
- Encourage sectors intensive labor and high relative to operating flexibility to output it and which sector of public works and construction
- Promoting exports outside the hydrocarbons
- Continue to encourage investments and partnership productivity and redirect investments in the fields of trade and distribution of productive activities to established positions to work and contribute to reduce the volume of imports.
- Increase private investment and new projects.

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