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to two years and implementing large-scale projects to build affordable or free public housing. The sociology professor further recommended incorporating social perspectives into housing projects, observing a lack of sociologists' presence in national planning. He proposed establishing specialized social science organizations for this purpose.

Inclusive unity and addressing social inequities

Janadeleh, a socialist, expressed hope that the government's approach to unity would be inclusive, not limited to specific political groups. He suggested that one way to achieve this inclusivity is by listening to the voices of marginalized groups, advocating for mechanisms to enable these voices to be heard, including democratizing the selection process for appointments. Janadeleh also advised that the social impacts of each government decision should be assessed in advance to avoid disruptions and negative consequences. Concluding his remarks, he urged the president to focus on educational equity and address the detrimental impact of the "entrance exam mafia" on the education system.

Zhaleh Shaditalab emphasized the importance of engaging all members of society, particularly those who did not participate in the presidential election, and reiterated that the government's most important responsibility is to ensure public satisfaction. She stressed the need for economic and social stability to provide citizens with a positive outlook for the future.

The socialist highlighted the role of civil institutions in national development and called for the Ministry of Interior to streamline and expedite the licensing process for such activities. She also noted the importance of realism and addressing current social and cultural needs, especially in matters concerning women and families.

Mousavi also shared concerns about whether these issues would receive adequate attention and preventive action. She pointed out that sociologists have warned about social fragmentation since the last decade, and such warnings have previously been communicated to presidents. She stressed that governance must foster mutual trust and reduce restrictions, particularly for scientific and student associations.

Mousavi continued by emphasizing that attention to the rights of neglected groups is reflected in your slogans, and people are waiting to see what developments will occur in this regard.

Strengthening social organizations

Addressing the meeting, Maqsood Farastkhah said that Pezeshkian's social behavior is accompanied by a certain type of social narrative, but it alone cannot drive development and other actions must also be taken.

He encouraged the president to prioritize both political and social stability, ensuring the resilience of the government.

Farastkhah suggested that the president should seek proposals from society on addressing social issues, noting that Iran has significant human capital, which could be an asset. He acknowledged the low quality of social services but suggested leveraging local and even expatriate expertise to improve it through innovation and changes in administrative processes.

He concluded by asking Pezeshkian to support the growth of social organizations, arguing that by strengthening these groups, substantial progress could be achieved over two presidential terms.

Ghaffari, another socialist, discussed the resilience of Iranian society and the role of the Islamic Republic in national development. He noted that while this strength enables the society to resist unacceptable measures, the importance of social issues has been overlooked. He argued that social challenges cannot be resolved through political and economic decisions alone; addressing social issues is a prerequisite for success in other areas.

Ghaffari highlighted the low voter turnout in recent elections and the need to engage various social classes, including those with fewer economic struggles, such as academics and students, who seek involvement in national decision-making. He emphasized that the president's slogan of unity should encompass this group, as they are key to achieving the government's goals.

He also criticized the selection process for university faculty, noting that excessive restrictions hinder academic processes, including hiring and departmental appointments. He urged the president to review these limitations.



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Mohammad Taqi Karami argued that the government must protect its political integrity and authority; otherwise, social issues could become problematic. "The government needs to be able to shape its social narrative through mechanisms that foster participation and innovation, and this process requires diverse contributions and creative solutions."

He emphasized the importance of university autonomy and the need for the government to strengthen its authority in the organizational processes of universities.

Another sociologist, Serajzadeh, noted that one of the president's promises was to seek expert opinions, stressing that this should become an institutional practice, not just a symbolic gesture. He remarked that Iranian society is currently highly polarized, which hampers consensus-building—a serious issue requiring attention.

He also highlighted potential areas for success, such as com-

bating corruption in government institutions, which could boost governmental efficiency by gaining the support of other governing bodies. Concluding his remarks, Serajzadeh criticized the three-year delay in approving elections for the Union

of Social Sciences Associations by the Ministry of Science, citing communication issues he hopes will be resolved under the current administration.

Call for engaging specialists

Continuing the discussion, Vahid Shalchi stated, "Contrary to those who claim that our society is polarized, I believe that there are currently three poles in our society." Vahid Shalchi argued against the notion that "our society is merely polarized", he believed that "there are currently three poles in our society." Shalchi identified a third group comprising "specialists that you can tap into for help. Despite their criticisms, they entered the fray and participated in the elections."

He suggested that the government's science-centered discourse could involve the scientific community in decision-making processes, including expert advisors without formal positions in the government.



What kind of justice is it that students from a province with the bare minimum of educational resources are expected to compete on an equal footing with students from, say, Tehran, who have access to the best facilities?

Restoring media's credibility

The sociologist stressed the need for the government to provide a vision for the country's economic future to ensure social stability. He also urged that the media's credibility be restored within the country, warning that unresolved issues would persist otherwise.

Yaqoub Ahmadi noted that many social and cultural problems stem from government interventions lacking expert insight. He cautioned that in some cases, political interventions exacerbate tensions rather than alleviate them, potentially leading to radical shifts among the affected groups.

This Kurdish sociologist expressed concerns over the disadvantaged status of border provinces like Kordestan, Ilam, and Sistan-Baluchestan in poverty metrics, highlighting that Kordestan has consistently ranked low in these indicators for years.

Falahati criticized the current governance structures in cultural and social domains, noting the urgent need for broader consultative circles to ensure more inclusive and realistic decisions. She also voiced disappointment over the stalled legislation on women's protection.

Kazemi presented five recommendations to the president: prioritize meaningful change, provide more support to middle- and lower-class women as they are the driving force of society, overhaul the education system, address rent-seeking opportunities in the field of employment and ultimately bring job instability to a close.

Hadi Khaniki, the final speaker, commended Pezeshkian for taking on responsibility during difficult times. He underscored the importance of paradigm shifts and utilizing the full potential of society through open dialogues to inform the public of societal challenges.

Khaniki also stressed the need to improve the government's communication with the public and increase transparency in media policies to reduce tensions, encouraging continued dialogue with experts.

In closing, Elias Hazrati, head of the government's Information Council, praised the president's unity slogan. He remarked on the significance of this approach, recalling efforts in the Sixth Parliament to appoint a Sunni representative to the presiding board, which ultimately failed. He contrasted this with today's administration, which includes a female minister, a Sunni deputy, and a Sunni governor.



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