



Periodical Profile

Egypt's vision on development between the evolving development concept and international and regional strategies

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Development is an evolving concept. At the beginning, the concern was not for development but for economic growth, consistent with the advancement of the developed countries since the Industrial Revolution, which was crystallized by spontaneous individual efforts without prior planning but merged clearly in the 1950s after the colonialized states got their independence and the indulged in the stage of national construction in pursuit of economic development. Initially, it was a simple concept based on the centrality of the economic dimension of development and the belief that raising the rate of economic growth will automatically improve the standard of living of individuals. The focus was also on the issue of the formation and accumulation of capital, and the political and institutional dimensions were excluded or even dismissed.

However, by time and the development of international events, development literature had undergone important transformations, which led to the failure of development in many developing countries, the increase in poverty, the entry of communist countries into acute crises on one side, and the success of modernization in the countries of South and East Asia on the other side. Consequently that led to more complications in the concept of development, which became more profound, inclusive, and man became the center in the process of development rather than the economy.



This evolution contributed to the re-consideration of the social dimension in development and its basic components, such as; equality, equity, the equitable distribution of goods and combating poverty. It also re-considered the political dimension and the requirements of the democracy in society, the guarantee of human rights, and also the environmental dimension, in order to ensure fairness regarding the requirements of the present generation and the next generation. Hence, the development of certain concepts and terminology started such as; social development and new concepts and terminology emerged, such as; sustainable development, and finally human development.

The concept of integrating human rights into development:

The evolution of the concepts of human rights and development shows the increasing awareness towards a common vision that combines human rights and development, not only within the context of the common goals of securing freedom, equality and human dignity, but also due to the fact that they consolidate each other, enhancing people's capacities and protecting their fundamental rights and freedoms. And in some cases it becomes impossible to achieve some aspects without achieving similar aspects on the other concept.

At the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, changes in the balance of power within the United Nations led to an important development in the concept of human rights by eliminating the artificial separation between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. The World Conference on Human Rights, in 1993 emphasised the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights.

In this context, the two most important human rights and development organs within the United Nations i.e. the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), advocated the concept of the integration of human rights into development and the promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development.



Egypt's project of development between international and regional programs:

The launching of the National Development Project in Egypt coincided with the launch of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030 and “Africa Agenda 2063: Road Map for Africa's Development”. Certainly, the Egyptian National Plan was influenced by the global and African plans. Egypt was the first country to submit its voluntary report to the voluntary mechanism (VMRI) on the achievements of the Sustainable Development Plan in 2016. Egypt also launched several initiatives for cooperation with African countries in the context of its readiness to assume the responsibility of the presidency of the African Union in early 2019. These initiatives received a positive response as they are indicating not only the interactions, and the principles on which they are based, but also foreshadowing expectations that Egypt could regain its former role in Africa and its status in Arab-African cooperation for mutual benefit. This doesn't mean, of course, the conformity of the means and priorities dictated by other considerations due to the diversity of resources, potentialities and challenges in the context of working under the international competition with Africa.

1. Sustainable Development Plan 2030:

Once, the United Nations completed its previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) it launched the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, including many aspirations and prospects for the coming 15 years, and depending on accumulation of experiences associated with sustainable development at the international level.

The Plan for Sustainable Development seeks to achieve 17 major goals and 169 sub-goals, based on international human rights instruments. Among its sub-goals are 156 targets associated with international human rights instruments and international labor standards, 135 related to African international human rights instruments and 79 related to instruments on environment and climate change. The sustainable development goals and sub-goals (169), aim to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development, and "ensure that no one is lagging behind". Most goals range from civil and political rights to economic and social rights.



Africa Agenda 2063: Roadmap for Africa's Development:

Parallel to the 2030 Development Plan, the African Union adopted the Development Plan 2063 on the sidelines of its 50th anniversary, following discussions at the level of the Council of African Ministers of Foreign Affairs and African leaders at their summit at the end of January 2015.

The plan aims to make Africa a peaceful and secure country with a strong cultural identity, heritage, values and ethics that will lead its people to development by unleashing the potentials of women and young people to become a strong and influential global player and partner.

Egypt Vision 2030: Sustainable Development Strategy:

This strategy is the first strategy to be formulated in accordance with the methodology of long-term strategic planning and participatory planning. It was prepared with the participation of civil society, the private sector, ministries and government agencies. It also received the support and active participation of international development partners. The strategy adopted the concept of sustainable development as a general framework, intended to improve the quality of life at the present time, without violating the rights of future generations to a better life. The concept of development adopted by the strategy is based on three strategic dimensions: economic dimension, social dimension and environmental dimension.

The strategy is based on the concepts of: inclusive and sustainable growth, balanced regional development to enable the participation of society in the process of building and development, benefiting all parties from the fruits of this development, taking into consideration the principle of equal opportunities, bridging development gaps, the optimal use of resources, and supporting the fairness of their use to guarantee the rights of future generations. It has been taken into account linking the strategic objectives to specific measuring performance indicators, assigning specific bodies with implementation responsibilities, in a fixed time frame and were largely linked to the United Nations sustainable development goals of September 2015.



Economic dimension:

Economic development axis

The strategic vision of economic development in Egypt until 2030 is based on the fact that the Egyptian economy has a stable market characterized by stable economic conditions, capable of achieving sustainable, competitive, diversified, knowledge-based growth, an active player in global economy, able to adapt to global changes, maximize value added, and provide decent and productive employment opportunities, that enable raising GDP to the high standard of middle-income countries.

Energy axis

By 2030, the energy sector will be able to meet all the requirements of sustainable national development of energy resources and maximize the efficient use of its diverse sources (traditional and renewable), thus contributing effectively to the promotion of economy, national competitiveness, social justice and environmental conservation with leadership in renewable energy and management. It is characterized by the ability to innovate, forecast and adapt local, regional and international changes in the field of energy, in line with the achievement of the international goals of sustainable development.

Knowledge, innovation and scientific research

By 2030, Egyptian society will be a creative, innovative and productive society in science, technology and knowledge. It is characterized by an integrated system that ensures the developmental value of innovation and knowledge, and links knowledge applications and innovation outcomes to national goals and challenges.

Transparency and efficiency of social institutions

By 2030 there will be an efficient, transparent, fair, flexible, accountable, responsive administrative system that will improve the management of State resources,

Social dimension:

Social justice Axis

The strategic vision of social justice until 2030 is to build a just society



enjoying equal rights and economic, social and political opportunities with the highest degree of social integration, a society capable of ensuring citizens' right in participation and equitable distribution in light of the criteria of efficiency, and the rule of law. It stimulates opportunities for social mobility based on capacity, provides life-risk protection mechanisms, which parallelly supports marginalized segments of society and provides protection for priority care groups.

Health Axis

All Egyptians enjoy safe and healthy lives through the implementation of an integrated health system characterized by availability, quality based on non-discrimination, able to improve health indicators through comprehensive health and preventive coverage and early intervention for all citizens to ensure the protection of those who can't afford for health care . Also , it is achieving the satisfaction of citizens and workers in the health sector realising prosperity and Welfare, happiness and social and economic development. So, Egypt is a pioneer in the field of health, preventive services and research in the Arab and African countries.

Education and Training:

The Strategic Vision for Education until 2030 aims to provide education and training for all with high quality without discrimination and within an institutional, efficient, equitable, sustainable and flexible system. It will be based on the learner and trainee who is capable of thinking ,empowered technically and technologically. It will also contribute to the building of the integrated personality and enhancing its potential to the maximum extent to have a self-motivated, enlightened, creative and responsible citizen who accepts pluralism, respects difference, and who is proud of the history of his country and able to deal competitively with regional and global entities. This includes: basic general education (pre-university), technical education and training, university education.

Culture Axis :

Targeted by 2030, there will be a positive cultural values system in Egyptian society that respects diversity and differences, enables the



Egyptian citizen to access the means of acquiring knowledge, open the horizons to interact with the data of the contemporary world, to realize his history and Egyptian cultural heritage, enabling him to freely choose and secure his right to practice and produce culture. The positive elements in culture should be a source of strength for development, an added value to the national economy, and a basis for Egypt's soft regional and global power.

Environmental dimension: the axis of the environment

By 2030, the environmental dimension will be central to all development and economic sectors, in a manner that achieves the security of natural resources, promotes fair use, optimizes exploitation and investment, guarantees the rights of future generations, diversifies sources of production and economic activities, eradicating poverty and achieving social justice while providing a clean, healthy and secure environment for the Egyptian citizen.

Axis of urban development

By 2030, Egypt will be able to absorb its population and its resources in the context of a more balanced development that will meet the aspirations of the Egyptians and raise the quality of their lives.

2. Transport and communications sector

About 383 projects have been implemented to accommodate the increasing traffic for traffic liquidity as well as the service of national projects and the development of highways networks for 20 million passengers/ day and contribute to the transfer of about 450 million tons of goods per year with total investments estimated at 85 billion pounds, including the establishment and duplication of new roads with a total length of 4700 km, the development and upgrading efficiency of 2530 km and others.

The government also sought to develop a comprehensive Railways system in order to stop its losses and improve the service provided to the public. These projects included the renewal of railway lines and equipment with a total length of 400 km and the supply of 3000 vehicles, and 180 tractors. In addition to the civil development of 1100



crossings, and the comprehensive development and maintenance of 156 stations, for a number of these projects with a total cost of LE 3.8 billion. The remaining projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

The projects carried out in the metro sector included 5 projects for the development and modernization of the first and second lines of the Cairo Subway, with a total cost of LE 3.9 billion, in addition to the supply of 20 train lines for the first line of the subway at a cost of LE 338 million pounds, and the development and modernization of 17 subway trains at a cost of 335 million pounds.

The port sector witnessed the implementation of several projects at an estimated cost of 2.3 billion, including the addition of the ports of Qustal and Erkin at a cost of 169 million pounds to increase the rate of passenger transport to 167 thousand passengers annually, with an increase of 55% as well as the rate of moving cars to 17, 5 thousand cars annually, with an increase up to 13%, in addition to the development and expansion of the port of Safaga, and the first and second phases of the port of Hurghada and the first stage of the port of Suez with a total cost of 985 million pounds. The first phase of the development of the port of Nuweiba sea values 267 million pounds. This aims to increase the Red Sea ports to 1370 thousand meters, with an increase up to 63%, allowing the transfer of 3700 thousand passengers annually, up to 93%, and accommodate the movement of cars and trucks at the rate of 930 thousand units with an annual increase of 240%.

The state implemented 54 projects for the development of civil aviation sector at a total cost of 18.2 billion pounds, the first of which was the establishment of 5 new airports with investments amounting to 934 billion pounds and 404.5 million dollars. It also raised the capacity of new buildings for passengers, replaced and renovated the air cargo fleet at the cost of 80.9 million pounds, 15.55 million euros and the development of the security system for passenger buildings to complete the enhancement of airport security at a total cost of 3840 million pounds and 37.3 million dollars.



Second: the social dimension

1. Education and training

The State has implemented educational projects at a cost of LE 10.9 billion, including the construction of 3.2 thousand schools at all levels of education at a cost of LE 9.4 billion, which contributed to reducing student density in the classrooms, reducing the number of periods of study. The Ministry of Education paid special attention to the training of teachers and administrative staff, the development of curricula, the training of 1.1 million teachers and administrative staff, 130,000 teachers of technical education, the addition of 1165 new technical education classes, the development of 42 technical education programs out of a total of 220 programs, and literacy of 2.5 million Citizen, and the establishment of 8 technological societies.

In addition, the State has implemented 188 projects in the higher education and scientific research sector with a total cost of LE 8.4 billion, which helped to absorb larger numbers of students, to add distinctive programs and to implement many programs in the scientific research sector. Higher education projects included the establishment of a university in El-Arish at a cost of 250 million pounds for the development of North Sinai. The number of public universities is 24, and the number of public colleges has increased by 73 to reach 465 colleges. The government hospitals were increased to 108 hospitals at a cost of 10 billion pounds, private universities increased by 8 universities with direct investments of 6.4 billion pounds, bringing the total private universities to 26 universities.

Axis of Culture:

The State has increased the efficiency of cultural institutions and activated the information technology in the management of all its activities through the implementation of 72 projects for the establishment and development at a total cost of 838.3 million pounds, about 68 thousand local and international activities were held and more than 68 thousand books got deposit numbering. The building of the New Documentation House in Fustat was also carried out at a cost of 110 million pounds,



the renovation of the National Theater at a cost of LE 105 million, the completion and development of 14 cultural houses at a cost of LE 191.3 million, the establishment of Gamal Abdel Nasser Museum at a cost of LE 72.2 million, as well as the restoration and development of Aisha Fahmy Palace in Zamalek, costing 25.8 million pounds.

Appropriate housing

The State has paid great attention to the provision of appropriate housing for different classes of the citizens. A large number of projects have been implemented , about 915 projects at a total cost of LE 85 billion, including housing projects suitable for low and middle income groups through the construction of 270,000 housing units at the cost of 39 billion pounds, 21 thousand housing units at an average cost of 8 billion pounds, and 13 thousand youth housing at a cost of 1.1 billion pounds. As well as the implementation of 73 thousand units for the inhabitants in the areas of life-threatening risk at a cost of 12 billion pounds to eliminate the slums and remove the source of danger from the units under the high pressure line or in the scope of industrial pollution.

This was accompanied by the improvement of drinking water services, with the implementation of 236 projects increasing the production capacity of 6.3 million m³/ day at a total cost of LE 31 billion. Several water stations and alternative sources of river Nile were also established, e.g. the establishment of seawater desalination and groundwater plants.

The State has also implemented 588 sewage projects with investments exceeding LE 27.3 billion, with 66 sewage stations with a total capacity of 2.9 million m³/ day and networks and stations for disadvantaged areas.

Environmental dimension:

In the area of improving and preserving the environment, 39 projects and programs have been completed at a cost of LE 6.186 billion. The aim is to reduce the number of direct drainage facilities on the Nile River, protect the ozone layer through the actual application of the energy management system, and developing environmental monitoring program.



In addition, the efforts of the State included improving the quality of industrial drainage and implementing a program to monitor emissions from industrial facilities and linking them to the national network of Egyptian environmental affairs agency EEAA, which contributes to reducing the pollution resulting from the industrial establishments and the implementation of the industrial wastewater recovery project after being processed by Abu Kir Fertilizers and Chemical Industries Factory and recycling used and damaged batteries in Sadat City automatic system.

The government's efforts included the implementation of 110 environmental projects in 97 companies in Delta and Upper Egypt, which contributed to the reduction of air, water and solid waste loads, as well as the establishment of a new waste recycling plant in Minya governorate at a cost of LE 32 million, and supporting the municipal waste management system in Alexandria Governorate. Also recycling agricultural residues of rice straw in 6 governorates, and supporting projects to control industrial pollution in industrial facilities in the private and public sectors.

The government is also implementing a package of projects for protection against the dangers of climate change and sea level rise in order to reduce risks and protect lives, investments, property and historical monuments, especially on the Mediterranean coast, where they are implementing several vital national projects amounting to one billion and 800 million pounds

In the field of urban development:

The State has given particular attention to the establishment of new urban communities in order to reduce overcrowding from the old cities and to meet the steady population increase. Several housing projects, the basic environment and services have been completed in the expansion areas of the existing urban communities. 13 new urban communities have been launched : The new Al-Alamain, Mansoura Al-Jadida, east of Busaid, Nasser near Assiut, West Qena, New Ismailia, New Rafah, Jala-la City, New Farafra, New Obour, Toshka Al-Jadida, East Al Owainat). About 380 thousand acres representing about 50% of the total areas of



urban communities have been covered over the past 40 years. It is planned that the new urban communities at completion of all stages of would absorb about 14 million people, and provide 6 million permanent jobs.

Conclusion

The options adopted by the National Development Project reveals a clear vision of the State regarding the necessary needs, starting by the reconstruction of infrastructure to development and the due attention to the strategic advantages and resources provided from the part of the state , which Jamal Hamdan rightly described as "the genius of the place", and ending with the restoration of the regional balance of development after gross negligence suffered by many regions of the country for successive periods.

Moreover, the achievements of the National Development Project reveal more inspiring capabilities when there is will and determination, considering first ,the deteriorating starting point that accompanied the launching of this project; secondly, the challenges that confronted this process locally and internationally; and the preservation of its resources, such as strengthening the geographical linking to Sinai through bridges, tunnels and development, planning maritime borders, securing the areas of Halaib and Shalatin, and changing the method of tackling the problem of the impact of the Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia to preserve the common interests of all parties.