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# The Role of Foreign Direct Investment in Achieving Sustainable Development in Iraq: An Analytical Study for The Period of 2010-2018

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to demonstrate the role of foreign direct investment in achieving sustainable development in Iraq. The Iraqi Investment Law No. (13) for the year 2006 and the amendments attached to it for the years 2009 and 2015 serve as a legal cover to grant many privileges and tax exemptions to foreign investors in order to attract more of them into the country. As Iraq is a developing country, it is in dire need of foreign direct investment to advance its economic and service reality by financing development programs and plans. The need for direct foreign investments to be directed towards the productive sectors.

**Keywords:** Foreign direct investment, Sustainable development

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The process of attracting foreign direct investment has become one of the most important goals that developing countries seek to achieve due to its many benefits such as the opening up of job opportunities, the attainment of technology and administrative expertise, and the strengthening of the country's balance of payments (Aman-Ullah, Aziz, Ibrahim, Mehmood & Abbas, 2021). All these supports the efforts of these countries in achieving sustainable development and guaranteeing the rights of future generations to available natural resources. Since 2003, the competent authorities have sought to put in place laws that frame and encourage the investment process in Iraq such as the Investment Law No. (13) of 2006 and the amendments attached to it in 2009 and 2015 which provide a basis for modern law to protect investors, whether local or foreign, especially with regards to policies for the use of land and its allocation, and the establishment of the first commercial court specializing in settling investor disputes which represent a clear strategy for improving the investment climate in Iraq. Despite the existence of Law No. (13) and the amendments made to it, Iraq still does not have the sufficient capacity to create a suitable investment environment to attract foreign investors, due to the presence of many political, security and economic obstacles which hinder the process of sustainable economic development.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

Although the authorities in Iraq have legislated the investment law and made more than one amendment to it, it failed to attract foreign investors due to the country's lack of political stability and the decline in its security which negatively affected its overall sustainable development.

#### The Study Aims

1. Present the concept of foreign direct investment, its types and determinants, as well as define sustainable development and its dimensions.
2. Analyse the impact of foreign direct investment on sustainable development in Iraq, and address the decline in foreign investments which hindered the development process.
3. **Study Hypothesis:** The study hypothesizes that foreign direct investment in Iraq plays a weak role in the process of sustainable development in Iraq as a result of political instability.
4. **Study Structure:** In order to verify the hypothesis of the study and achieve its objectives, the study is divided into three sections. The first section entails the study methodology, while the second section deals with the theoretical framework of the study, which includes foreign direct investment and its determinants and types. The third section addresses the practical side of the study and the statement of the role of foreign investment in Iraq on the development indicators. The study concludes with the most important suppositions.

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1. Foreign Investment in Iraq and Sustainable Development

After 2003, Iraq aspired to open new horizons towards advancing the developmental reality and catching up with developed countries by overcoming years of wars and international sanctions that inflicted heavy damage on the Iraqi economy, infrastructure, health and education (Mehmood, Mohd-Rashid, Ong & Abbas, 2021). However, the repercussions of the occupation and the subsequent emergence of terrorist groups, in addition to the spread of administrative and financial corruption in state institutions, led to the failure of most of the policies and plans developed in this field (Sabti & Ramalu, 2020). To overcome these obstacles,

Iraq took a number of steps aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, which also collided with the general investment climate due to the relatively unstable security and political situation, especially after the events of 2014 and the accompanying emergence of the criminal gangs of ISIS (Beirman, 2020). The Basel Index for the year 2017 had put a number of countries, including Iraq, outside the classification because they are deemed as unattractive countries for foreign investments due to corruption and wars. Among the most important indicators for attracting investment are:

**1.1 The political situation:** This factor plays an important role in attracting or escaping foreign capital. Political stability and the country's relationship with neighboring and regional countries are all factors that must be available in the host country to attract foreign investment (Sabti & Ramalu, 2020). The political turmoil that afflicts the country from time to time and political problems that erupt between Iraq and neighboring and regional countries, in addition to suspicious foreign agendas and the political rivalries between the parties in power all have led to the reluctance of many foreign investors to invest in Iraq (Al-Mashhadani, 2018; Sabti & Ramalu, 2020).

**1. 2 The economic environment:** In order to analyze and evaluate the investment climate in Iraq, it is necessary to address a set of economic aspects that clarify the attractiveness or non-attractiveness of the country's investment environment. Countries that are characterized by stable macroeconomic indicators represent a suitable environment for attracting investments, unlike countries that are characterized by instability in their macroeconomic indicators such as financial deficit, exchange rate fluctuations and weak banking activities (Abdullah et al., 2019; Al-Ameeri & Al Samarai, 2017; Kadim, Sabti, Ali & Shliot, 2021). From reading the economic indicators, which reflect the nature of the investment climate in Iraq, we noted that the gross domestic product had increased over the period of 2010-2013, reaching 273 trillion in 2013. But the deterioration of the security situation in some governorates in Iraq and the decline in crude oil production as well as the drop in oil prices had led to a decrease in the value of the country's gross domestic product over the period of 2014-2018, amounting approximately 194 trillion dinars in 2015 and rose back to 254 trillion dinars in 2018. The exchange rates and inflation rates seem to have maintained which creates a safe investment climate. As for the growth rate of the population, the rise in the size of the population and the high proportions of educated individuals creates an atmosphere of stability, whether with regards to the availability of labor or the size of the market. As for the reality of trade exchange with the outside world (Shabbir, Kassim, Faisal, Abbas & Sabti, 2018), we noted that crude oil constitutes approximately 90% of exports, which reflects an imbalance in the components of the trade balance. In contrast, the high volume of exports creates an appropriate investment atmosphere in attracting foreign capital, thus signifying a direct relationship between exports and the flow of foreign direct investment. As for budget deficit and external debt, the recurrent budget deficit and the continuation of external debt had created an unfavorable atmosphere in attracting foreign capital (Hussein, 2010; Kurtishi-Kastrati, 2013; Kadim, Sabti, Ali, Abbas & Shliot, 2021).

## **2. The need for foreign investment**

Foreign direct investments contribute to advancing economic and social development in developing countries by providing them with sources of funding. In return, the foreign investor gets returns for the invested capital (Borensztein, De Gregorio & Lee, 1998). This means that there are common interests between the two parties to the investment and the degree of benefit of each party depends on the policies and procedures of the other party regarding the quality and nature of investment. Since Iraq is a developing country, it is in dire need of foreign direct investment to advance its economic and service reality by:

**2.1 Financing development plans programs**, as Iraq needs financial funding to address the internal shortcomings in this field. Its reliance on one resource, which is crude oil, made the country hostage to the fluctuations in its prices, as well as the huge operating expenses compared to investment expenses, in addition to the marginal tendency to consume compared to low marginal propensity to save, which makes it difficult to rely on domestic savings alone in financing development plans (Abboud, 2009).

**2.2 Encouraging the private sector**, through the participation of local businessmen in investment projects or the creation of new projects in support of foreign investment projects. This enables the private sector to contribute to the development process, especially the development of national ownership through its capital or foreign capital or by creating funded partners by virtue of the flexibility of the private sector in dealing with foreign financing and investment centers. In turn, this creates an economic sector independent of the domination and control of the state and limits its ability to dominate and generates a real partnership between the public and private sectors, leading to the achievement of integration between them (Omar, 2007).

**2.3 Providing new job opportunities**, the country's total dependence on the public sector (oil revenues) in managing all economic activities had led to the accumulation of economic problems for Iraq. Hence, the adoption of this sector for social services and the provision of job opportunities around the state to a sponsoring state that plans and directs the life of individuals who used to receive this care have made the two parties (individuals and the state) prisoners to these policies in light of the weakness of the private sector in filling the void created by the withdrawal of the state (Alebadi & AlSaadi, 2021).

The abolition of the policy of central appointments for graduates as a result of the pressure of public expenditures in the state budgets had led to the growing problem of unemployment, and the adoption of the policy of trade liberalization had led to a significant decrease in the overall production activities and the disappearance of many industries due to the competition of foreign products (Shihab, 2019). This in turn had led to an increase in the number of the unemployed i.e. an estimated 14% of the total workforce according to the reports of the Central Bureau of Statistics. Therefore, the recruitment of foreign direct investment would create new job opportunities, especially if it was directed towards productive activities that attract labor (Yasser, 2019).

**2.4 Providing modern technology**, from 1990 until 2003, Iraq suffered from a scientific and technological disconnection from the outside world as a result of international sanctions, which created a technical gap between it and the countries of the world, in addition to the obsolescence of the technology used in most production institutions. The suffering continued after 2003 as a result of the tendency of most of the general budget expenditures to operating expenses and the low formation of fixed capital in most economic activities (Milton, 2021). This necessitates bringing in direct foreign investments and benefiting from the presence of foreign companies, as they contribute to narrowing the accelerating global gap, especially when multinational companies are in control of the supply of advanced technology to the countries of the world (Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, 2018).

**3. Foreign direct investment and sustainable development:** Due to the decline in the contribution of the real economic sectors to the gross domestic product, the weakness of services provided to members of society, and the high number of the unemployed, despite what was confirmed by Articles (25) and (26) of the Constitution on the state's guarantee of reforming the Iraqi economy in accordance with modern economic foundations to ensure full

investment of its resources, diversification of its sources of income, and encouragement and development of the private sector (Abdullah et al., 2021). Consequently, Iraq began experiencing an increasing need for foreign direct investment (Shihab, 2020), and these investments began to flow gradually after the year 2003.

Table (1) shows that the volume of foreign investment flows amounted to about \$3400 million in 2012, but it started to decline and even migrate as a result of the deterioration of the security situation in some cities, as the volume of immigrant investments amounted to about (10176) million dollars, which reflects the weak attractiveness of the investment environment in Iraq for foreign capital.

#### 4. RESULTS

**Table (1)**

*The Volume of Foreign Direct Investment Flows to Iraq for The Period of 2010-2018*

Year	The volume of foreign direct investment flows (million dollars)
2010	1396
2011	1882
2012	3400
2013	2335-
2014	10176-
2015	7574-
2016	6256
2017	5032-
2018	4885

Source: The Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, foreign direct investment data received in Arab countries, 1990-2018.

As for the most important sectors that attract investments, Table (2) shows that the oil and natural gas sector acquired the largest share of foreign investments, as Iraq contracted after 2003 with a number of international investment companies to develop its oil fields and increase the volume of crude oil exports. The value of investments in the oil sector amounted to approximately (13442) million dollars over the period of 2013-2017. The real estate sector received the attention of foreign investment companies, especially in building houses and residential complexes, as the value of investments in this sector reached about (3193) million dollars during the same period:

**Table (2)**

*The Most Important Sectors That Attracted Foreign Direct Investment in Iraq for the Period of 2013-2017*

Attractive sectors for foreign direct investment	Investment value in the sector (million dollars)
Oil and gas	13442
Real estate	3193
Construction and building materials	782
Hotels and Tourism	685

Metal	667
Telecommunications	327
Financial Services	317
Storage	294
Business services	117
Cars	84

Source: The Arab investment guarantee corporation, investment attractiveness index 2018, Kuwait, 2018, p. 70.

As for the most important foreign companies invested in Iraq, Table (3) shows that the Russian company (Gazprom) is considered the largest company investing in the Iraqi oil fields, with an investment of about (8094) million dollars, followed by the specialized Emirati company (Emaar properties) in real estate investment with which Iraq contracted to establish a number of housing complexes at an investment cost of \$3000 million, as well as Exxon Mobil Company for the development of oil fields with a value of \$1650 million.

### Table (3)

*The most important foreign companies investing in Iraq over the period of 2013-2017*

Company	Investment cost (millions dollars)
Russian Gazprom	8094
Emirates Emarr properties	3000
American Exxon Mobil	1650
(ADWEA) UAE	872
Royal Dutch Shell	850

Source: The Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, Daman Investment Attractiveness Index 2018, Kuwait, 2018, pg. 70

Also, the influx of foreign investment companies into Iraq had increased the number of operating projects, and thus increased the number of jobs created by these projects as the number of investment projects reached about 53 projects in 2013 at a cost of 10227.2 million dollars and the provision of about 9561 jobs. But the deterioration of the security situation in some cities led to the migration of capital, which negatively affected the number of operating projects and the jobs provided by these projects.

### **The following is an analysis of the role of foreign direct investment in some indicators of sustainable development in Iraq:**

**1.GDP per capita:** GDP calculations show the contribution of economic sectors to the formation of the national economy, and GDP per capita is one of the important indicators that reflect growth rates and sometimes the level of economic well-being of the country. By linking the percentage of investment contribution in the foreign direct investment in the gross domestic product and comparing it with the per capita share of this output shows us the extent of the contribution of foreign direct investment in the economic growth rates and then the per capita GDP, through the following table:

### Table (4)

*Per capita and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of gross domestic product (GDP) for the period of 2010-2018*

Year	GDP (trillion dinars)	Per capita of GDP (millions dollars)	Ratio FDI of GDP
2010	162,0	4,9	(%)
2011	217,3	6,5	1,01
2012	254,2	7,4	1,12

2013	273,5	7,5	1,56
2014	266,3	7,1	-1,00
2015	194,6	5,6	-4,34
2016	196,9	5,2	-4,27
2017	221,97	5,97	-3,58
2018	254,9	6,7	-2,27

Source: Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Group. Years (2010-2018)

We note that the per capita share of the output is increasing despite the conditions that the country is going through, and this reflects the rates of economic growth. However, it does not reflect a parallel improvement in the standard of living of the individual in light of the deterioration of infrastructure and social services, as the domestic product witnessed a continuous rise for the period of 2010 -2014 which amounted to about 266 trillion dinars in 2014. As for the per capita share, it amounted to about 7 million dinars, but the volume of the output witnessed a remarkable decline in 2015 as it reached to about 194 trillion dinars in 2015, with a per capita share of 5 million dinars. Because of the deterioration of the security situation, which led to the closure of many foreign companies and of which directly affected the decline in the volume of output on top of the relative improvement in the security situation, the GDP witnessed a remarkable increase amounting to about 254 trillion dinars in 2018, while the per capita share amounted to about 6.7 million dinars. It is also noted from the table that the proportion of foreign direct investment from the gross domestic product is very few and fluctuating despite the efforts made to attract these investments by the Iraqi state, through legislation and amendments to investment laws that it conducts from time to time. However, the security situation constitutes the main obstacle in the flow of these investments, in addition to other factors such as the spread of financial and administrative corruption and the weakness of the banking sector and its failure to keep pace with global developments. This is reflected by the percentage of foreign investments which did not exceed 1 percent of the gross domestic product in the year 2011. It began with a significant decline, reaching about -4.27% of the output in 2014 due to the deterioration of the security situation and the fall of a number of governorates into the hands of terrorist groups.

**2. Labor Force:** Unemployment is one of the main economic indicators that reflect the state of the general imbalance in the economy with the extension of the effects of this imbalance on the social and political balance in various countries of the world. The problem of unemployment in Iraq takes another direction, as it represents a real danger in terms of the value of the human element, as it is the most important tributary of the development process in the Iraqi economy. With the change in the economic and political conditions and the tangible achievements in the field of youth, this segment is still facing major challenges that impede the chances of its sustainability<sup>(9)</sup>. By analyzing the reality of the labor force in Iraq as shown in Table 5, we note the gradual increase in the number of manpower:

**Table (5)**

*The Size of the Workforce in Iraq for The Period of 2010-2018*

Year	Total number of workers (thousand workers)	Ratio of workers (%) in :		
		Agricultural sector	Industrial sector	Services sector
2010	8314	21.12	24,13	54,73
2011	7630	21.13	24,27	54,61
2012	7989	20,71	24,31	54,99
2013	8360	20,38	24,34	55,28
2014	8800	20,17	24,23	55,61

2015	9181	19,54	23,90	56,56
2016	9405	19,24	23,53	57,23
2017	9770	19,1	23,46	57,53
2018	10075	18,86	23,49	57,65

Source. 1- Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Group. Years (2010-2018)

### 3. The World Bank, national account data, 2010-2018

The number of workers increased from 8314 workers in 2010 to 10075 workers in 2018, in both the public and private sectors. The table also shows the decrease in the relative importance of the labor force in the agricultural sector, as the number of workers in this sector reached approximately 1438 One thousand workers in 2018, at a rate of 19.86% of the total workforce. The reason for this decrease is attributed to the continuous migration of agricultural workers from the countryside to the cities in search of good job opportunities, which further deteriorates the agricultural sector. As for the industrial sector, it witnessed a gradual increase in the number of workers over the period of 2010-2018, as the number of workers increased from 1,755 workers in 2010 to 2,317 workers in 2018. Despite the increase in the number of workers, the percentage of increase was fixed due to the weak investments in this sector as a result of the difficulties and problems it faces, in addition to the employment shifts from the agricultural sector to the service sector which indicates the weakness of the industrial sector in creating job opportunities. As for the services sector, it acquired the largest share of the workforce as the number of workers in this sector reached about 5,742 workers in 2018, which represents 57% of the total number of workers. The reason for this increase is due to the fact that the services sector adapts to the increase in the labor market with various degrees of education and rehabilitation. The most prominent activities in this sector are hotel and restaurant services, transportation, entertainment services, and financial and commercial services. Iraq seeks to increase the volume of employment and reduce unemployment, and foreign direct investment is one of the solutions to achieve these goals. The high rates of unemployment and the weakness of successive governments in reducing these rates necessitate overcoming all obstacles to the entry of foreign investments, to create new jobs and to employ the largest possible number of the unemployed. After 2003 and the opening of Iraq to the outside world, foreign capital began to flow in and thus establishing investment projects with the number of projects over the period of 2003-2016 reaching nearly 320 investment projects at a cost of 61,511 million dollars, whilst the number of jobs was estimated at 50,819.

The entry of new foreign companies often collides with the unstable security and political situation from time to time, as the number of foreign direct investment projects recorded a noticeable decrease over the period of 2010-2018, as shown in the following table:

**Table (6)**

*Number of Foreign Direct Investment Projects in Iraq and the Jobs Generated by Them for The Period of 2010-2018*

Year	Number of projects	Number of jobs
2010	48	5970
2011	35	6025
2012	34	1696
2013	53	9561
2014	26	1676
2015	15	938
2016	13	-
2017	32	-
2018	11	1673



Source: The Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, Daman Investment Attractiveness Index 2018, Kuwait, 2018, pg. 70

The number of foreign projects reached 53 projects in 2013 and created 9,561 jobs, but the deterioration of the security situation led to a decline in the number of new investment projects and job creation, which amounted to about 1,673 jobs in 2018. For the purpose of hiring local manpower, the Iraqi government has obligated foreign companies to employ Iraqi labor at a rate of no less than 50% of the total manpower used in projects that have obtained an investment license from the National Investment Commission and investment bodies in the governorates. This is in addition to not allowing foreign workers to work inside Iraq without obtaining a work permit as stipulated under the Labor Law No. 37 of 2015, as well as activating paragraph (5) of the Diwani Order No. 46 of 2012 which includes obligating ministries and agencies that wish to contract with foreign companies to conclude contracts that obligate the companies to review the Ministry of Labor within a period of 30 days from the entry of the foreign worker for the purpose of issuing work permits, in order to monitor the extent of compliance with the percentages of foreign workers working inside Iraq.

#### 4. Technology and Communication

The transfer of technology through foreign direct investment is one of the important decisions for decision makers in the host countries. These countries are working to liberalize their own systems for the transfer of technology to become suitable for their economic conditions, and these countries are also working to increase the interdependence between their local companies and foreign companies to localize the transferred technology. It must be noted that the nature of the economic and social conditions, especially with regards to the level of human development, the availability of skilled manpower, and efficient management affect the nature and type of technology transferred to the host country, and it is necessary to emphasize that the transfer of technology through foreign direct investment will have a greater impact on a country that enjoys a good climate of scientific research which enables it to benefit from this technology<sup>(10)</sup>. Iraq is one of the least technologically-advanced countries, which is a logical and inevitable situation resulting from the legacy of wars, international sanctions and the corruption of the administrative and financial systems that have plagued Iraq over the past four decades, and of which had directly affected the technological level of the country and the weakness of foreign investments that can be benefited from technology. Meanwhile, as researchers flee abroad, spending on research and development is considered low compared to developed countries. Table (7):

**Table (7)**

*The Volume of Expenditures on Research and Development in Iraq for The Period of 2010-2018*

Year	Ratio of spending on research of GDP (%)	Amount Spent (Million Dollars)
2010	%0,04	55,4
2011	%0,03	55,7
2012	-	-
2013	-	-
2014	%0,04	93,8
2015	%0,04	71
2016	%0,04	69,9
2017	%0,04	68,1
2018	%0,04	89,6

Source: The World Bank, Research and Development Expenditure (% of GDP), 2010-2018

We note that spending on research and development constitutes 0.04% of the gross domestic product, with expenditures amounting to approximately 89.6 million dollars for the year 2018, which is a low expenditure when compared to the expenditures of developed countries and even some developing countries. Japan's expenditures on research and development amount to about 146.7 billion dollars, or 4.7 percent of its gross domestic product. The Republic of South Korea's volume of expenditure is about 68.8 billion dollars, or 4.55% of its GDP. Saudi Arabia's spending on research and development amounted to about 12 billion dollars, and Egypt about 6 billion dollars. The allocation of large expenditures for research and development in many countries is due to their realization that improving the quality of their products has become one of the most important international competitive means, especially with the increasing number of multinational companies and their entry into the markets of different countries, and thus controlling international trade exchanges.

In view of the reality of foreign direct investment in the communications and information technology sector in Iraq, the country has witnessed a remarkable development in the past few years especially in the field of communications and the Internet, as the volume of foreign investment projects in this field for the period of 2012-2016 reached approximately 178 projects. With it, the number of mobile phone and Internet users also increased as shown in Table 8:

**Table (8)**

*Number of Mobile Phone Lines and Percentage of Internet Subscribers in Iraq for the period of 2010-2018*

Year	The number of mobile phone lines	Internet users out of the total population %
2010	23014071	2.50
2011	25363595	5.00
2012	29763880	7.10
2013	34256788	9.20
2014	35846824	13.21
2015	33470916	58.00
2016	34957526	21.23
2017	40001723	49.36
2018	39150741	75,00

Source: Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organization, Telecommunication and Postal Statistics (2014-2018)

The number of mobile phone lines increased from 23 million lines in 2010 to about 39 million lines in 2018, whilst the percentage of Internet users increased from 2.50% in 2010 to about 75% of the total population for the year 2018. This rise indicates the desire of individuals to keep pace with the global development in this field and take advantage of the services in it, as information and communication technology has been introduced in many services such as financial services through the use of credit cards and electronic payment of salaries of state employees, electronic commerce, as well as public services in public and private institutions, in addition to e-learning.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Conclusions

- 1- The difficulty of achieving sustainable development goals in Iraq is a result of the economic, social, environmental and institutional challenges faced by the country which had impede its overall development.
- 2- As Iraq is a developing country, it is in dire need of foreign direct investment to advance its economic and service reality by financing development programs and plans. It needs financial funding to address the internal shortcomings in this field.
- 3- Law No. (13) (2006) and the attached amendments provide a basic foundation for a modern law to attract investments and protect investors, whether local or foreign.
- 4- The oil and natural gas sector acquired the largest share of foreign investments, as Iraq contracted a number of international investment companies after 2003 to develop its oil fields and increase the volume of its exports of crude oil.
- 5- The contribution of foreign direct investment to the gross domestic product was clear, especially with regards to the oil and gas sector, in addition to its effective contribution to the telecommunications and Internet sector. As for its contribution to the employment of the workforce, it was weak compared to the number of the unemployed.

### **B. Recommendations:**

- 1- Working on enhancing foreign direct investment opportunities through attractive facilities, and creating an appropriate investment climate especially with regards to infrastructure development, which is important in attracting investment.
- 2- Securing sustainable development requires the presence of a strong political and legal authority that works to develop ways to ensure the progress of the development process within an advanced and financially supported institutional framework, a stable economic environment, and a stable security situation.
- 3- The need for direct foreign investments to be directed towards the productive sectors, which absorb a large number of labor, to reduce unemployment and encourage local product. This can be achieved by providing tax exemptions and allowances for foreign investments, and in return imposing specific restrictions on the entry of competing foreign products.
- 4- The necessity for the investment authorities in the governorates to facilitate the procedures related to foreign investment, and to reduce administrative and bureaucratic restrictions by activating the single window department.
- 5- The possibility of holding international conferences related to investment inside and outside Iraq and inviting foreign investors, provided that this is accompanied by a wide media campaign in order to see investment opportunities inside Iraq.

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