



Egypt's Vision and Efforts on Respect and Protection of Human Rights,

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Egypt is a founding member of the United Nations, and a party to all core international human rights instruments, and an important player in the formulation and advancement of the international human rights system. For decades, Egypt has been playing an active role in the promotion and protection of human rights at national, regional and international levels. It participated in the negotiations leading to the elaboration of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the various human rights instruments. In addition, we have a wealth of Egyptian independent experts who have been elected as members of the various human rights treaty bodies advancing the cause of human rights.

Consequently, Egypt feels ownership of the global human rights architecture and agenda and is therefore keen on the implementation of all internationally-recognized norms be they political and civil, or social and economic and cultural, as these are universal norms to which all societies and religions have contributed. We give particular emphasis to the promotion of democracy, rule of law, good governance, and to the objectives of poverty eradication, fighting racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, promoting cultural and religious tolerance, advancing the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and raising awareness of human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

The Egyptian Government has a strong political will to exercise its responsibilities towards its people, to fulfill their aspirations and above all to realize their rights for a better future, through political, social and economic reform, anchored in the promotion and protection of human rights.



We do that not as a result of outside pressure, but because this is the right thing to do, and because this is what the Egyptian people deserve.

Human rights is an area where no country can claim the moral authority to give lessons to others. Hence any dialogue on human rights is therefore bound to be a two-way street. All societies in the world, without exception, are striving to deal with their own shortcomings in terms of policies, laws and implementation, and to fully realize the rights of their citizens, guard against violations, and provide self-correcting mechanisms, including for the detection of violations and for bringing their perpetrators to justice.

As far as Egypt is concerned, promotion and protection of human rights are enshrined in our Constitution, and in the international and regional human rights instruments we have ratified and which thus have become part of our domestic legal system. In addition, Egypt is blessed with a vibrant society, an unprecedented freedom of the press, a strong and independent judiciary, a Supreme Constitutional Court overlooking the constitutionality of the laws and acting as arbiter between the various branches of government, and an independent and impartial Public Prosecution which is part of our judiciary. We also have an active civil society performing an indispensable role, as a partner to the government, in realizing political, economic and social development at the grass root level.

We are constantly striving to upgrade our level of implementation of human rights at the national level. We do so by building independent institutions such as the National Council for Human Rights, National Council for Women, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the National Council for Persons With Disabilities, by creating and strengthening national mechanisms for remedy and redress, building the capacities of police and law enforcement officers, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, journalists, and promoting a culture of human rights including by incorporating human rights principles in educational curricula and promoting public awareness using the mass media.

Reform in any society is a continuous process and not a single event and it has to be home-grown to be sustainable and irreversible. The direction and speed of reforms in any society has to emanate from within, reflecting the evolving national consensus, and the particularities of the society in question. Egyptians efforts occur against a background of fundamentalism, poverty, and unemployment and the lingering impact of the turmoil which



the country has witnessed post January 2011 and the new realities which ensued. This is compounded by the fact that we live in a turbulent region, which has more than its share of wars and instability, and faces the challenge of achieving a just and lasting peace that guarantees the inalienable right of the Palestinian to self-determination and to establish their state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Furthermore, we face the grim daily reality of terrorism, which threatens the enjoyment by our citizen of all their human rights, starting from the most basic right to life.

Nevertheless, these challenges and dangers notwithstanding, Egypt is perseverant in its efforts to realize a better future for its citizens, to fulfill its obligations to protect them in the face of terrorism and realize the delicate balance between combating terrorism and protecting rights and liberties. We want to create a modern state in which everyone, man or women, moslem or christian, young or old, urban or rural, all across Egypt, enjoys equal rights.

As expressed by President Abdelfatah El-Sisi, Egypt has the political will and determination to move forward, building on the achievements and lessons of the past. The revolutions and political developments which Egypt has witnessed since 2011 have created a new reality. They resulted in the surfacing of a culture and more awareness of human rights from the part of all Egyptians. In response the State is exerting all efforts to upgrade its performance. We are in a race against time to strengthen and modernize our institutions to enable them to effectively and efficiently implement our comprehensive national development strategy, of which human rights is an integral part. We welcome all international cooperation that contributes towards this objective and we are open to a constructive dialogue with our partners in this regard.