



# **EVALUATING VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE ACCORDING TO GRI REQUIREMENTS AND ITS ROLE IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - A STUDY OF A SAMPLE OF ISLAMIC BANKS IN THE IRAQI ENVIRONMENT**

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<b>Article history:</b>		<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Received:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	<p>This study aimed to clarify the concept of social responsibility accounting and clarify the role of economic units in applying disclosure requirements according to its standards and establishing an approach between the concepts and requirements of contemporary social responsibility accounting with what is stated in it according to the Islamic perspective and to stand on the awareness of economic units of the importance of applying the requirements of social responsibility accounting and its importance to society as a whole and the Islamic culture in particular. The study employed the deductive approach in the theoretical aspect and the inductive aspect in the practical element. The research hypothesis was tested on a sample of Islamic banks by reviewing their annual report for the year 2023 and studying all the expenses and activities referred to in the report and related to social activities by employing a study of the content of the reports and preparing a checklist to assess the commitment to the requirements of GRI and then proceeding to prepare a questionnaire for specialists regarding the importance of voluntary disclosure in achieving sustainable development, to observe the extent of their awareness towards establishing the requirements of social responsibility accounting and its impact on sustainable development with (60) specialists. The research concluded that there is a weakness in the voluntary disclosure of social responsibility requirements for the research sample. It recommended the importance of this disclosure to achieve sustainable development Because it gives the clients and stakeholders confidence in the research sample.</p>
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## **1-1 INTRODUCTION**

The increase and exacerbation of social problems in various countries of the world have placed a significant role on the shoulders of economic units in contributing to solving these social problems, as they possess the tools to exploit economic resources in countries and are entrusted with the direction towards achieving social welfare, preserving the environment, providing economic stability and reducing class distinctions, which prompts us to say that Islamic legislation has never forgotten to establish the foundations of a sound society through the obligations of social solidarity, environmental protection, eliminating distinctions between individuals, and taking the hand of the weak and the poor and other great instructions, which if any society adhered to implementing, its society would advance and its economy would flourish. From this standpoint, the problem of the weak commitment of Islamic economic units to achieving their social responsibility, even if it is voluntary according to the applicable legislation, was studied, and the extent of its impact on achieving sustainable development for society as a whole and how it will instill confidence in



those dealing with these units. Through this, the research problem was framed by the development of the role provided by economic units from providing information related to their financial performance only to disclosing information about the extent of their contribution to serving society, and this stems from the fact that economic units are part of the social environment system as a whole. It is responsible for achieving social success by providing services to society. The following question can summarize the problem of the study: Do Islamic economic units have a role in achieving the requirements of social responsibility accounting and thus supporting the sustainable development required in society?) Hence, the importance of the study stems from the importance of the role assigned to economic units as a whole recently, their responsibility to disclose the services that can be provided to society and their contributions to preserving the environment alongside achieving their economic activities. The importance of the study stems from the importance of the approach between modern concepts of social accounting and the requirements of sustainable development that established the idea of social responsibility through (the individual's responsibility towards himself, the individual's responsibility towards the family, the individual's responsibility towards the neighbors, the individual's responsibility towards the tribe or city, the individual's responsibility towards friends and colleagues, the individual's responsibility towards the homeland, the individual's responsibility towards the world). The objectives of the study were framed by focusing on the concept of accounting for social responsibility, clarifying the role of economic units in applying its requirements, and establishing an approach between the concepts and requirements of accounting for social responsibility with what came from the axes of sustainable development in the theoretical frameworks and standing on the role of Islamic economic units in applying the requirements of accounting for social responsibility and its importance in supporting the sustainable development of society as a whole. It was assumed that there is **(a weakness in the role played by the administrations of economic units in Iraq - Islamic banks in particular - in applying the requirements of accounting for social responsibility, which negatively affects the sustainable development of society as a whole).**

### **1-2 Previous Studies**

1 -**Ben Bahlak Study 2021** This study aimed to identify the impact of accounting disclosure of social responsibility in achieving competitive advantage in Islamic banks operating in Kuwait. To achieve the study's objectives, a questionnaire was designed and distributed to a sample of (150) employees. The study used the descriptive analytical approach using the SPSS program. The study showed a set of results, the most important of which is that accounting disclosure of social responsibility related to employees, the field of customer protection, the environmental field, and the charitable field works to achieve the competitive advantage of Kuwaiti Islamic banks. The study recommended the necessity of doubling the interest of Islamic banks in accounting disclosure of social responsibility and increasing their financial allocations related to that.

2- **Al-Ani's study in 2017** dealt with the nature of social responsibility in Islamic banks, indicating that the legal cover adds ethical dimensions to this responsibility. The study focused on the extent to which Islamic banks achieve their social responsibility in their environment, focusing on their commitment at the internal (employees and customers) and external (society) levels. The research was distinguished by crystallizing the specificity of the concept of social responsibility in Islamic thought, highlighting the role of financial tools for Islamic banks in enhancing social responsibility, and then clarifying the role of contemporary Islamic financial services and their role in advancing social responsibility.

### **3 -Al-Ghamdi's study 2007:**

"Sustainable development between the right to exploit natural resources and the responsibility to protect the environment"

This study aimed to critically review the concept of modernity and the negative consequences of adopting it in development theory, especially in the field of the environment, define the concept of sustainable development, define different points of view on the environmental crisis and ways to confront it, review international efforts towards adopting more sustainable development, present some recommendations and suggestions regarding environmental protection and working to sustain it. The study concluded that the world needs sustainable and balanced development focusing on prevention rather than treatment. This means that sustainability is not only an environmental issue, but it deals with changes and problems in the agricultural, environmental, economic, and social fields, which prompted some interested parties in this matter to call this sustainability movement the "environmental revolution" in comparison to the agricultural and industrial revolutions that had a huge historical impact on global human culture.

Therefore, sustainability is a philosophy with a new vision to search for social structures, economic activities, production and consumption patterns, and technologies that sustain the environment, empower the current generation, improve its life, and ensure a suitable life for future generations. To achieve this, it is necessary to reformulate current activities or invent other new methods and then work to integrate them into the existing environment to create sustainable development that is culturally acceptable, economically feasible, environmentally



appropriate, politically applicable, and socially just. Therefore, it is relevant to start directly adopting several practices that support environmental sustainability, including:

- Consuming resources moderately and efficiently, considering the best prices, the most efficient use of resources, time frames for replacing non-renewable resources with alternative resources, and potential alternative uses.
- Not consuming renewable resources at a rate faster than their ability to be renewed or in a way that could harm humans or life-support systems on Earth, especially those that have no alternatives.
- Expanding the reliance on clean, renewable energy, such as solar, hydropower, and wind energy.
- Use traditional waste as a resource as much as possible and dispose of it when needed in a way that does not harm humans and Earth's life support systems.
- Fight to eliminate toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers, especially those harmful to the environment.

### **1-3 What distinguishes the current study**

The first and second previous studies focused on measuring the level of awareness of the management of economic units (banks or joint stock companies) of the concept and pillars of social responsibility accounting and the extent of its application in Islamic banks in Kuwait. The third study focused on sustainable development and setting a plan for sustainable development as a treatment and interest in observing technological developments and their effects on the environment and searching for solutions to problems before they occur. The current research focuses on shedding light on the necessity of Islamic economic units, in particular, to apply the requirements of social responsibility accounting in the Iraqi environment, considering that the level of awareness of this application was researched and measured in previous studies. The move was towards analyzing and observing the extent of applying and establishing the pillars of optional social responsibility accounting and its impact on sustainable development.

### **Theoretical aspect of the research**

#### **Theoretical framework for accounting for social responsibility and voluntary disclosure according to it**

The focus here will be on presenting and clarifying the concept of social responsibility accounting, stating its most essential pillars and advantages, and addressing its benefits and the basic assumptions and principles of its system through the following:

#### **2-1 The concept of social responsibility accounting**

Social responsibility is the foundation of social accounting. It emerged as a conceptual and applied framework following the emergence of trends that emphasized the social responsibility of economic units. Corporate social responsibility has evolved significantly over the decades, with its definitions expanding in the 1960s and becoming more widespread in the 1970s (Carroll, 1999, p. 23). The concept of social responsibility can be approached in three main directions:

The first trend: Social responsibility is determined by the economic unit's balance between directing available resources to achieve profits and committing to and observing the prevailing values in society.

The second trend is about the extent to which the economic unit bears social responsibility, and this is of two types

- 1- Social responsibility: Contributing to achieving social welfare
- 2- Special Responsibility: Achieving profit for the owners of the economic unit

The third trend is that social responsibility is viewed according to the theory of general systems, as the economic unit is a sub-system within a more extensive social system, and the facility's management must achieve balance with the more extensive system. Social responsibility is determined by maximizing profit and achieving a satisfactory level within a specific range of social goals represented by stakeholders' interests, such as demanding better wages for workers and taking consumers into account at a lower price and higher quality.

At present, the social responsibility of the economic unit means carrying out activities (mandatory and voluntary) aimed at reducing the negative external results of its activity and contributing to solving society's problems. These social contributions may not be of direct benefit to the economic unit. (Aboud and Khalaf, 2011: 40). Researchers have provided many definitions of social responsibility. Drucker explained that social responsibility is the organization's commitment to the society in which it operates (Drucker, 1984, p. 56). From the point of view (Mohammed, 2020), social responsibility refers to the obligations and duties that fall on organizations and individuals towards society beyond their legal and economic responsibilities. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development defined social responsibility as the ongoing commitment of business companies to act ethically, contribute to achieving economic development, and work to improve the quality of living conditions for the workforce and their families, the local community, and society as a whole. Social responsibility is also defined as the moral responsibility of the organization towards the group of stakeholders directly or indirectly affected by the organization's actions (Jones, 2001, p. 153). This definition shows that ethics play a significant role in social responsibility. Pride defines social responsibility as the recognition that business activities have an impact on society and considering that impact in making business decisions (Pride, 2005:42). Williams explained that it is the commitment of the business sector to follow policies and actions that benefit society (Williams, 2002, p. 42).



## **2-2 Social Responsibility Accounting Requirements**

In general, the areas of social responsibility are currently defined as follows (Ebrahimzadeh-Afrouzi & Ahmadchali, 2023) (Шанцырова, 2023) (Carroll, 1999) (Cheema & Javed, 2017):

- 1- —Environmental Contribution Requirement: Environmental contributions are a critical social responsibility aspect. Companies must be aware of their impact on the natural world and take proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprint and promote sustainability. Organizations are expected to implement environmentally friendly practices, reduce waste, and invest in renewable energy sources, all while ensuring that their operations do not compromise the delicate balance of the environment.
- 2- Public Contribution Requirement: Organizations actively engage with and give back to the communities in which they operate. This can include charitable initiatives, volunteer work, and collaborative efforts to address societal issues. By demonstrating a genuine commitment to the public's well-being, organizations can build trust, enhance their reputation, and create a positive impact that resonates beyond their direct operations.
- 3- Human Resources Requirement: Organizations must prioritize the well-being and development of their workforce. This includes providing fair and competitive compensation, ensuring safe and healthy working conditions, and investing in employee training and career growth opportunities. By fostering a positive and empowering work environment, organizations can attract and retain top talent, boost morale, and cultivate a culture of engagement and loyalty.
- 4- Product Requirement: The product requirement emphasizes the need for organizations to prioritize quality, safety, and ethical production of their goods and services. Consumers are increasingly aware of their products' social and environmental impact, and organizations must be accountable for their supply chain and manufacturing processes. By prioritizing product responsibility, organizations can build consumer trust, enhance their brand reputation, and contribute to society's overall well-being.

## **2-3 Benefits of Social Responsibility Accounting**

One of the primary benefits of CSR accounting is its ability to enhance a company's financial performance. Research has shown that companies that actively engage in CSR initiatives can experience increased market share, improved investor relations, and enhanced employee engagement and commitment. (Heslin & Ochoa, 2008: 129) By demonstrating a commitment to social and environmental sustainability, organizations can differentiate themselves from competitors, build consumer trust, and position themselves as leaders in their respective industries. CSR accounting can also facilitate organizational learning and growth. By proactively addressing societal challenges, companies can discover new business opportunities, develop innovative products and services, and expand their customer base. This strategic approach to CSR can lead to sustainable competitive advantages and long-term viability (Kaur & Singh, 2020, p. 142). In addition to financial benefits, CSR accounting can positively affect a company's reputation and brand image. Consumers and stakeholders are increasingly aware of companies' social and environmental impact, and they tend to prefer organizations that demonstrate a genuine commitment to responsible practices (Ajayi & Mmutle, 2020, p. 5).

## **2-4 Basic assumptions and principles of the social responsibility accounting system**

Some authors have identified basic assumptions and principles of the social responsibility accounting system, as the system is based on four basic assumptions as follows (Lulu, 2009: 31):

- 1- The economic unit has obligations and responsibilities towards the society in which it operates and accepts to bear these obligations and responsibilities.
- 2- —Society's economic resources are characterized by scarcity and must be exploited efficiently to maximize the social return from social investment.
- 3- The general economic resources that the economic unit depletes in its operational activity, such as water and air, are not free goods but rather socio-economic resources that the economic unit must compensate society for what it depletes from them.
- 4- The community has the right to be informed of the extent to which the economic unit is fulfilling its responsibilities within the generally accepted foundations and principles of accounting disclosure.

## **Sustainable Development: A Theoretical Introduction**

Through this paragraph, the most important aspects related to sustainable development and its relationship to social accounting will be presented:

### **3-1 : Definition of sustainable development**

The concept of sustainable development emerged in the late last century to occupy an important position among researchers and those interested in the environment. This interest is due to the increasing pressures on the available capabilities in the developed and underdeveloped world, as the term sustainable development began to be used frequently in contemporary development literature. Sustainability is considered a development model characterized by rationality and wisdom. It deals with activities aimed at growth on the one hand and with procedures





for preserving the environment and resources on the other hand. The United Nations Environment and Development Program defined sustainable development as: "Development that responds to the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to respond or meet their needs as well".

The definition shows the future vision to ensure the continuity of the productivity of exploitable natural resources and to preserve human rights to a decent life now and in the future. The philosophy of sustainable development focuses on an important fact: concern for the environment is the essence of economic development, given that natural resources are the basis of industrial and agricultural activity. Present generations exploit these resources, achieving success in growth or competition, ignoring the rights of future generations to the environment and natural resources, and this undoubtedly threatens the continuity of development in the future. True success is preserving the base of natural resources and environmental determinants and the ability to achieve the desired economic and social growth. (Maki, Boutiba, 2014: 5)

### **3-2: Compatibility of social responsibility accounting requirements in achieving sustainable development**

Through the above, the most important points of convergence of social responsibility accounting in achieving sustainable development can be stated as follows:

**Economic development:** It aims to improve human welfare by increasing its share of essential goods and services. It, in turn, meets the requirement of public contribution to social responsibility.

**B- Environmental development:** It focuses on protecting and maintaining ecological systems dealing well with natural resources and employing them for the benefit of humans without disrupting the environment, including land, water, air, and the natural resources that contribute to the survival of human, animal, and plant life. Sustaining them and preventing their depletion or pollution. It, in turn, meets the environmental requirement of social responsibility.

**C- Social development:** It includes developing human coherence, individual, collective and institutional relations and the cooperative efforts they contribute to or the problems they cause or the needs, demands and pressures they pose on economic, political and security systems. It meets the requirement of human resources in social responsibility.

### **3-3 : Social responsibility and developmental role:**

Consumers, employees and managers of corporations, especially large and multinational corporations, are increasingly hopeful and anticipating that corporations will go beyond their traditional role of innovating, producing, packaging and selling for profit. The public sees that simply creating jobs and paying taxes is no longer enough as the private sector's sole contribution to society. The rise of socially responsible investment products is a testament to this trend, as investors express their concern and declare their ethical and social positions in the companies they invest in and sponsor. Socially responsible investors include individuals, corporations, universities, hospitals, foundations, insurance companies, pension funds and non-profit organizations. Fund investments may exclude certain products or practices such as alcohol, weapons, polluting products, animal testing or gambling. Or they may actively identify the positive aspects of companies that adopt effective policies to protect the environment, follow fair employment practices and explore the relationship between business and society. Charitable work, characterized by good planning and management, starting from sponsoring cultural festivals to preparing educational programs for the disadvantaged groups and protecting the environment, has become an essential element in all business plans of large companies in a realistic and practical way. (Abdul Hamid and Abdul Latif, 2012: 11-12)

### **GRI Social Responsibility Initiative Requirements:**

The GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) indicators are essential tools used by companies to assess and disclose their social and environmental impacts. These indicators aim to enhance transparency and accountability in corporate reporting, which helps improve social and environmental performance. The following are some of the main indicators included in the GRI (Shaaban, 2019: 87):

1 .Economic indicators: These indicators include information on financial performance, such as revenues, profits, and taxes paid, and aim to measure the impact of economic activities on society and the environment.

2 .Environmental indicators: These are related to measuring the impacts of activities on the environment, such as carbon emissions, water consumption, and waste management, and help companies understand their environmental impacts and identify areas for improvement.

3 .Social indicators: These include indicators related to labor, human rights, and community participation, and aim to measure the impacts of activities on local communities and employees.

4 .Governance indicators: These are related to organizational structure, transparency, and ethical practices, and aim to enhance accountability and transparency in corporate management.

GRI indicators help companies to: improve their reputation, increase stakeholder confidence, enhance competitiveness by adhering to global standards, and achieve sustainable development by improving social and

environmental performance. Through the above, we will move to evaluate voluntary disclosure of social responsibility in the research sample and according to GRI requirements and demonstrate its importance in achieving sustainable development. The relationship between GRI indicators and sustainable development requirements can be shown as follows:

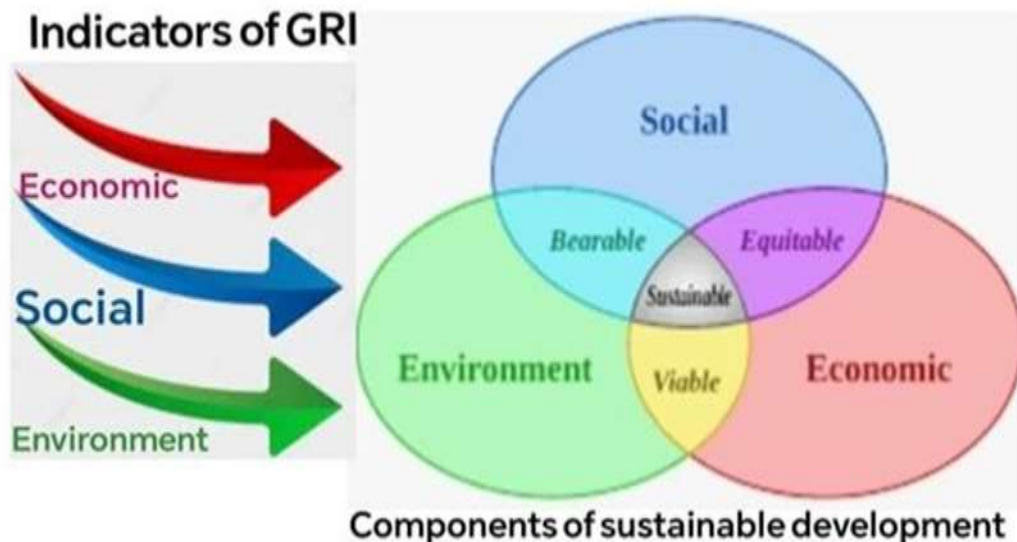


Figure 1: The relationship between GRI indicators and sustainable development requirements

#### TOOLS AND METHODS

**Study sample:** The study community is represented by Islamic banks listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange. A sample of two banks (Islamic World Bank and Islamic Spectrum Bank) was selected to make their data available. By reviewing their annual reports, the voluntary disclosure of social responsibility will be evaluated according to GRI requirements or not by preparing an agency checklist:

Voluntary disclosure checklist according to GRI indicators for the research sample for the year 2023

Standard number	Items	World Islamic Bank		Al Taif Islamic Bank	
101	basics	Applied	Not applicable	Applied	Not applicable
102	General Disclosures	-		-	
103	Core Topics	-		-	
<b>Economic axis</b>					
201	Economic performance	1	0	1	0
202	Presence in the market	1	0	0	1
203	Direct economic impacts	1	0	1	0
204	Purchasing practices	0	1	1	0
205	Anti-corruption	1	0	1	0
206	anti-competitive behavior	0	1	1	0
207	Taxes	1	0	1	0
Total economic axis indicators		5	2	6	1
<b>Environmental axis</b>					
301	Materials	0	1	1	0
302	Energy	0	1	1	0
303	Water	0	1	0	1
304	Biodiversity	0	1	0	1
305	Emissions	0	1	0	1
306	Waste	0	1	0	1
307	Environmental Compliance	0	1	0	1
308	Environmental	0	1	0	1

	assessment of suppliers				
Total environmental axis indicators		0	8	2	6
Social Axis					
401	Employment	0	1	0	1
402	Labor-management relations	1	0	0	1
403	Occupational Health and Safety	1	0	0	1
404	Training and Education	1	0	1	0
405	Diversity and equal opportunities	0	1	0	1
406	Non-discrimination	0	1	0	1
407	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	1	0	1	0
408	child labor	0	1	0	1
409	Forced or compulsory labor	0	1	0	1
410	Security practices	0	1	1	0
411	Indigenous Peoples' Rights	1	0	1	0
412	Human Rights Assessment	1	0	0	1
413	Local communities	0	1	1	0
414	Social Evaluation	0	1	1	0
415	Public Policy	1	0	1	0
416	Customer Health and Safety	0	1	0	1
417	Marketing and Labels	1	0	1	0
418	Customer Privacy	1	0	1	0
419	Social and economic compliance	1	0	1	0
Total social axis indicators		9	9	10	9

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on the GRI website. Available on the initiative's website <https://www.globalreporting.org>

Upon reviewing the annual report of the two banks, the research sample for the year ending 2023, and searching in their data and information about the extent of the banks' contribution to establishing social accounting requirements as financial institutions that practice their activities by Islamic law, and it is more appropriate to adopt the application of the voluntary social responsibility accounting requirements before the mandatory ones; it became clear that there is a significant weakness in the application of these requirements by reviewing the activities of the two banks and their expenses as well, which are included in the financial statements. As for the economic axis, it was the axis that received the most attention from the sample, with a slight difference, with Al-Tayf Islamic Bank ahead of Al-Alam Islamic Bank. As for the environmental axis, the percentage of commitment to voluntary disclosure of the activities included within it was very weak, as the sample's contribution was not indicated, for example, by:

- Contributing to beautifying or planting trees in specific areas, schools or hospitals
- The two banks did not provide any aid or donations to entities working in the field of environmental protection
- The sample did not organize any awareness campaigns on the importance of the environment or its preservation
- The sample did not provide any support for projects to reclaim agricultural lands suitable for cultivation
- The sample did not provide any support for waste recycling and environmental preservation projects
- The sample did not disclose any treatment of emissions or water treatment methods.

As for the social axis, the application rate was average. Some implicit paragraphs of this indicator were adhered to, but we did not notice the sample's commitment, for example:

- Housing plans for employees working in the bank or not
- Health care plans for employees working in the bank or not



- Plans to provide job opportunities for job seekers
- Plans for employment, care, and gender discrimination
- Security matters and working to ensure their presence

The sample focused on this axis of training workers in research and development and spent specific amounts on courses in which the two bank members participated during 2023. These courses included (47) training courses for members of the Islamic Spectrum Bank outside and inside the bank and (8) courses for members of the Islamic World Bank to develop their capabilities and keep pace with developments in the banking sector.

-Support for electronic payment service or receipt via ATM for elderly patients and those unable to move was not observed.

-The sample did not conduct market research to determine the customers' bank service needs.

-The sample did not provide good loans supporting national products and small halal projects.

Thus, we note a significant weakness in the sample's commitment to voluntary social responsibility accounting requirements, especially in the environmental and social aspects.

**In order to demonstrate the impact of commitment to voluntary disclosure of social responsibility accounting requirements and its impact on sustainable development for the research sample, a questionnaire list was prepared to study the relationship between the variables and prove the hypotheses as follows:**

#### **DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS RESULTS**

This paragraph aims to present and analyze the results of field research in estimating the absolute dispersion of the sample responses from the arithmetic mean using descriptive statistical tools represented by the arithmetic mean and standard deviation. The goal is to draw a general picture or framework for the respondents' preferences and general orientation towards the study variables through a five-point Likert scale. Moreover, through preparing a questionnaire designed with (60) questionnaires, It was distributed to a sample of investors in these two banks The extent of their investment experience was distributed between 5 to 15 years, and the analysis of their answers was as follows

- 1- Cronbach's Alpha: To measure the reliability of the answers, use the Cronbach's Alpha test, i.e., if the questionnaire is re-assigned to the same sample, the scales in the questionnaire will give the same results, and the value of the reliability coefficient will be the same, and the amount of reliance on it must be measured. Table (2) shows the results of the Cronbach's Alpha test to measure the reliability of the questionnaire.

Table (1) Cronbach's Alpha

Axes	N of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
The first axis	10	0.718
The second axis	10	0.735
The questionnaire as a whole	20	0.807

Table No. (2), shown above, shows that Cronbach's alpha value for the entire questionnaire is (0.807), considered a high percentage for this study. The stability coefficient for the first axis was also calculated to be (0.718) and (0.735) for the second axis. These values indicate that the stability conditions for the questionnaire paragraphs have been met, as their stability coefficients for the principal axes and sub-question axes are more significant than 0.70. Moreover, this indicates that the stability conditions have been met for each paragraph of the axis separately, as is evident from the table.

A- The first axis (voluntary disclosure according to GRI requirements): The importance of this axis is evident from the sample's answers regarding the arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation.

Table (3) Research sample answers to the axis paragraphs (voluntary disclosure according to GRI requirements)

	Questions	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation %
1	The Bank discloses its economic plans regularly and transparently.	3.04	1.124	36.97%
2	Environmentally harmful emissions are disclosed in the bank's financial reports	3.12	0.796	25.51%
3	The Bank's practice of informal foreign currency sales directly	3.48	1.081	31.06%



	affects the economy			
4	Water treatment methods are disclosed in the bank's financial reports.	3.23	0.819	25.35%
5	Waste treatment methods are disclosed in the bank's financial reports.	3.24	0.806	24.87%
6	The methods of using electrical energy and how to use it without significant waste are disclosed in the bank's financial reports.	3.12	1.231	39.45%
7	Environmental compliance is disclosed in the bank's financial reports.	2.310	1.052	45.54%
8	Good loans provided by the bank are disclosed in the bank's financial reports.	2.62	1.056	40.30%
9	Insurance for persons working in the bank is disclosed in the financial reports.	3.45	1.32	38.26%
10	The bank's financial reports disclose the customer's health and safety.	2.72	1.192	43.82%
<b>Voluntary disclosure according to GRI requirements</b>		3.033	1.047	34.54%

Source: Prepared by researchers based on SPSS outputs

Table (3) shows the arithmetic means, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation related to the answers of the sample members studied for the first axis (voluntary disclosure according to GRI requirements). The results were distributed between the highest level of response achieved by the third question, including (The Bank's practice of informal foreign currency sales directly affects the economy) as the mean value reached (3.48), with a standard deviation between the answers (1.081) and a coefficient of variation (31.06%), Which reflects the very small amount of dispersion in the responses of the respondents and the important role of the bank's practice of methods of selling informal means of foreign currency and its impact on the imports of the economy.. The lowest value of the arithmetic mean was for the seventh question, including (Waste treatment methods are disclosed in the bank's financial reports) as the arithmetic mean value reached (2.310) with a standard deviation (1.052) and a coefficient of variation (45.54%), which reflects the high degree of variation. From the above, Table (3) shows us the answers of the individuals of the researched sample, according to their answers to the first axis. The answers indicate that the paragraph has an impact and statistical significance, with the arithmetic mean being (3.033), a standard deviation of (1.047), and a coefficient of variation of (34.54%), which reflects the degree of homogeneity in the content of the paragraphs included in the axis.

**B- The second axis (achieving the requirements of sustainable development through a commitment to voluntary disclosure):** The importance of the second axis is evident in Table (4), which reflects the sample's answers in terms of the arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation.

Table (4) Achieving the requirements of sustainable development through a commitment to voluntary disclosure

Questions	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation %
The bank deals with Murabaha contracts after ensuring they are free from fraud and adverse economic impact, thus achieving economic sustainability.	4.04	1.034	25.59%
The bank verifies when granting the letter of guarantee the sources of funds to the second party, which achieves support for economic sustainability.	2.64	1.024	38.78%
Disclosure of contracts concluded by the bank will enhance the economic reality and identify the bank's role in achieving economic sustainability.	2.78	1.657	59.60%
Financial markets are concerned with the bank's compliance with applicable laws and regulations through what the bank discloses.	3.32	1.172	35.30%
Disclosure of interest-free or conditional financing by the bank enhances the confidence of its clients and thus achieves economic and social sustainability.	4.07	1.243	30.54%
Voluntary disclosure of occupational safety procedures to customers in the bank will achieve social sustainability	3.484	1.1404	32.73%
Disclosure of the bank's waste treatment will enhance the bank's role in environmental sustainability and, thus, the confidence of its clients.	4.01	1.123	28.00%
Voluntary disclosure of the importance of training employees in the bank would enhance the bank's social role.	4.03	1.213	30.09%
Disclosure of the bank's environmental compliance will enhance the confidence of its clients and achieve environmental sustainability.	3.65	0.897	24.57%
Voluntary disclosure of material and moral support for employees will enhance the bank's role in achieving social sustainability.	2.32	1.12	48.27%
Achieving the requirements of sustainable development through a commitment to voluntary disclosure	3.43	1.16	33.84

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on SPSS outputs

Table (4) shows the arithmetic means, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation related to the answers of the sample members surveyed regarding the second axis, which includes **(achieving the requirements of sustainable development through a commitment to voluntary disclosure)**. The results were distributed between the highest level of response, which was achieved by the fifth question, which includes (disclosure of financing without interest or conditions by the bank enhances the confidence of its clients and thus achieves economic and social sustainability), as the mean value reached (4.07), with a standard deviation between the answers (1.243) and a coefficient of variation (**30.54%**), which reflects the amount of dispersion in the answers of the sample members and the important role in supporting different segments and achieving economic and social sustainability by providing loans without any requirements or interest. The lowest value of the arithmetic mean was for the tenth question, which includes (voluntary disclosure of material and moral support for employees would enhance the role of the bank in achieving social sustainability), as the arithmetic mean value reached (2.32) with a standard deviation of (1.12) and a coefficient of variation of (**48.27%**)—reflecting the degree of difference among sample individuals in voluntary disclosure of material and moral support for employees and its role in enhancing the bank's role in achieving social sustainability. We note from the results presented in Table (4) that most sample individuals agreed, as their answers were positive in all paragraphs of the second axis (achieving sustainable development requirements through commitment to voluntary disclosure), as it reflects a general arithmetic mean for the axis of (3.43) with a standard deviation of (1.16) and a coefficient of variation of (33.84).

2—The correlation hypothesis between the study variables will be discussed and tested by testing the first central hypothesis: "There is a significant relationship between the voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to the GRI requirements and achieving sustainable development." The results obtained to test this relationship are shown in the following table) 5).

Table (5) Pearson Correlation

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Negative images of the economy and its relationship to illegal financial contracts</b>	<b>Addressing the adverse economic effects of Sharia-compliant financial contracts</b>
<b>Voluntary disclosure according to GRI requirements</b>	1	0.610** 0.000
<b>Achieving sustainable development requirements through commitment to voluntary disclosure</b>	0.610** 0.000	1

**Source:** The researcher prepared the results based on the statistical analysis—the significance of the (Correlation coefficient at a significance level of (0.01).

Table (5) shows that the Pearson correlation coefficient between the first and second variables reached (0.610), which is a positive and statistically significant value at a significance level of (0.01). This indicates the significance of the correlation between voluntary disclosure and its relationship to achieving sustainable development. This result indicates that the bank deals with Murabaha contracts after ensuring they are free of forgery and when granting the letter of guarantee from the sources of funds to the second party. Based on the significance of the statistically significant correlation, we accept the first sub-hypothesis

3—In this aspect, the hypothesis of influence between the study variables will be discussed and tested by testing the hypothesis that "There is a significant influence relationship between the voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to GRI requirements on sustainable development requirements."

It will be tested by assuming) the existence of a significant relationship between the voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to GRI requirements (X) and sustainable development requirements (Y), and it can be expressed by the following linear regression equation: -

$$\text{BoldY} = a + \beta X$$

Where Y = sustainable development requirements, X = voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to GRI requirements,  $\beta$  = slope of the equation (the amount of change in Y that occurs due to a change in X unit), a = a statistical constant.

The equation shows that the relationship is a function of the actual value. Table (6) shows the variance analysis (ANOVA) results and the impact relationship test coefficients

Table (6) Results of the linear regression analysis of the relationship between the voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to the GRI and the requirements of sustainable development

ANOVA							
Sig.	F	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Mean Square	Sum of Squares	Sum of Squares	Model
0.000	21.330	.610 <sup>a</sup>	.269	7.078	1	7.078	Regression
-	-	-		.332	58	19.247	Residual
-	-	-			59	26.326	Total
Coefficients							
Sig.	T	Standardized Coefficients		Unstandardized Coefficients		Model	
		Beta		Std. Error	β		
.004	3.030			.486	1.473	(Constant)	
.000	4.618	.610		.147	.679		

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on SPSS outputs

Based on the results shown in Table (5), it is clear that variable X and its relationship with variable Y have a correlation and influence in treating the adverse economic effects, as this influence and correlation form a linear regression model in terms of the strength of the correlation and the explanatory and influential ability in the dimension of treating the adverse economic, environmental and social effects. The value of the coefficient (R) for this model reached (0.610), which is statistically significant at the significance level (0.01). The value of F reached (21.33), which is greater than its tabular value (4.98), indicating the existence of a strong influence relationship between the variable (X) and the variable (Y). The coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) value, representing the linear regression model's explanatory power, reached (0.269). This value means that the linear regression model, through the variable (X), can explain (26.9%) of the difference and variance in the variable (Y). Its significance is supported by the value of the (T) test, which is (4.618), which is greater than its tabular value (1.671), indicating the existence of a strong influence of the variable (X) on the variable (Y). This indicates that the regression curve is sufficient to describe the relationship between the two variables with a very high significance, which proves the acceptance of the hypothesis, according to the linear regression equation, as follows: -

$$Y = 1.473 + 0.679X$$

It is clear from the value of the marginal slope coefficient ( $\beta$ ) of (0.679) that increasing the variable (X) by one unit will lead to an increase in the variable (Y) by (67.9%). Based on the results in Table (5), the hypothesis was accepted: "There is a significant impact relationship between the voluntary disclosure of Islamic banks according to GRI requirements on sustainable development requirements."

### Conclusion

The results showed, through the answers of the sample members studied, their agreement to a high degree in the content of the paragraphs included in the first axis, which affects the revenues of the real economy and thus achieves economic development. The results also showed, through the answers of the sample members studied for the second axis, their agreement to a high degree in the content of the paragraphs included in the axis. The values of the correlation coefficient between the variables were positive and statistically significant, which contributes to the correlation between the two variables, as the variable (voluntary disclosure) was able to explain (67.9%) of the total deviations in addressing the economic, social and environmental impacts if it was adhered to.





Then, the operations involved in environmental contributions are related to the environmental and social responsibility of the economic unit, as the law sets standard pollution levels and assumes that adherence to them achieves the minimum level of environmental safety. Failure to adhere to them harms individuals and natural resources affected by pollution. When measuring the value of the economic unit's contributions in this area, a distinction must be made between the positive contribution linked to the economic unit fulfilling its environmental and social responsibility to achieve standard pollution levels or achieving better than them. The burdens borne by the economic unit in the first case are considered a mandatory environmental and social contribution in return for its commitment to fulfilling its legal environmental and social responsibilities. However, when the economic unit achieves levels better than the standard levels, its additional burdens are considered an optional environmental and social contribution. In both cases, these contributions are measured directly based on the actual costs borne by the economic unit.

Based on the above, the necessary legal cover and legislation must be provided by the government and the supreme regulatory institutions in the country to urge economic units - banks - in particular, to establish social accounting requirements due to their benefits for the development of the unit itself and society and the environment in general, and to educate about the importance of social accounting requirements and their role in sustainable development to increase the level of awareness of bank managements to motivate them to adhere to them, by clarifying their importance and role in preserving society as a whole by following up on the activities and plans of banks and making it an independent item in the auditor's report showing the contributions of the economic unit towards society, the environment, individuals and products.

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