

## The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development Roles-Objectives- Strategies

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



**U**ndoubtedly, the clear orientation of the Egyptian foreign policy towards Africa is not only mere declarations, but is rather based on the conviction of the importance of such relations within the framework of partnership and cooperation. Within this respect, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sameh Shoukry, gave special attention to the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development which was established on July 1, 2014 by virtue of a ministerial decree. During his address before the 23rd session of the AU Summit in Malabo, June 2014, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared the establishment of the Agency and Ambassador Dr. Hazem Fahmy was nominated as the Secretary General.

The ministerial decree had specified the tasks of the Agency which are represented in offering technical assistance and humanitarian aids to the Islamic and African states, organizing training programmes and workshops, contributing to financing African developmental projects, and enhancing cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies. All this should be implemented within the framework of the North-South cooperation, in addition to the cooperation with the Asian and Latin American states as well as the international development authorities within the framework of the South-South cooperation in favor of the African states. The Agency is practicing its works according to the rules of the international developmental agencies.

Stemming from Egypt's responsibility towards Africa, the Agency, since its establishment, is seeking to enhance the existing trilateral cooperation relations and to prospect the available cooperation potentials with various advanced states and international development authorities so as to provide further resources and to assist the African brethren. This should be done through offering technical assistance and training to African countries; thus contributing to enhancing the African role, to encouraging various international bodies to contribute to such efforts and to getting the international society acquainted with the needs and priorities of such states.

This subject highlights the achievements of the Agency in its first year, as

follows:

**First: Training Programmes**

The Agency organized 70 training courses to cadres from the Islamic Commonwealth and African countries; around 2000 trainees in various specifications, including diplomacy, judiciary, agriculture, irrigation, health, education, security, environment, media, communication and information technology, and foreign trade, among others.

The Agency, also, established a trainees association on both the official and personnel levels within the framework of its keenness to evaluate the success of the training programmes in realizing the aspired objectives.

The Agency was also keen to select the best Egyptian centers to present the training programmes according to the specifications of each center. Such centers are, among others, the Armed Forces Training Body, the Police Academy, Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation, Children's Cancer Hospital, Dr. Mohamed Ghoneim's Urology and Nephrology Center, the National Center for Judicial Studies, the Egyptian International Center for Agriculture, Alexandria Regional Center for Women's Health and Development, the Hydraulics Research Center, and Cairo and Suez Canal Universities in the field of health. It is expected that, in its second year, the

Agency will expand its activities to provide experience and technical assistance in various fields, including taxes, customs, administrative oversight, new and renewable energy, and small and medium-sized projects.

**Second: Experts, Grants, Technical and Humanitarian Aids**

The Agency follows-up the needs of the African countries through the Egyptian delegations to African and Islamic states. In this respect, it selects the best professional cadres and nominates experts in the fields required to be delegated there. Currently, 61 Egyptian experts are working in 21 African and Islamic countries covering various fields, including health, engineering and education. Moreover, 30 more experts are expected to be delegated to such countries.

The Agency also provides assistance and contributions to the African countries, especially in the medicinal field, in addition to logistic aids, technical education tools, and medical equipments, not to mention the financial contributions.

**Third: Trilateral Cooperation**

The Egyptian Agency possesses trilateral cooperation relations with various countries and international development authorities within the framework of the North-South and the South-South cooperation that contributed to organizing training

programmes last year in favor of the African countries, as follows:

1. The Islamic Development Bank organized 4 training courses in the health and agriculture fields, including water management and salinity control, women's cancer detection, and safe maternity, in addition to an advanced programme for training African physicians at Dr. Mohamed Ghonein Urology and Nephrology Center and operating surgeries in this vital field.
2. The African Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (AFTAAC) organized two courses: one at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies for the African diplomatic cadres, while the other course is organized in the field of the overall quality in safety and health care management at the Alexandria Regional Center for Women Health and Development.
3. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had participated with the Egyptian Agency in organizing 11 training courses as of July 2015 in health, agriculture, irrigation, electricity, energy and foreign trade fields.

Moreover, the Agency conducts consultations with various countries and international development authorities so as to establish trilateral cooperation relations during the

coming period.

#### Fourth: An Effective Role on the African Health Field

The Agency entered in partnership, consultation and communication relations with various local and international bodies in order to support the health sector in Africa. It exerts strenuous efforts in this respect through the following pivots:

1. The Agency organized, in cooperation with the ministries of communication and health, the WHO and Microsoft Company, a workshop in December 2014 to introduce technological solutions to face Ebola Epidemic. It also recommended the establishment of an information mechanism for the continent in order to preserve the data and to exchange experiences, proposals and solutions in the field of health emergency.
2. The Agency is propagating for the substance which the Egyptian scientist, Dr. Mahmoud Hashem Abdel Qader had extracted to fight Malaria through killing the Mosquito Larvae in water pools. This substance was initially tested on patients in Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan. In this respect, the Agency contacted the African Development Bank to consider the possibility of contributing to financing this initiative and apply it in various African countries.
3. Within the keenness on the Eryp-



tian existence in Africa, the Agency planned to establish mixed medical centers in various countries, especially the Nile Basin Countries; thereupon, it applied an integrated vision upon consulting with all concerned bodies.

**Fifth: The Egyptian Information and Cultural Existence in Africa**

The Agency had played an important role in the field of information within the framework of rectifying a number of distorted images about Egypt. Thereupon, it hosted an important visit for 30 figures including the editors in chief of the most important African newspapers in 15 English-speaking countries who met top Egyptian officials in the fields of politics, economics, media, tourism and culture; thus contributing to presenting a real image over the status quo in Egypt.

The delegation had also met with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in an open discussion that was lately tackled in various African newspapers. The Agency is also expected to organize another visit for journalists and media men of the French-speaking countries in August 2015. On the other hand, the Agency contributed to supporting a number of

Egyptian-African cultural festivals in order to restore Egypt's cultural and civilization role in Africa.

**Sixth: The Investment Forum**

The Agency is expected to host the Investment Forum during the period 3-19 October 2015, in cooperation with the AU Commission, the African Development Bank, and the Investment Promotion Agency "Africa Investment Forum" under the sponsorship of President al-Sisi. This Forum is supposed to be held with the attendance of representatives of all African states and Africa's financing partners and with the participation of a number of African presidents. It is supposed to contribute to getting the investor acquainted with the investment opportunities in Africa so as to entrench the partnership relations, starting from Egypt; being Africa's gate to the outside world. The Agency is also expected to organize another visit for journalists and media men of the French-speaking countries in August 2015. On the other hand, the Agency contributed to supporting a number of Egyptian-African cultural festivals in order to restore Egypt's cultural and civilization role in Africa.