



**ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**



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**REPORT**

**ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING  
PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

**(FROM 2014 TO MARCH 2019)**



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## INTRODUCTION

Egypt has made significant achievements in the past five years in promoting gender equality and women empowerment out of the belief that women play an important role in all areas, and that comprehensive development cannot be achieved without their active participation as they represent 48.9% of the community.

Egyptian women are proud of the reference to their rights in the country's new constitution of 2014, under of the section "State and the Basic Components of Society", as that is a step forward emphasising the state's interest in Egyptian women and their role in society. It also emphasizes that Egyptian women are not just a segment of society but half of it and the basis of the family. The Constitution includes more than 20 articles on women.

Under the current Constitution, all citizens are equal before the law and share the same rights and duties. There shall be no discrimination amongst them on the ground of gender, origin, colour, language, religion, sect, social status, and political or geographical affiliation. The Constitution considers discrimination and incitement of hatred a punishable offense and puts the onus on the State to take the necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination. It also provides for the establishment of an independent anti-discrimination body and measures to ensure the proper representation of women in parliamentary assemblies, as provided by law. The text on equality is included in the chapter on "Basic Components of Society" because women constitute half of the society. The Constitution also provides the independence of the National Council for Women (NCW) under article 214 and that its opinion on the draft laws and regulations pertaining to it shall be taken into account in the terms of reference of the Council's work on matters of protection and empowerment of Egyptian women and in its field of work. Since the revolutions of 2011 and 2013, the National Council for Women was restructured twice, in February 2012 and February 2016, to align it with the constitutional principles enacted. A woman with disabilities and a rural woman were appointed to the 30 members of the National Council for Women. Specialized committees have been established to develop efforts and improve the services provided to both. In 2018, Decree No. 90 of 2000 establishing the Council was replaced by Act No. 30 regulating the work of the National Council for Women.

During reporting period, cooperation between NCW and governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as civil society institutions and knowledge and research institutions increased at the national level through the signing of protocols of cooperation and the conduct of joint activities aimed at achieving gender equality. Cooperation extended to include increased partnerships with the following United Nations specialized entities: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Union (EU).



## SECTION I: PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

### **Main achievements, challenges and obstacles in progress made towards gender equality and empowerment of women over the past five years 2014 - March 2019.**

During the reporting period, Egypt witnessed significant positive progress in supporting and empowering women and gender equality. This is due to supportive political administration and commitment to constitutional rights and to strategies and executive programmes carried out by governmental and non-governmental entities. The 2014 Constitution affirms the values of justice and equality, with more than 20 articles dedicated to guaranteeing the rights of women in all areas of life.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared the year 2017 "a year of the Egyptian woman", for the first time in the history of Egypt, describing steps to accelerate the empowerment of women in addition to protecting their constitutional rights as a national duty.

Egypt launched the 2030 National Strategy for Women in line with the goals of sustainable development. Egypt is the first country in the world to launch this strategy, thus confirming the state's belief in the pioneering role of Egyptian women in promoting society. Believing in the need to empower women, President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi adopted the "2030 National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women" in 2017 as a road map for the government to implement all programmes and activities aiming at empowering women.

The 2030 National Strategy for Women contains 34 indicators of sustainable development goals and is made up of 4 pillars, i.e.: political empowerment and leadership, economic and social empowerment, protection, legislation and culture as cross-cutting pillars of those four chapters.

The National Women's Council established the Egyptian National Observatory for Women (ENOW) to ensure strict follow-up of the strategy and to monitor its implementation through strict application of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. It includes the establishment of follow-up indicators to measure and track progress. These indicators and studies have been used approximately 120,000 times since ENOW was launched.

Egypt is the first country to transpose, at government level, the quantitative targets for sustainable development goals and has started to use them to ensure the participation of society as a whole and to ensure that no one is left behind.

### **Political empowerment and leadership of women**

The results of the opinion poll reflect an improvement in Egyptians' views and perceptions regarding the women's access to leadership positions between 2014 and 2018.

The proportion of Egyptians who believe that women are able to hold the position of prime minister increased from 43% in 2014 to 54% in 2018; 62% believe that women are able to hold the post of governor in 2018 compared to 42% in 2014.

The percentage of women in the Egyptian parliament increased from 2% in 2013 to 15% in 2018 (the highest level of female representation in the Egyptian parliament).

The proportion of women ministers in the Cabinet increased from 6% in 2015 to 20% in 2017 and 25% in 2018 (the highest level of female representation in the Egyptian Cabinet).



### **Economic empowerment**

1. Unemployment rate among women dropped from 24% in 2014 to 21.4% in 2018 and to 19.6% in the first quarter of 2019.
2. The rate of women holding bank accounts increased from 9% in 2015 to 27% in 2017.
3. The rate of small and medium enterprises for women increased from 23% in 2015 to 46% in 2018.
4. The rate of microfinance loans granted to women increased from 45% in 2015 to 69% in 2018.
5. The rate of women investors in the stock market is 30%.
6. The number of beneficiaries of SMEs was 3 million, 70% of whom were women as at 2018.
7. The percentage of women working in government entities was 44.5%.
8. There are 500 microfinance institutions in Egypt.
9. Egypt is the second country in the world to launch the Gender Equality Achievement for private and public institutions to recognize the outstanding performance of these organizations and achieve tangible results in gender equality. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (MSMEDA) was the first entity to be awarded the Achievement in Egypt and the Arab region.
10. A presidential decree was issued in February 2017 establishing the National Council for Remittances under the presidency of the President of the Republic.
11. The Central Bank of Egypt signed an unprecedented Memorandum of Understanding with the National Council for Women, as the first central bank in the world to sign a memorandum of understanding with a national women's organization.
12. Launching financial saving schemes under the title "Village Saving and Lending Group Model - VSLAS". More than 18,000 women benefited from these schemes.
13. Familiarizing Egyptian women in all governorates with financial and banking products, whose number reached 59,000 women in 2018.
14. Implementing of the first stage of train-the-trainer programme for 883 rural women on concepts of Financial Inclusion in 27 governorates.
15. Launching a media campaign on financial inclusion to disseminate financial knowledge and culture.

### **Social empowerment**

1. Girls account for 54% of university students. They represent 46.5% of graduates that hold master and doctoral degrees.
2. Women account for 48.6% of university lecturers. They benefit from 89% of social protection programmes (2.25 million families - 10 million individuals), thus an increase of 235% in the cash transfers (through the *Takaful* and *Karama* [Solidarity and Dignity] Programmes).
3. Allocation of 250 million Egyptian pounds for childcare services from the state budget.
4. Women accounted for 65% of the beneficiaries of government training programmes. 38 million women benefited from subsidized prices of bread and flour.
5. 34 million women benefited from ration cards.
6. 10 million women benefited from health care support.
7. 8 million women benefited from family and reproductive health services.
8. The 2014 Constitution guarantees the protection and care of mothers and children, women headed households, older women and women most in need.



9. The adoption and continuation of a programme to get national identity cards; 700,000 identity cards were issued to women to exercise their constitutional rights and facilitate their access to the services provided by the State.
10. The Takaful and Karma Programme was launched to reach 563 villages and 345 centres in 27 governorates for about 2,000,000 women (80% of the beneficiaries of the programme) to improve household consumption, increase human capital, maximize the right to family decision-making, improve productive economic integration, increase women's financial inclusion and combat violence against women.
11. The programme of decent housing for the poorest families, where new projects have been launched to build about 250,000 housing units for the slum dwellers, with the aim of developing slums and poor villages to suitable areas to ensure a safe and dignified life for the citizens, which has a direct impact on the safety and well-being of many women and girls, who live in those slums and the number of beneficiaries amounted to 4330 beneficiaries.
12. Issuing a new plan for the social security policy "Aman Certificates" (2018), where the government provided the certificate for 50,000 Egyptian women for free.
13. Availability Initiative: The governorates of Egypt have begun to adhere to the implementation of the principles of availability for persons with disabilities in government agencies and new projects.
14. The programme for persons approaching marriage and newlyweds, which was launched to educate young men and women about the responsibilities of marriage.
15. Awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer for women whose number reached 52,611 in 2018.
16. Launching the "Together for the Nation" programme, the first of its kind targeting nearly 700 preachers, nuns, church workers and Sunday school teachers to raise awareness on issues such as reproductive health and family planning, combating violence against women and circumcision, and preventing underage marriage.
17. 'Because I am a Man' Campaign: the involvement of men and youth in women's causes. The number of men participating in the campaign reached 24,000 in reality in all governorates of Egypt.
18. "100 Million Health" initiative to detect hepatitis, diabetes, high blood pressure and body mass index (weight).

### **Protection**

1. Adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women, approved by the Cabinet, with the participation of 20 ministries (2015).
2. Adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (2016).
3. Adoption of the National Reproductive Health Strategy (2015).
4. Launching a survey of the economic cost of gender-based violence to support policy-making from evidence (2015). Egypt is the first Arab country to undertake this survey. Highlights such as:
  - ✓ 10% of women between 18 and 64 years of age experienced harassment in the streets.
  - ✓ 7% of women between 18 and 64 were harassed in public transport.
  - ✓ 18% of women between 18 and 64 are subjected to violence from a family member.



### **Institutional framework for protection:**

1. Women's Complaints Office and its branches in 27 governorates. Approximately 60,000 women benefiting from the Office of Complaints - until 2018 (awareness of the system of reception of victims of violence against women, legal support, family courts and issues of violence against women).
2. Establishment of a special unit for violence against women within the Ministry of Interior; with a hotline linked to the Department of Violence against Women at the Ministry of Interior established to receive any incidents of violence against women.
3. Establishment of the Violence against Women Unit within the Ministry of Justice for the Protection of Women.
4. Establishment of 9 shelters for women survivors of violence through civil society and under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Solidarity.
5. Establishment of 440 integrated public hospitals for gender-based violence (GBV) a comprehensive package of health services and victim service providers.
6. A unit to combat harassment in public universities aims at raising awareness among university staff, professors and students of their rights in the event of harassment at the university, educating them about reporting mechanisms and to deal with the relevant parties, and supporting victims subjected to harassment.
7. Al-Azhar issued a guide to train religious leaders on combating violence against women in Islam.
8. Training programme for prosecutors and judicial authorities to combat violence against women with 700 targets.
9. Training programme for Ministry of Justice authorized marriage officials on violence against women (60 of both sexes).
10. A guide for prosecutors on various issues of violence against women.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns as cross-cutting issues**

1. Launching "Knocking doors" Campaigns: The campaign targeted 6 million women through field visits over three years. The campaign is based on direct contact with women in villages and addressed topics such as: violence against women, personal status law, legal rights and the risk of Female Genital Mutilation (circumcision), women's political participation and other women's issues.
2. The "*Ta'a Marbouta*, the Secret of your Power" campaign was launched to reach 110,000,000 viewers. The campaign is based on an innovative approach that focuses on women's power, addresses misconceptions, redefines social roles, and promotes women's participation in all areas of life, including decision making and labour market as active contributors to the economy.
3. "Because I'm a Man" Campaign was launched to involve men and youth, which have reached 10 million viewers on social media.
4. "Don't Let a Station Stop you" Campaign launched at one of the 4 subway stations in Cairo to raise awareness about combating sexual harassment, family planning, promoting girls' education, and eliminating underage marriage.
5. "Inspiring Egyptian Women" Campaign was launched on social media to highlight the success stories and achievements of Egyptian women in different fields. The campaign presents 300 successful women as role models for the other women and girls in society.





The campaign's followers reached 800,000. The first Media Code to address women's issues in the media was issued.

### **Legislation as a cross-cutting topic**

1. Section 306 (a) and 306 (b)) of the Criminal Code (2014) were amended to criminalize sexual harassment which is defined for the first time under the law. The law provides for the detention for a period between 6 months and 5 years and a fine of up to LE 50,000 for verbal, physical, behavioural, telephone and Internet sexual harassment. This is a major step towards achieving safety for Egyptian women and girls in public spaces.
2. The law governing the Family Insurance Fund (Act No. 113 of 2015) was amended to increase its resources to meet the needs of women.
3. The Criminal Code (2016) (art. 242) has been amended to provide for detention for five to seven years for female genital mutilation practitioners up to 15 years if the case results in permanent disability or death.
4. The new investment law (Article 2) is designed to ensure equal investment opportunities for both men and women.
5. The Inheritance Act (Act No. 219 of 2017) was amended to impose stricter penalties on those who withhold inheritance from anyone who has the right to, which has a great impact on women.
6. The law regulating the work of the National Council for Women (Act No. 30 of 2018) was issued to raise the level of the post of President of the Council to the post of Minister, and to recognize the broader role of policy regarding the empowerment of women, organizing the work of the National Council for Women and defining its competences.
7. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (Act No. 10 of 2018) was approved, thus guaranteeing more rights for women with disabilities. The law establishes the first comprehensive definition of persons with disabilities and contains all categories of disability.
8. The inclusion of women head of households in the unified tax law No. 91 of 2005 and amended by Act No. 11 of 2013.
9. The promulgation of Act No. 11 of 2019, organizing and special for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.
10. Amending the Civil Service Act of 2016 granting benefits to working mothers such as maternity leave for 4 months instead of 3 months.

### **Unprecedented sovereign decisions**

In March 2019, during the celebration of Egyptian women, the President issued a number of directives to the government as follows:

- ✓ Studying ways to achieve greater participation of women in the labour market and providing suitable and supportive environment, with appropriate social protection, to encourage their transformation from working in the informal sector to the formal sector, and in the non-traditional sectors where their aspirations are realized.
- ✓ The Government continues to adopt a National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women, which aims to effectively protect them from all forms of moral and physical violence, bearing in mind that underage marriage before legal age, denial of education or adequate maintenance for her and her children in the event of divorce are all forms violence.



- ✓ The government will conduct a deeper and more comprehensive study of the phenomenon of debtors, and formulate legislation and policies that would reduce this phenomenon because of its implications for the Egyptian family.
- ✓ In the light of the previous directives to draft a family awareness project and prepare young people for marriage responsibilities, there is an aspiration for the effective and positive implementation of the marriage programmes so that it will bear fruit in the stability of the family and preserve the rights of both spouses, together with the study of the issuance of a new law on personal status.
- ✓ Calling on the government to take the necessary measures to achieve financial inclusion, women's technological empowerment and provide more support for small enterprises that offer women opportunities to work.
- ✓ In the light of the representation of women and their role in parliament and in government, with the highest percentage in the history of Egypt, there is an invitation to achieve more political participation, and in various sectors. Egypt needs to build its renaissance, the efforts of its daughters, as well as its sons.
- ✓ Calling on the government to study the amendment of the Public Service Act, so that it will be a tool for training and qualifying Egyptian girls to join the labour market and to develop the necessary mechanisms and incentives to achieve this.
- ✓ The Ministry of Health is conducting a comprehensive survey of all Egyptian women to detect early breast cancer and tumours.
- ✓ The establishment of a fund in the name of Egyptian women, and that the presidency of the fund will be in most cases for the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister to support women in light of the challenges facing them.
  - Coordination with all concerned bodies and institutions in the country by launching a national initiative for micro-projects funded by the "Tahya Misr Fund" and through Nasser Social Bank to achieve economic empowerment for women heads of household and the neediest groups. A total of LE 250 million will be allocated for this initiative.
  - Supporting the families of women of households and poor families through facilitated support programs provided by Nasser Social Bank with a value of LE 50 million to provide infrastructure that facilitates women's and family's daily life in the poorest villages.
  - Allowing 250 million pounds for the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide early childhood services, enabling the Egyptian mother to go out to work and contribute to state building while continuing to expand school feeding programmes.

#### Main challenges and obstacles

- Despite the progress made, there are still a number of social and cultural traditions that prevent women from enjoying their rights, especially in rural communities and regions, because of women's lack of awareness of their rights.
- Political parties lack efficiency when it comes to training political cadres that are capable of contesting the elections; they focus their efforts on winning votes. Some parties place women at the bottom of their lists, leaving them little chance of being elected.
- The reluctance of some private sector operators to uphold women's rights.



- Individual practices in some workplaces may prevent women from reaching higher positions.
- The weakness of the role of professional organizations in supporting women, and to confront any form of discrimination against them in the private sector, unlike the active labour unions in this field.
- Despite the increasing participation of women in civil society organizations, their percentage in decision-making positions remains low, and new generations seem reluctant to volunteer.
- Media coverage of women's issues and support for their participation in all fields is inadequate.
- Lack of awareness of society, especially women, about the environmental risks posed by climate change and environmental pollution.

### **Priorities of the Arab Republic of Egypt to accelerate the progress of women and girls**

#### **1) Equality, non-discrimination under the law and access to justice**

The State has taken special measures to achieve actual equality between women and men. The Egyptian Government has taken temporary and special measures to protect women from all forms of discrimination and to achieve equality.

#### **At the level of the Constitution:**

- ✓ Article 11 of the 2014 Constitution provides that the State shall ensure gender equality in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The state is committed to taking the necessary measures to ensure appropriate representation of women in the houses of parliament, in the manner specified by law. It grants women the right to hold public positions and high management posts in the government administration, and to be appointed in judicial bodies and entities without discrimination.
- ✓ Article 214 also provides for the right to report to the public authorities any violations pertaining to their fields of work.

#### **At the legislative level:**

- ✓ The Political Rights Act of 2014, where half of the seats in each list are allocated to women to ensure their proper representation. The 2015 elections resulted in the victory of 75 women deputies. The number of female MPs rose to 90 out of 596 members of the House of Representatives by 15%, an unprecedented percentage in the history of parliamentary representation of Egyptian women. Egypt is ranked 99<sup>th</sup> after being ranked 125<sup>th</sup>. The constitutional amendments of 2019 also allocate 25% of parliamentary seats to women.
- ✓ At the municipal level, Article 180 of the Constitution guarantees women a quarter (25%) of the seats in the Council.
- ✓ The new Investment Act (Article 2) is designed to ensure equal investment opportunities for both men and women.
- ✓ The law governing the work of the National Council for Women (Act No. 30 of 2018) was issued to serve the Council under a law instead of a decision to guarantee sustainability and a reflection of Egypt's international obligations towards a mechanism for women's affairs.



- ✓ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (Act No. 10 of 2018) was promulgated, guaranteeing more rights for women with disabilities. The law establishes the first comprehensive definition of persons with disabilities and contains all categories of disability.
- ✓ The promulgation of Act No. 11 of 2019, organizing the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ The Civil Service Act No. 81 of 2016 granting benefits to working mothers, such as a maternity leave of 4 months instead of 3 months.

## **2) Eliminating violence against women and girls**

### **(a) Legal and legislative framework**

- ✓ The Criminal Code (2014) (in its articles. 306 (a) and 306 (b)) has been amended to criminalize sexual harassment which is defined for the first time under an act of law. The law makes verbal, physical, behavioural, telephone and Internet sexual harassment punishable by 6 months to 5 years of prison, and a fine of up to LE 50,000. This is a major step in achieving safety for Egyptian women and girls in public spaces. Articles relating to harassment, rape and offence of public morals have been amended to widen the scope of criminalization of violent crime against women.
- ✓ Article 242 of the Criminal Code (2016) has been amended to provide for imprisonment of five to seven years for female genital mutilation practitioners, and up to 15 years if the case results in permanent disability or death. (Annex 5).
- ✓ Legislation governing inheritance (Act No. 219 of 2017) was amended to introduce stricter penalties on those who withhold inheritance from anyone who has the right to it, which has a great impact on women (Annex 6).
- ✓ Maternity protection for imprisoned women: Decree No. 106 of 2015 of the President of the Republic amending some provisions of Act No. 396 of 1956 on the organization of prisons.
- ✓ Prevention of sexual exploitation: In accordance with the decision of the Minister for Justice No. 9200 (2015) to amend some of the provisions of the Executive Regulation of the Documentation Act No. 68 of 1947, amended by Act No. 103 of 1976 on marriage of Egyptian women with foreign nationals (Annex 11).
- ✓ Preventing and combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation: Act No. 64 of 2010 to combat trafficking in human beings was promulgated.
- ✓ A draft law on combating underage marriage (preventing child marriage) has been prepared and is being discussed in the House of Representatives.

### **Strategic Framework:**

- ✓ The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 with a special focus to protect them against any form of violence and discrimination.
- ✓ The National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women approved by the Council of Ministers with the involvement of 20 ministries (2015).
- ✓ The National Strategy for Combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (2016).
- ✓ The National Reproductive Health Strategy (2015).
- ✓ Adoption of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Early Marriage 2015-2020.
- ✓ The National Population Strategy 2015-2030.
- ✓ Launch of a survey of the economic cost of gender-based violence in Egypt to support evidence-based policymaking (2015). Egypt is the first Arab country to conduct such a survey. The main outcomes are:



- 10 % of women between the age of 18 and 64 were harassed in the streets of Egypt.
- 7% of women between the age of 18 and 64 were harassed in public transport in Egypt.
- 18% of women between the age of 18 and 64 are subjected to violence from a family member in Egypt (Annex 4).

**(b) Institutional framework:**

- ✓ Women's Complaints Office and its branches in 27 governorates.
- ✓ Establishment of a special unit to deal with violence against women within the Ministry of Interior; a hotline linked to the Department of Violence against Women at the Ministry of Interior established to receive reports of violence against women; and Decree No. 2180 of 2014 establishing sections to combat violence against women in all security departments in the governorates of the Republic.
- ✓ Violence against Women Unit established within the Ministry of Justice for the protection of women.
- ✓ 19 units to combat violence against women in universities. 9 host centres to provide protection, shelter, social, psychological and legal care for battered women.

**(c) Programmes and services**

- ✓ About 60,000 women benefit from the help of the Office of Complaints - until 2018 (awareness of the system of reception of victims of violence against women, legal support, family courts and issues of violence against women).
- ✓ 440 integrated public hospitals for gender-based violence (GBV) provide a comprehensive package of health services and victim support.
- ✓ 19 anti-harassment units in public universities dedicated to raise among university staff, lecturer and students about their rights in the event of being harassed at the university, to sensitize them to reporting mechanisms and to deal with the parties concerned, and finally to support victims of harassment.
- ✓ Offices for the settlement of family disputes catered for about 12,098 beneficiaries from 170 provincial offices to provide family counselling, family stability and awareness-raising to prevent marital disputes.
- ✓ Al-Azhar University issued a guide to train religious leaders in combating violence against women in the spirit of Islamic tenets.
- ✓ Some 700 prosecutors and judicial officers benefit from training programmes to combat violence against women.
- ✓ A training programme for Ministry of Justice authorized marriage officials on violence against women (60 male and female were trained).
- ✓ A guide for prosecutors on various issues relating to violence against women.
- ✓ Implementation of awareness-raising activities within the 16-day campaign to combat violence against women in 2016, 2017 and 2018, as part of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25), in cooperation with various Government institutions and civil society organizations.
- ✓ Implementation of a project of safe cities free from violence and harassment. The project targets informal settlements and relies on the use of innovative methods such as sports, interactive theatre and art, to build volunteer community leaders and improve the infrastructure of some areas to provide communities free of violence against women and girls.



**Elimination of social norms and harmful practices such as underage marriage and genital mutilation/circumcision:**

- ✓ The first National Committee for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation was established in Egypt in 2019 through the preparation of a national plan that adopts a multi-sectoral participatory approach, within a specific time frame and budget, and based on sustainability, evaluation and follow-up.
- ✓ Production of audio-visual material to raise awareness on the damages of underage marriage, and broadcast them through the national media.
- ✓ Launch of a child support hotline (16000) according to Act No. 126 of 2008. The hotline provides a specialized service to respond to questions relating to Female Genital Mutilation within 24 hours and intervenes to prevent such practices in several cases.
- ✓ Launch of "My daughter noor aini)" campaign to prepare female students to be leaders in all secondary schools for girls. The initiative aims at educating leading female students and enabling them to complete their education and develop their ability to express themselves and influence their environment through positive interaction.

**(d) Trafficking in human beings**

- ✓ Establishment of a national coordinating committee to combat trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.
- ✓ In accordance with decision No. 9200 (2015) of the Minister of Justice, foreign men who wish to marry Egyptian women and girls are required to submit proof of income-generating investment in the name of the Egyptian spouse-to-be female, with the prohibition of marriage if the age gap between the spouses-to-be exceeds 25 years, within the framework of formal marriage that meets legal requirements.
- ✓ The Department of Monitoring Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons within the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with INTERPOL closely monitors all ports of entry and exit in the country, in addition to the close cooperation between the Egyptian authorities and foreign tourism companies and countries in the exchange of information on such practices.
- ✓ The first regional shelter for women and girls victims of human trafficking is being established in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ✓ A training manual was developed and several training courses and workshops were held for judges and prosecutors, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Their aim is to build for the capacities of law enforcement officers dealing directly with human trafficking cases.
- ✓ Establishment of a specialized unit within Government hospitals in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the purpose of providing health and psychological care for victims of human trafficking and rehabilitation, as well as the establishment of a "steering committee" on the issue of human trafficking. The Ministry is currently conducting training courses for health carers (doctors and nurses) to develop their capacities in providing medical and psychological support to victims of human trafficking.
- ✓ The establishment of an Anti-Trafficking Unit within the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood launched a campaign to prevent the marriage of underage girls or so-called "seasonal" or "summer" marriages.



### **3) Entrepreneurship of women in business and women's projects**

- ✓ Small and medium-sized enterprises for women increased from 23% in 2015 to 46% in 2018.
- ✓ Microfinance loans allocated to women increased from 45% in 2015 to 69% in 2018.
- ✓ The rate of investors in the stock exchange was 30%.
- ✓ Some 3 million beneficiaries of small and medium enterprises , 70% of them were women until 2018.
- ✓ There are 500 microfinance institutions in Egypt.
- ✓ Egypt is the second country in the world to launch the Gender Equality Seal Award for private and public institutions to recognize the outstanding performance of these organizations and achieve tangible results in gender equality.
- ✓ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) has been the first to receive this seal in Egypt and the Arab region.
- ✓ Egypt is the first country to announce the start of the work on the integration of the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women to obtain the award of the Seal of Gender Equality in the tourism sector.
- ✓ Implementation of the "Strong enough (Adaha Weadoud)" handicraft development programme: to develop and modernize traditional handicrafts by training women in modern designs and looking to suit the needs of the market.
- ✓ Implementation of the Productive Families Programme: It is one of the pilot projects in the field of establishing small and micro projects for poor women. It aims to combat poverty and raise the standard of living of the family through 34000 training centres in the governorates of Egypt. Exhibitions are organized to market the programme's products.
- ✓ Implementation of microenterprise programme Bashaer el kher which serves to lend to breadwinner women entrepreneurs in microenterprises.
- ✓ Launching the savings and lending programme under the "Village Savings and Loan Association". More than 18,000 beneficiaries benefited from this project.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "Rural Egypt": to support the production and marketing capacities of women in the Egyptian governorates in general, and those famous for the cultivation of palm and its products specifically.
- ✓ Holding training courses for women trainers in the framework of the Women in Progress programme in the fields of women entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "Development of Craft Skills for Women in Upper Egypt". The project targeted 9000 women through training courses in the areas of literacy, basic awareness, specialized skills, project management. In the framework of the project, 2 million pounds were distributed as revolving loans to 200 women.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "Building resilience of food security systems in Upper Egypt" for rural women, which aims to provide mechanisms to address the phenomenon of climate change. The project also provides in-kind loans.
- ✓ Implementation of the "Daughter of Egypt (Bint Masr)" programme, which aims to provide loans to women heads of households to run projects of raising poultry, trade in vegetables and fruit, sewing and selling clothes.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "Women of Egypt: Pioneers of the Future" aiming to create employment opportunities for women and girls from slums in Cairo.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "The role of Egyptian women... Egyptian cotton from agriculture to harvest". The project aims to restore the agricultural renaissance of Egyptian cotton long staple through the implementation of training courses to qualify them to do



their part in raising the awareness of women farmers by the right way to cultivate and harvest the cotton crop and how to care for its seeds and avoid the pests Number of beneficiaries reached 75 thousand women.

- ✓ Implementation of the project "Achieving social justice through the economic empowerment of women". Its aim is to improve the economic situation of Egyptian women and ensure their participation in the development of their societies through the creation of income-generating employment opportunities for breadwinners and poor women.
- ✓ Holding training courses for the trainers in the international business license in cooperation with the International Business Driving License Foundation.
- ✓ Some 19856 women benefit from 462 training courses to raise leadership skills and management, economic empowerment in entrepreneurship and qualification of women to enter the labour market, provide free consultations and feasibility studies, organize exhibitions in Egypt and abroad and take advantage of information technology.

#### **4) Integrating women into digital technology and financial services**

- ✓ The rate of women holding bank accounts increased from 9% in 2015 to 27% in 2017.
- ✓ Egypt is a member of the World Bank's Universal Financial Access Initiative (UFA).
- ✓ Adopting the Maya Declaration of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion Network of Regulatory Institutions, which focuses on creating the right environment, implementing the correct framework, ensuring consumer protection measures are taken and using data to inform and track financial inclusion efforts.
- ✓ Egypt also hosted the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) and the Global Policy Forum (GPF) in Sharm el-Sheikh in 2017.
- ✓ A presidential decree was issued in February 2017 establishing the National Council for Payments chaired by the President of the Republic.
- ✓ The Central Bank of Egypt signed an unprecedented memorandum of understanding with the National Council for Women, the first central bank in the world to sign a memorandum of understanding with a national women's mechanism.
- ✓ Launching the savings and lending programme under the title "Model of savings and loan groups in villages VSLAS" and benefited from this project more than 18000 beneficiaries.
- ✓ Raising awareness of 59,000 Egyptian women in all governorates of Egypt with financial and banking products in 2018.
- ✓ The first phase of training TOT trainers of 883 rural women on the concepts of financial inclusion in 27 governorates in Egypt.
- ✓ Launching a media campaign dedicated to financial inclusion and increasing knowledge and financial culture to change the false culture of society.
- ✓ Information and communication technology, vocational training and entrepreneurship for small and medium-sized enterprises and new graduates through raising the competencies and capacity building of youth in government agencies and youth groups.
- ✓ The first Social Innovation Hub is launched and implements capacity development programmes in the field of software and information technology, in cooperation with Microsoft Egypt in 2016. The courses will build the capacity of female graduates of public universities in the field of computer science and create awareness of the opportunities available to them in the field of software and how to use it in entrepreneurship.





- ✓ One million young men and women have been reached through the Egypt-based Initiative to build their skills and provide services to them, with special emphasis on ICT training and employment services.
- ✓ The "Programming Hour" campaign was launched to increase women's awareness and skills by providing them with the basics of computer science and teaching them the basics of computer programming.

#### **5) Changing negative social norms and gender-based stereotypes**

- ✓ Launching the "Knocking doors" Campaigns: targeted about 6 million women through field visits over 3 years. It is based on direct contact with women in villages and addressed topics such as: violence against women, personal status law, legal rights, female genital mutilation (FGM), women's political participation and other women's issues.
- ✓ Launching the "*Ta'a Marbouta*, the Secret of Your Power" Campaign to reach 110,000,000 viewers. The campaign is based on an innovative approach that focuses on women's power, addresses misconceptions, redefines social roles and promotes women's participation in all areas of life, including decision-making and labour market as active contributors to the economy.
- ✓ "Because I am a man" Campaign was launched in 2017 to involve men and youth, which has reached 10 million viewers on social media and 24 thousand beneficiaries in reality in all provinces in cooperation with civil society.
- ✓ The campaign of "Don't Let a Station Stop you" launched at one of the 4 subway stations in Cairo to raise awareness about combating sexual harassment, family planning, promoting girls' education, and eliminating underage marriage (2.5 million rail passengers daily).
- ✓ A campaign was launched on social media entitled "Inspiring Egyptian Women" to highlight the success stories and achievements of Egyptian women in various fields. The campaign presents 300 examples of successful women to serve as role models for the other women and girls in society. The number of the campaign followers reached 800,000.
- ✓ Issuing the first Media Code to address women's issues in the media and establishing a media observatory: in order to monitor and analyze all the negative and positive media reports about women to produce comprehensive results.
- ✓ The prospective partners and newlyweds programme was launched to educate young men and women about marriage responsibilities.
- ✓ Launching the "Together for the Nation" programme, the first of its kind targeting nearly 700 preachers, nuns, church workers and Sunday school teachers to raise awareness on issues such as reproductive health and family planning, combat violence against women and circumcision, and eliminate underage marriage.
- ✓ A number of theatre performances and workshops were organized and cultural and artistic seminars that discuss women's issues were held for the purpose of changing the stereotypical view of women
- ✓ Mass media campaigns and a number of media and cultural programmes emphasizing the correct family and community concepts with the aim of changing and modifying social and cultural patterns that negatively affect women, and highlighting successful female models, are broadcast in various media at peak times.
- ✓ Implementation of awareness activities within women's clubs to raise and develop women's awareness of social, political, legal and health issues, as well as the issues of combating discrimination against them and developing their various skills.



- ✓ Producing radio programmes with the purpose of raising public awareness of women's role in society, eliminating discriminating stereotypes of women, and a series of short films (for example: Women's Power / Women's Voice Revolution / No Underage Marriage / No Violence).
- ✓ Launching the youth song "Noor", with the aim of changing stereotyped image of women in society, reached more than 47 million views on social media. The film "Maryam and the Sun" to promote girls' education and a film entitled "Bin Bahrain" against female circumcision, underage marriage and encouragement of education were also produced.

#### **6) Participation and political representation**

The representation of women in political life witnessed remarkable progress during the reporting period as reflected in the following indicators and statistics, and the Constitution states that the State guarantees equality for men and women in all spheres, including political rights

- ✓ The rate of women in the Egyptian Parliament increased from 2% in 2013 to 15% in 2018 (the highest representation of women ever in the Egyptian Parliament).
- ✓ Women's quota in the Parliament reached 25% after the 2019 referendum.
- ✓ The rate of women Ministers in the Cabinet increased from 6% in 2015 to 20% in 2017 and then to 25% in 2018 (the highest representation ever for women in the Cabinet of Egypt).
- ✓ The rate of women in local councils is 25%(the highest ratio of women in local councils is 25%).
- ✓ The rate of women serving as Deputy Minister increased from 17% in 2017 to 27% in 2018.

Egyptian women have also broken for the first time a glass ceiling by:

- ✓ Appointment of a woman as a national security advisor (2014).
- ✓ Appointment of a woman as a governor in the province of Beheira (2017) and appointment of another in Damietta (2018) in the second amendment.
- ✓ Appointment of a woman as the President of the Economic Court of Egypt (2018).
- ✓ A woman as an assistant to the Minister of Justice for Women and Children (2015).
- ✓ Appointment of women with disabilities and rural women in National Council for Women (2016).
- ✓ Appointment of a woman as a deputy governor of the Central Bank of Egypt for the first time.

The Egyptian government has conducted training and capacity-building programmes to participate in public and political life and access to decision-making positions with a fair representation of women in these programmes, and the implementation of several programmes and campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of women's political participation and their role in society, as well as to provide political awareness of the number of 14 thousand women on the local council elections.

#### **Measures to prevent discrimination and to promote the rights of women and girls who are exposed to multiple and complex forms of discrimination**

##### **1) Women living in remote and rural areas**

- ✓ Article 8, 78 and 180 of the Constitution affirms the right to improve the quality of life for all citizens, to achieve social justice and to provide social solidarity, and to allocate 25% of



the seats to women in local councils. The government also allows rural women to participate as members of local executive councils by appointment.

- ✓ Establishing a legal entity to organize the work of rural women leaders in all governorates by setting up 27 civil societies in each of the governorates of the Republic.
- ✓ Rural women's activities are concentrated in a number of economic sectors, but the majority of rural women's employment is concentrated in agriculture, forestry, logging and fishing, accounting for 53.8% of the total employment of rural women in 2017. Agriculture in Egypt is characterized by the participation of women in most agricultural tasks and production of all types. The unemployment rate for rural women is 18.8% compared to 7.1% for rural men in 2017.
- ✓ The State attaches great importance to the development of rural women in Egypt as the mainstay of the development of agriculture, which is considered one of the most important economic activities in Egypt. The concept of rural women is broadened to include women who live in the rural and desert environment, which includes (4625) Egyptian villages and their dependents. These segments of the population are estimated to be women and rural female residents, equivalent to 27.8% of the population of Egypt.
- ✓ Implementing a national development programme that includes the provision of concessional loans to rural women through the Local Development Fund, providing training and technical assistance needed by small and micro enterprises, as well as providing new marketing opportunities to assist women in marketing their products through local and foreign exhibitions and markets. 18,000 women take advantage from the programme.
- ✓ Granting rural women loans to establish productive developmental projects with a financial return commensurate with the conditions of society and the surrounding environment, in order to provide minimum living for them and their families to contribute to reducing poverty and unemployment. The value of the project will be paid in instalments to 247,759 women.
- ✓ Launching the "Developing Craft Skills and Enhancing the Economic Situation of Women in Upper Egypt" project which aims to facilitate women's access to soft loans for craft projects.
- ✓ Preparation and dissemination of intensive information programmes through various media for health awareness and urging rural women to visit health units regularly in order to preserve the public health of rural women.
- ✓ Establishment of environmental camps in some provinces entitled "Addressing climate change and its effects" to train women and encourage them to engage in eco-friendly industries and to spread the culture of environmental investment and small enterprises (such as: waste disposal units from the source, waste recycling, uses of solar energy, biofuels, soilless agriculture using feeder solutions and fish, reuse of used cars rubber and oil drums) targeting 2034 women.
- ✓ Implementation of the project "The role of Egyptian women... Egyptian cotton from agriculture to harvest" in collaboration. The project aims to restore the agricultural renaissance of long staple cotton through the implementation of training courses to qualify them to do their part in raising the awareness of women farmers in the proper ways to grow and harvest the cotton crop. The number of beneficiaries reached 75 000 women.
- ✓ Establishing a training centre for rural women and develop their skills in the establishment and management of small projects, in accordance with prevailing local conditions, taking into account the available environmental and material resources and emphasizing the use of appropriate technologies for the community.



- ✓ National ID cards free of charge for rural women was issued to 700,000 women.
- ✓ Development of the poverty map in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, which includes the status of women to identify indicators that contribute to support decision making and informed planning.

## **2) Women with disabilities**

- ✓ The Constitution sets forth articles guaranteeing and protecting the rights of "persons with disabilities" in all aspects of life. Article 81 provides that "The State shall guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural, entertainment, sporting and education rights of dwarves and people with disabilities. The state shall provide employment opportunities to them, in addition to equipping public utilities and their surrounding environment. The state guarantees their right to exercise political rights, and their integration with other citizens in order to achieve the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunities. ". Other articles also guarantee the right to work and political, social and economic empowerment.
- ✓ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 10 [2018] was promulgated guaranteeing more rights for women with disabilities. The law establishes the first comprehensive definition of persons with disabilities and contains all categories of disability.. It aims at non-discrimination on the basis of disability, or gender of persons with disabilities, and to ensure de facto equality in the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields and to remove all obstacles and impediments to the enjoyment of those rights. Act No. 11 [2019] was promulgated and regulated by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ Labour Act guarantees and grants rights to working women with disabilities and caregivers with disabilities and give 5% of jobs or employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- ✓ The President of the Republic declared 2018 a year for people with disabilities.
- ✓ Provision of services for women with disabilities: through institutions of persons with disabilities, provision of rehabilitation, physiotherapy, early intervention, cash support and economic development of women and girls with disabilities.
- ✓ The issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 42 of 2015 on the implementation of inclusive education for students with simple disabilities in regular school classes.
- ✓ The decision of the Supreme Council of Universities to accept students with hearing disabilities in Egyptian universities.
- ✓ Inclusion of disability component in national health strategy which includes early intervention services for the detection of disability.
- ✓ Providing 5,000 job opportunities for persons with disabilities in the state apparatus.
- ✓ Allocating a "dignity pension" to the person with the same disability within community protection programmes.
- ✓ Allocation of 5% of housing units for persons with disabilities within social housing projects.
- ✓ The current House of Representatives has for the first time in Egypt's history seven women with disabilities.
- ✓ Launching the Presidential Initiative for the Integration and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the ICT Sector.
- ✓ Representing women with disabilities in the membership of the National Council for Women for the first time in 2016 and the establishment of a permanent committee for women with disabilities within the committees of the National Council for Women.



- ✓ Launching a Government-Friendly Initiative for Persons with Disabilities in [Beni Suef, Sohag and Dakahlia] to implement a system of accessibility of service facilities within cities for people with disabilities.
- ✓ Launching the "Be Productive" initiative (a pilot phase) to train and rehabilitate girls with different handicaps on some handicrafts and organize a product exhibition. One of the most important activities that emerged from the initiative during 2018 was the holding of training courses for the professional qualification of handicrafts for the products of ornaments, embroidery and crochet for women with disabilities.
- ✓ A research study on "Violence against women with disabilities" is under way.

### **3) Women living with HIV / AIDS.**

- ✓ Health care programmes in Egypt include a national programme on the prevention and protection of sexually transmitted diseases or through blood, in particular HIV and hepatitis.
- ✓ The National HIV / AIDS Programme provides free antiretroviral treatment to all infected people according to the National Care and Treatment Guide at a 100% coverage rate through 14 centres in different governorate fever hospitals that provide free clinical care to AIDS patients.
- ✓ Some 27 centres called "Youth Friendly Clinics" have been established to educate youth about the seriousness of these diseases and how to prevent them. A hotline has been launched to receive inquiries and advice.
- ✓ The mother-to-child protection programme is implemented for all pregnant women living with HIV. The programme has been successful in achieving 100% of children's prevention since 2014 by providing medicines for all pregnant women, providing preventive drugs and screening for children.
- ✓ All follow-up analyses such as CD4 and PCR are provided free of charge to all patients on a regular basis. The Ministry of Health provides free treatment and medicines to all sufferers.

### **4) The impact of the increasing number of humanitarian crises resulting from the conflict, extreme weather or other events and its impact on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action**

Egypt is one of the countries that have stabilized in their political, economic and social situation since 2014, despite the increasing humanitarian crises in the world, especially the Arab world and the increasing number of arrivals to the country.

**Question 5:** Reference to the answer to question 2

## **SECTION II: PROGRESS MADE ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

### **FIRST DIMENSION: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, COMMON PROSPERITY AND DECENT WORK**

#### **Areas of Critical Concern:**

- Women and poverty
- Women and economy
- Human Rights of Women
- The Girl-child



**Measures taken by Egypt to promote gender equality in relation to the role of women in paid work and employment**

**1) Strengthening / enforcing laws, policies and practices in the workplace that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, legislation on equal pay**

- ✓ Egyptian women enjoy the absolute right to work like men as stipulated in the Constitution. Under Article 9: The state ensures equal opportunity for all citizens without discrimination. Article 12: Work is a right, a duty, and an honour guaranteed by the state. Article 14: Public posts are a right for citizens on the basis of merit, with no favouritism or mediation.
- ✓ The Labour Act guarantees all rights to male and female workers equally without discrimination.
- ✓ Article 131 of Act No. 12 of 2003 provides for the organization of guidance for job seekers in general, men and women. Women, like men, have the right to choose the profession most suitable for their abilities, readiness and funding.
- ✓ Female workers in the administrative apparatus of the state have a high degree of stability in the work, and there is no action or executive decision that discriminates between them and males, whether in promotion or job security.
- ✓ Women breadwinners and those married to a civil servant enjoy a tax-free income similar to that of a man. Women breadwinners were included in the Unified Tax Act.
- ✓ Social insurance systems provide insurance benefits in cases of retirement, disability and death without any discrimination on the basis of sex. The statistics of 2017 indicate that the participation rate of women in social insurance reaches 60.6% and those who participate in health insurance represents 57%.
- ✓ Egypt is committed to all the International Labour Organization agreements on employment ... and those related to equal pay. These agreements have the same legislative rank as Egyptian laws.
- ✓ Employees are assessed according to specific criteria that apply to both men and women without discrimination.
- ✓ Article 70 of the Egyptian Child Act provides for the female working for the - state, the public sector, the business sector and the private sector shall be entitled to a maternity leave with full salary.
- ✓ Egyptian Labour Act provides a safe environment for women and protects them against any harmful practices that may be inflicted on them or against them. In the event of their occurrence, the law provides for mechanisms to support the monitoring of complaints and abuses and the application of deterrent penalties. The Minister of Manpower issued Decree No. 183 of 2003 on the regulation of the employment of women at night for the interests of the working woman and the protection of her rights. Decree No. 155 of 2003 was issued in the matter of defining the work in which women cannot be employed in order to achieve the highest levels of security, safety and occupational health for the working woman and taking into account their circumstances. The legislator has decided penalties in case of violation of the aforementioned provisions and rules.
- ✓ Increase of the proportion of women ministers to 25% in 2018 (the highest representation ever for women in the Cabinet of Egypt).
- ✓ The rate of women serving as Deputy Minister increased from 17% in 2017 to 27% in 2018.



- ✓ The rate of women in senior management positions in the government sector is 24.1% in 2016/2017 of total leadership positions.
- ✓ Women account for 65% of the beneficiaries of training programmes for government agencies.
- ✓ The rate of women in the Central Bank of Egypt reached 25%.
- ✓ The rate of women appointed to management boards in banks increased from 10% in 2018 to 12% in 2019.
- ✓ The rate of women working in joint stock companies and public bodies increased from 418 in 2017 to 441 in 2018.
- ✓ The unemployment rate among women dropped from 24% in 2014 to 21.4% in 2018 and to 19.6% in the first quarter of 2019.
- ✓ The rate of women working in government agencies is 44.5%.
- ✓ Launching the "Rehabilitation of women leaders" programme in the administrative system of the state. The programme aims to build women's capacity and increase the share of representation in leadership positions, including positions on the boards of companies, public business sector and of assistant ministers.

**Providing / strengthening labour market policies Gender-sensitive activities (eg education, training, skills and subsidies).**

- ✓ Egypt is the second country in the world to launch the Gender Equality Seal Award for private and public institutions to recognize the outstanding performance of these organizations and achieve tangible results in gender equality.
- ✓ Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Agency "MSMEDA" is the first entity received the Gender Equality Seal Award in Egypt and the Arab region.
- ✓ Egypt is the first country to announce the start of work on the integration of the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment in order to win the award of the Seal of Gender Equality in the tourism sector.
- ✓ Establishing of a unit for gender equality and equal opportunities in the Ministry of Manpower by Decree No. (1/2019). It aims at achieving gender equality, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, empowering women economically as well as reconciling family duties, work requirements, and promote the principle of equal opportunity. The total number of equal opportunity units in Egypt reached 33.
- ✓ The establishment of units at the level of the Republic to spread the culture of women's empowerment and so far 23 units have been established.
- ✓ Information and communication technology, vocational training and entrepreneurship for small and medium-sized enterprises and new graduates through raising competencies and building youth capacities in government agencies and youth groups.
- ✓ The first Social Innovation Hub is launched and is implementing software development programmes in the field of software and information technology, in cooperation with Microsoft Egypt in 2016. The courses will build the capacity of the graduates of government universities in the field of computer science and create awareness of the opportunities available to them in the field of Software and how to use it in the field of entrepreneurship.
- ✓ One million young men and women were reached through the "Egypt Working" initiative to build their skills and provide services to them, with special emphasis on information and communication technology training and employment services.



- ✓ The "Programming Hour" campaign was launched to increase women's awareness and skills by providing them with the basics of computer science and teaching them the basics of computer programming.

#### **Taking measures to prevent sexual harassment, including the workplace**

- ✓ The Criminal Code (2014) (in its articles 306 (a) and 306 (b)) has been amended to criminalize sexual harassment, including sexual harassment in the workplace, and is a form of aggravated punishment and violation of the Labour Code, for which the perpetrator is punished by penalties, up to the end of the work. A unit for gender equality and equal opportunities in the Ministry of Manpower shall be established by Decree No. (1) [2019]. It aims at achieving gender equality, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, empowering women economically, as well as reconciling family duties with work requirements, and promoting the principle of equal opportunities. The total number of equal opportunity units in Egypt is 33.
- ✓ The Women's Complaints Office, which receives all complaints of discrimination or violence against women and provides free legal advice.

#### **Promoting land tenure rights and securing tenure**

- ✓ The inheritance Act (Act No. 219 of 2017) was amended to impose stricter penalties on those who withhold inheritance from anyone who has the right to it, which has a great impact on women.

#### **Improving financial services and access to credit, including self-employed women**

- ✓ The number of beneficiaries of small and medium enterprises reached 3 million, 70% of whom were women.
- ✓ The proportion of microfinance loans allocated to women reached 45% in 2015 and 69% in 2018.
- ✓ The rate of women holding bank accounts increased from 9% in 2015 to 27% in 2017.
- ✓ Egypt is a member of the World Bank's Universal Financial Access Initiative (UFA).
- ✓ Adopting "Maya Declaration" issued by the Alliance for Financial Inclusion Network of Regulatory Institutions, which focuses on creating the right environment, implementing the correct framework, ensuring consumer protection measures, and using data to inform and track financial inclusion efforts.
- ✓ Egypt also hosted the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) and the Global Policy Forum (GPF) in Sharm El Sheikh in 2017.
- ✓ The Central Bank of Egypt signed an unprecedented memorandum of understanding with the National Council for Women (NCW), the world's first central bank to sign a memorandum of understanding with a national women's mechanism.
- ✓ The launch of savings schemes under the "Villages Savings and Loan Association in VSLA Villages" has benefited more than 18,000 women.
- ✓ Some 59,000 Egyptian women in all governorates were educated about financial and banking products in 2018.
- ✓ The first phase of training TOT trainers of 883 rural women on the concepts of financial inclusion in 27 governorates.





- ✓ Launching an information campaign dedicated to financial inclusion and increasing knowledge and financial culture to change the false culture of society.

**Developing mechanisms for the equal participation of women in economic decision-making bodies (e.g.: ministries of trade, finance, central banks and national economic boards).**

- ✓ Equal Opportunities Unit in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Manpower
- ✓ Gender and Women Empowerment Unit in the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises Development Agency
- ✓ Committee for the Economic Participation of Women in the National Council for Women
- ✓ The Egyptian Government's Programme of Action 2018/2022 focuses on building the capacity of equal opportunity units and the presence of a percentage of women benefiting from national projects
- ✓ Programmes have been held, such as “women lead the future” and others, to train women for leadership positions
- ✓ The rate of female ministers in the Cabinet increased from 6% in 2015 to 20% in 2017 and then to 25% in 2018 (the highest ever representation of women in the Cabinet of Egypt), including a Minister for Investment and International Cooperation
- ✓ The rate of women serving as Deputy Minister increased from 17% in 2017 to 27% in 2018.
- ✓ The rate of women in senior management positions in the government sector was 24.1% of leadership positions in 2016/2017.
- ✓ The rate of women in the boards of banks increased from 10% in 2018 to 12% in 2019 and in joint stock companies and public bodies from 418 in 2017 to 441 in 2018.
- ✓ Two women were appointed as governors in 2017 and 2018
- ✓ Appointment of a woman as vice president of the Central Bank and president of the Economic Court in 2018 for the first time.
- ✓ Women participate in 60.7% in the social professions, 45.3% in the educational professions union and 55.1% in the pharmacists union during 2016.
- ✓ Egyptian women participated in the formulation of the Five-Year Plans for the social and economic development of the state (2007/2012 - 2012/2017) to incorporate gender in the national plan of the state in various fields of development.

**Measures taken by Egypt to reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote reconciliation between family and work**

**Inclusion of unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting**

- ✓ 91% of Egyptian women do housework
- ✓ 27% of Egyptian women perform work related to family care for family members
- ✓ These works are unpaid and estimated at 458 billion pounds a year for domestic work and 167 billion pounds a year for work related to family care, and often the husband does not participate in this work even if the wife is a worker.
- ✓ These statistics are available within the national statistics of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics



### **Expanding childcare services or providing existing services at more affordable prices**

- ✓ A decision by the President of the Republic was issued to provide 250 million pounds for the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide early childhood services to allow the Egyptian mother to go out to work and contribute to state building while continuing to expand school feeding programmes.
- ✓ Issuing loans of EGP 50.000.000 to establish nurseries to allow an increase in the employment of women.

### **Expanding support for vulnerable older persons and others in need of intensive forms of care**

- ✓ The rate of insured women reached 60.6% and the proportion of participants in health insurance rose to 57% during 2017.
- ✓ Launch of Karama (Dignity) programme to reach more than 163,000 elderly men and women.
- ✓ Strengthening services for older women through initiatives such as the "We Really Love Each Others" initiative launched in conjunction with the World Day of Older Persons.
- ✓ The programme of decent housing for the poorest families, where new projects have been launched to build some 250,000 housing units for slum dwellers, with the aim of developing slums and poor villages to suitable areas to ensure a safe and dignified life for citizens, which has a direct impact on the safety and well-being of women. The number of beneficiaries reached to 4330 beneficiaries.

### **Providing or strengthening maternity / paternity / parental leave or any other type of family leave**

- ✓ The Civil Service Act 2016, which grants benefits to working mothers such as maternity leave for 4 months instead of 3 months with full salary , provided that the employee is entitled to leave without pay to care for her child for a maximum of two years at a time and a maximum of six years during her civil service.
- ✓ The government female employee has the right to a childcare leave of up to two years at a time and three times during her entire service period . The government agency shall pay the social insurance payable by the worker and the employer, or grant it a quarter of the salary according to her choice, while retaining its function, career, periodic and social allowances, and the right to promotion until she returns from the leave.

### **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns or activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work**

- ✓ "Because I'm a Man" Campaign: launched in 2017 to involve men and youth, which has reached 10 million viewers on social media and 24,000 volunteers in reality in all governorates aimed at raising awareness about women's issues and highlighting positive examples of men's role in supporting women during different stages of her life.

### **Introducing austerity measures / fiscal adjustment, such as reducing public expenditure or reducing public sector employment over the past five years**

- ✓ The government has not taken any austerity measures resulting in a reduction in public spending or in public sector employment over the past five years.



## SECOND DIMENSION: POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Critical areas of concern:

- ✓ Women and poverty
- ✓ Education and training of women
- ✓ Women and health
- ✓ Human Rights of Women
- ✓ The Girl-child.

### **The measures taken by Egypt in the past five years to reduce and eliminate poverty among women and girls**

- **Promoting poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (eg job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures**
- ✓ 700.000 ID cards were issued for women to exercise their constitutional rights and facilitate their access to state services and employment.
- ✓ Providing grants to establish productive development projects benefiting 247,759 women.
- ✓ Working women service centres: these are productive service centres established with the aim of alleviating the burdens placed on women and helping them to reconcile their responsibilities as working women with their work and their families in 22 governorates throughout the Republic. The number of these centres is 39, with 41 units benefiting 1.855.235 women.
- ✓ "Adaha weadoud" Handicraft Development Programme: a programme for the development of handicrafts in line with the modernization and development of a new style of traditional products by introducing women to new and modern designs that suit the general taste.

#### **Supporting the activities of women entrepreneurship development**

- ✓ Financing small projects and providing loans on concessional terms, and supporting marketing and export capabilities through the establishment of exhibitions and mass marketing of projects without distinction between females and males.
- ✓ Productive Household Projects: "430 projects help low-income women in traditional, environmental and household occupations and crafts, as well as 32 permanent exhibitions to market their products through seasonal exhibitions
- ✓ Projects supporting rural women: through the establishment of projects in kind ranging from 1000 to 5000 Egyptian pounds.
- ✓ Increasing financial awareness, spreading the financial culture of women and school and university students, raising savings rates and encouraging entrepreneurship, increasing financial coverage as a national standard in light of the Women's 2030 Strategy.
- ✓ Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA).
- ✓ Launching the financial inclusion programme for women. It is working on the following:
  - Qualification of rural women leaders with (886) training TOT to raise awareness of the concepts of financial inclusion.
  - Raising women's awareness of banking services in all governorates, targeting 95000 women.
  - Spreading the culture of entrepreneurship and its impact on improving the income of women in local communities (492).
  - Social Hub Entrepreneurship using information technology.



- "Be productive" initiative to rehabilitate women with disabilities on handicrafts.
- Egyptian cotton from agriculture to harvest initiative [from seed to cladding]
- **Introducing or strengthening social protection programmes for women and girls (eg cash transfers for women with children, plans for public works/ employment for women of working age, old-age pensions).**
- Women benefit from 89% of social protection programmes (2.25 million households - 10 million people).
- 38 million women benefited from bread and flour subsidies.
- 34 million women benefited from ration cards.
- 10 million women benefited from health care support.
- 8 million women benefited from family and reproductive health services.
- The Conditional Cash Transfers programme was launched to 563 villages and 345 centres in 27 governorates with approximately 2,000,000 women (80% of the beneficiaries of the programme) to improve household consumption, increase conditional human capital, maximize the right to decision-making in the family, improve productive economic integration, increase women's financial inclusion and combat violence against women.
- Women's Literacy Programmes through the "No illiteracy with Takaful" Initiative.
- Positive support for family planning through the "2 are enough" Initiative
- Improving the housing environment through the "Decent Housing" initiative
- Assisting families in extracting the ration card and supporting the participation of girls, women leaders and public servants in women empowerment programs.
- The Egyptian government launched a life insurance document under the name of the "Aman Document" during the year of the Egyptian Women. "Aman documents" were allocated to 50,000 Egyptian women free of charge, which were handed over to the breadwinners and needy women.

### **Egypt's efforts to improve access of women and girls to social protection**

#### **Providing or authorizing conditional cash transfers**

- ✓ The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme was launched to 563 villages and 345 centres in 27 governorates with approximately 2,000,000 women (80% of the beneficiaries of the programme) to improve household consumption, increase human capital, maximize the right to decision making in the family, improve productive economic integration, increase women's financial inclusion and combat violence against women.

#### **Provision or enhancement of non-contributory social pensions**

- ✓ Ensuring the social protection of women by issuing Act No. 135 of 2010 on Social Insurance and Pensions.
- ✓ Establishing a legal framework for determining the beneficiaries of the social security pension in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Solidarity No. 187 of 2013 regarding the replacement of the second paragraph contained in Ministerial Resolution No. 100 of 2013.
- ✓ Recognition of women as breadwinner to family in accordance with the unified tax law No. 91 of 2005 and amended by Act No. 11 of 2013.



### **Reforming social security programmes based on contributions to enhance women's access and utilization**

- ✓ 38 million women benefited from bread and flour subsidies.
- ✓ 34 million women benefited from ration cards.
- ✓ 10 million women benefited from health care support.
- ✓ 8 million women benefited from family and reproductive health services.
- ✓ The CCT programme was launched to 563 villages and 345 centres in 27 governorates with approximately 2,000,000 women (80% of the beneficiaries of the programme) to improve household consumption, increase human capital, maximize the right to decision making in the family, improve productive economic integration, increase women's financial inclusion and combat violence against women.
- ✓ The Egyptian government launched a life insurance document, the "Aman Document" during the year of the Egyptian Women. Aman documents were allocated to 50,000 Egyptian women free of charge, which was handed over to the breadwinners and needy women.

### **Egypt's efforts to improve the health outcomes of women and girls**

#### **Promote women's access to health services by expanding universal health coverage or public health services**

- Adoption of a number of national strategies for the protection of women and girls:
  - National Strategy for Reproductive Health 2015-2020: The National Population Council is responsible for the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994.
  - National Population Strategy 2015-2020.
  - National strategy against circumcision 2016-2020.
  - National Strategy for the Reduction of Underage Marriage 2015-2020.
- Issuing the Comprehensive Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018.
- The '100 Million Health' initiative to detect hepatitis, diabetes, high blood pressure and body mass index (weight).
- Launching a hotline to provide support services for drug addicts.
- Establishment of health care units in all villages and centres of the Republic, providing health services for women, in addition to the "Women's Health Centres" in most governorates of the Republic and running government / non-governmental medical convoys in villages and women to periodically provide health services to rural women free of charge.
- Early detection of breast cancer.
- The "Health file for each woman" initiative with the purpose of providing each woman with a medical file according to her national ID card.
- The programme "Egypt free of virus C": To achieve the national goal "to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C to 1% of the population," according to the strategy of Egypt 2030 launched by the President of the Republic.
- There are 440 public hospitals integrated with violence against women and a comprehensive package of health services and victim service providers.
- Awareness campaigns to support women's health and good nutrition.



### **Expanding specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health, maternity and HIV services**

- ✓ Health care programmes in Egypt include a national programme on the prevention and protection of sexually transmitted diseases or through blood, in particular HIV and hepatitis.
- ✓ 27 centres called "Youth Friendly Clinics" have been established to educate youth about the seriousness of these diseases and how to prevent them. A hotline has been launched to receive inquiries and advice.
- ✓ The child from an infected mother protection programme is implemented to all pregnant women living with HIV.
- ✓ All follow-up analyses such as CD4 and PCR are provided free of charge to all patients regularly.

### **Public awareness campaigns / public health**

- ✓ Awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer.
- ✓ The appointment of 6,000 rural leaders trained by the Ministry of Health and Population to spread health awareness among community members about maternal and child health services.
- ✓ Updating the approach of rural women leaders to include private health messages for family health as a whole and training them.
- ✓ Implementation of 1.5 million home visits per month for women of childbearing age.
- ✓ The implementation of 40 thousand educational seminars per month in the health units for the beneficiaries of the service within the health units.
- ✓ Activating the hotline for reproductive health counselling through family planning physicians to respond to inquiries or any complaints regarding the provision of the service or the use of means.
- ✓ Implementing awareness programmes such as women's health, good nutrition and reproductive rights, to protect them from reproductive diseases and early detection of breast cancer. The number of beneficiaries reached 52,611 in 2018.
- ✓ Family planning methods (cereals - syringes - IUD - subcutaneous capsule - emergency contraception pills) are provided through primary care units and public hospitals spread throughout the Republic for all patients without discrimination.

### **Egypt's efforts to improve the outcomes and skills of women and girls education**

#### **1) Taking measures to increase girls' access to education, technical training and skills development programs to continue their studies and update them**

- ✓ The Constitution affirms and guarantees the right to equality in education and free education in its articles 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.
- ✓ Improving the situation of women in education. The illiteracy rate among females decreased from 37.3% in 2006 to 30.7% in 2017.
- ✓ The overall enrolment rate of girls in pre-primary education increased to 27% in 2017/2018.
- ✓ The gross enrolment ratio of girls in primary education increased to 98.6% in 2017/2018 and the gross enrolment ratio of girls in public secondary education, with (35.1%) in 2017/2018 and higher education for girls to reach 54% in 2018 from (38.4%) in 2015/2016. Women account for 46.5% of the holders of the master's degree and doctorate, and 48.6% of the



total university professors. The percentage of females enrolled in postgraduate studies was 46.5%.

- ✓ Launching the "My daughter's noor aini" campaign to prepare leadership students in all secondary schools for girls. The initiative aims at educating leading female students and enabling students to complete their education and develop the ability to express themselves and influence the environment surrounding the positive interaction.
- ✓ The establishment of one-classroom schools: to enable girls who drop out to complete their formal education as a proven treatment for this problem, there were 5018 schools in 2014-2015 with 82070 female students enrolled.
- ✓ Launch of the 'Girls Education Initiative' in Egypt: it aims at empowering girls with equal opportunities in qualitative and free education. The initiative also works to remove barriers to girls' learning, such as school fees and education costs.
- ✓ The implementation of many training courses, educational convoys and initiatives to raise the efficiency of girls and erase their illiteracy, especially in rural areas such as the project "Women in El-Beheirah " launched by the National Council of Women, "Literate Village" in the province of El-Beheirah and the initiative to eliminate illiteracy in Dandara in Qena "Literacy is Power".

## **2) Promoting safe, non-harassment and inclusive educational environments for women and girls**

- ✓ The establishment of 19 anti-harassment units in public universities with the purpose of raising awareness among university staff, professors and students of their rights in the event of harassment at the university, educating them about reporting mechanisms and how to deal with the relevant parties, and finally supporting victims of harassment. Several awareness-raising activities to combat harassment are also being implemented.
- ✓ Establishing girls-friendly schools and community schools in Egyptian villages: which aims at providing a real opportunity for girls from poor families and those who drop out of education from the age of 6-14 years to enrol at schools. The number of girls' friendly schools and the community schools was 5018 and the percentage of female students reached 76.9% compared to 23.1% of males with a total of 106781 female and male students.

## **3) Increasing the access to skills and training in new and emerging areas, in particular STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Fluency and Digital Literacy**

- ✓ Implementation of the initiative (audio reading): it aims to improve reading and writing skills in the basic education stage, which is based on the concept of active learning in order to reduce low academic achievement and reading and writing weakness.
- ✓ Provide equal opportunities for gender training through the "Technology Houses" project, mainly concerned with Egyptian women at the governorate level.
- ✓ Implementation of the programme "Entrepreneurship in Information Technology" Social HUB": 17000 young people of both sexes were targeted to qualify and increase their abilities in the use of information technology to solve societal problems. The programme also organized a celebration of the best intelligent electronic applications, and was awarded a prize for the implementation of "help the families of the missing and street children."
- ✓ Providing information on entrepreneurship for women who wish to establish small and pioneering projects: in terms of the necessary research, marketing and managerial skills, and encourage them to benefit from information technology in the field of small enterprises.



- ✓ The "Programming Hour" campaign was launched to increase women's awareness and skills by providing them with the basics of computer science and teaching them the basics of computer programming.

### THIRD DIMENSION: FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE AND STEREOTYPES

Critical areas of concern:

1. Violence against women.
2. Human rights of women.
3. Women and media.
4. The Girl-child.

#### **Priorities for action in the area of violence against women and girls**

##### **1) Sexual harassment and violence in public spaces, in educational settings and at work**

- ✓ The Criminal Code (2014) (arts. 306 (a) and 306 (b)) has been amended to criminalize sexual harassment. The concept of sexual harassment was defined by law for the first time. Accordingly, the law provides that verbal, physical, behavioural, telephone and Internet sexual harassment shall be punishable by 6 months to 5 years and a fine of up to LE 50,000. This is a major step in achieving safety for Egyptian women and girls in public spaces, with a stricter penalty and fine in the case of specific authority over the victim.
- ✓ Adopting the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women approved by the Cabinet of Egypt and the participation of 20 ministries (2015).
- ✓ Establishment of the Women's Complaints Office and its branches in 27 governorates and an operations room and a hotline (15115) in the Women's Complaints Office to receive harassment complaints against women and girls in the streets, squares and public parks. About 60,000 women benefited from the Office of Complaints - until 2018 (awareness of the system of reception of victims of violence against women, legal support, family courts and issues of violence against women).
- ✓ The establishment of a special unit for violence against women within the Ministry of Interior; a hotline linked to the Department of Violence against Women at the Ministry of Interior established to receive any incidents of violence against women; and Decree No. 2180 of 2014 establishing sections to combat violence against women in all security departments in the governorates of the Republic.
- ✓ Violence against Women Unit established within the Ministry of Justice for the Protection of Women.
- ✓ 33 equal opportunity units in ministries and government agencies
- ✓ 9 hosting centres to provide protection, shelter and social, health, psychological and legal care for battered women
- ✓ 33 Equal Opportunities Unit in Ministries.
- ✓ 19 anti-harassment units in public universities which aim to raise awareness among university staff, professors and students of their rights in the event of being harassed at the university, to sensitize them to reporting mechanisms and to deal with the parties concerned, and finally to support victims of harassment.





- ✓ Implementation of awareness-raising activities within the 16-day campaign to combat violence against women for 2016 and 2017, 2018 as part of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November, in cooperation with various State institutions and civil society organizations.
- ✓ Implementation of a safe cities project free of violence and harassment. The project targets slums and relies on the use of innovative methods such as sports, interactive theatre and art to build community volunteer youth cadres and improve the infrastructure of some places to provide communities free of violence against women and girls.
- ✓ Launching a media awareness campaign with the slogan «your life is stations ... Don't Let a Station Stop you» within some of the central stations of the metro, where the number of users was about 2 million passengers per day during 2017/2018... The campaign focuses on four key themes. It includes a set of messages for each issue, such as “It is yet early...Let her choose” “It is yet early... A child carrying a child!...No way”.

## **2) Minors' marriage, underage marriage, and forced marriage**

- ✓ The Criminalization of Early Marriage: By issuing the Minister of Justice's Decision No. 6927 of 2008, which sets the age of marriage to 18 years for the couple. A draft law on combating underage marriage has been prepared and is currently being studied in the House of Representatives.
- ✓ National Strategy for the Reduction of Underage Marriage 2015-2020.
- ✓ Launching a media awareness campaign with the slogan «your life is stations... Don't let any station stop you» within some of the central stations of the metro, where the number of users was about 2 million passengers per day during 2017/2018 ... The campaign focuses on four key themes. The campaign includes a set of messages for each issue, including a case in “Let her choose ...it is yet early” “,“A child carrying a child!...No way”.
- ✓ Awareness seminars in 15 community schools on the issue of underage marriage and its damages during the 16-day anti-violence campaign in 2018.
- ✓ Not before 18 Campaign: about the seriousness of underage marriage.

## **3) Female genital mutilation**

- ✓ Establishment of the first national committee to address the phenomenon of female circumcision 2019
- ✓ A clear decline in the national indicators of female genital mutilation, especially in new generations of girls in the age group (18-19) to 61.8% in 2015.
- ✓ National Strategy against Female Genital Mutilation 2016-2020
- ✓ Criminalization of female circumcision in the Criminal Code in 2008 and the tightening of the penalty in 2016
- ✓ The issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 271, which prohibits the conduct of any female circumcision in hospitals, clinics and health units
- ✓ Launching information and awareness campaigns to spread knowledge and information about female circumcision. Door-to-door campaigns targeting about 6 million women through field visits over the last 3 years addressed such topics as violence against women, personal status legislation, legal rights, female genital mutilation (FGM), women's political participation and other women's issues.



- ✓ Religious speech against the practice of female genital mutilation. A Fatwa issued by Fatwa House forbade female genital mutilation in 2007 and 2018. The Coptic Orthodox Church confirmed in an official position against female genital mutilation.
- ✓ Child Rescue Line (16000) according to Act No. 126 of 2008 provides a specialized service to answer questions about female genital mutilation 24 hours a day and intervenes to prevent it in many cases.

### **Measures taken to address violence against women and girls**

#### **1) Providing or strengthening laws against violence against women, and their implementation and implementation**

- ✓ The Criminal Code (2014) (Articles 306 (a) and 306 (b)) was amended to criminalize sexual harassment which was defined for the first time by law. The law makes verbal, physical, behavioural, telephone and Internet sexual harassment punishable by 6 months to 5 years and a fine of up to EGP 50,000, a major step towards the safety of Egyptian women and girls in public spaces.
- ✓ The Criminal Code (2016) (Article 242) was amended to provide for those who practice female genital mutilation from five to seven years and up to 15 years if the case results in permanent disability or death.
- ✓ The inheritance law (Act No. 219 of 2017) was amended to impose stricter penalties on those who withhold inheritance from anyone who has the right to it, which has a great impact on women.
- ✓ A special bill was prepared to address all forms of violence against women. Hearings and meetings were held with government stakeholders, representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to draft a law that addresses all forms of violence against women and in some cases intensifies punishment.

#### **2) Providing or strengthening services for survivors of violence (such as shelters, helplines, ad hoc health services, legal services, justice services, counselling, housing)**

- ✓ Approximately 60,000 women benefiting from the Office of Complaints and its branches in 27 governorates - until 2018 (awareness of the system of reception of victims of violence against women, legal support, family courts and issues of violence against women).
- ✓ Establishment of a special unit for violence against women within the Ministry of Interior; and a hotline linked to the Department of Violence Against Women at the Ministry of Interior established to receive incidents of violence against women.
- ✓ Violence against Women Unit established within the Ministry of Justice to protect women.
- ✓ The Violence against Women Unit of the National Council for Women to coordinate and follow up the implementation of the activities of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women
- ✓ 9 hosting centres for battered women and issuing a guide that includes the reception mechanisms for battered women and the services provided to them, the training of 162 employees in these centres and the issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 245 dated 2/9/2014 to include cases of sexual harassment within the target groups that are hosted in the women's hosting and guidance centres, and to ensure that they receive all the services provided by these centres.
- ✓ There are 440 public hospitals integrated with violence against women and a comprehensive package of health services and victim service providers through the dissemination of the



"Medical Manual for the Treatment of Victims of Gender-Based Violence" and the training of doctors and practitioners to use it. The manual provides health providers with all the information and guidance needed to address a victim of violence, including: counselling, first aid, psychological and medical, rapid collection and preservation of forensic evidence in cases of sexual assault and rape to preserve the legal rights of the victim.

- ✓ The establishment of 19 anti-harassment units in public universities. Their purpose is to raise awareness among university staff, professors and students of their rights in the event of being harassed at the university, to sensitize them to reporting mechanisms and to deal with the parties concerned, and finally to support victims of harassment.
- ✓ Al-Azhar issued a guide to train religious leaders on combating violence against women in Islam.
- ✓ Training programme for prosecutors and judicial authorities to combat violence against women for 700 targets.
- ✓ Training programme for Ministry of Justice authorized marriage officials on violence against women (60 male and female authorized).
- ✓ A guide for prosecutors on various issues of violence against women.

**1) Providing or strengthening strategies to prevent violence against women and girls, such as in the education sector, the media, community mobilization and working with men and boys**

- ✓ The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 is an axis for protection from all forms of violence or discrimination against women.
- ✓ The National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women approved by the Cabinet of Egypt and the participation of 20 ministries (2015).
- ✓ Launch of the executive framework and the five-year plan for the strategy of violence against women 2015 and prepare a map for each governorate that included the needs of the province to form a full and integrated referral system to deal with women being victims of violence and ways to prevent it.
- ✓ Strategies to combat FGM and reduce underage marriage.
- ✓ Launch of a survey of the economic cost of gender-based violence in Egypt to support policy-making from evidence (2015). Egypt is the first Arab country to undertake this survey. Highlights such as:
  - 7% of women between the age of 18 and 64 were harassed in public transport in Egypt
  - 10% of women between the age of 18 and 64 were harassed in the streets of Egypt.
  - 18% of women between the age of 18 and 64 are subjected to violence from a family member in Egypt.
- ✓ Implementation of the campaign "Because I am a man": launched to involve men and youth which has reached 10 million viewers on social media and 24,000 youth and men in all governorates of Egypt.
- ✓ "Don't let a station stop you" campaign in one of the 4 subways stations in Cairo to raise awareness about: combating sexual harassment, family planning, promoting girls' education, and eliminating underage marriage.
- ✓ Implementation of the strategic interventions project to propose innovative mechanisms and practical solutions to combat violence against women and raise the awareness of society towards the phenomenon, both from the perspective of raising awareness or means



of reporting and follow-up and to identify the services provided by government agencies to combat violence against women.

- ✓ Issuing the first media code to address women's issues in the media and setting up a media observatory: to monitor and analyze all the negative and positive publications in different media outlets and analyze them to achieve comprehensive results.

### **Strategies used to prevent violence against women and girls**

#### **1) Increasing public awareness and changing the outlook and behaviours of popular mobilization**

- ✓ Launching "Knocking doors" campaign: dedicated to 6 million women through field visits over three years. The campaign relies on direct communication with women in villages and addresses topics such as: violence against women, personal status law, legal rights, and the risk of female genital mutilation (circumcision), political participation of women and other women's issues.
- ✓ "Ta'a Marbouta, the Secret of your Power" Campaign was launched and reached 110.000.000. The campaign is based on an innovative approach that focuses on women's power, addresses misconceptions, redefines social roles, and promotes women's participation in all spheres of life.
- ✓ "Because I am a man" Campaign: launched to involve men and boys, which succeeded in reaching 10 million viewers on social media, and the number of participants in the program on the ground 24000 men in all governorates of Egypt.
- ✓ The "Don't Let a Station Stop You" Campaign launched in one of the most prominent 4 subway stations in Cairo to raise awareness about: combating sexual harassment, family planning, promoting girls' education, and eliminating underage marriage.
- ✓ Next to marry and newly married couples programmes were launched to educate young men and women about the responsibilities of marriage.
- ✓ Implementation of awareness-raising activities within the 16-Day Campaign to combat violence against women for 2016 and 2017, 2018 as part of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November, in cooperation with various State institutions and civil society organizations.
- ✓ Implementing a project of safe cities free of violence and harassment. The project targets informal settlements and relies on the use of innovative methods such as sports, interactive theatre and art to build community volunteer youth cadres and improve the infrastructure of some places to provide communities free of violence against women and girls.
- ✓ An awareness initiative, "Break the Weakness Barrier: Your Right to Live in Safety", aims to provide a general social and cultural environment against violence against women through responsible and positive media and a clear and decisive religious discourse in rejecting all forms of violence.
- ✓ In the field of using media to raise awareness of women's issues, Nour's song was produced (47 million and 300 thousand), the production of the film of Maryam and the Sun to encourage girls' education, and a film between Bahrain against female genital mutilation, underage marriage and education.
- ✓ Awareness campaign through the distribution of (200,000) two hundred thousand leaflets entitled Anti-Violence Against Women, with natural gas receipts

#### **2) Working with men and boys**



- ✓ "Men and Women Together" project to support gender equality issues during 2018 through the implementation of a range of awareness raising activities on women's issues, with a view to integrating and encouraging men and youth, and their support and positive participation, to gender equality and women's empowerment programmes.
- ✓ "Because I am a man" Campaign: launched to involve men and youth, which has reached 10 million viewers on social media, and the number of participants in the programme reached 24000 men in all governorates of Egypt.

### **3) Popular mobilization**

- ✓ Launching "Knocking doors" campaign: dedicated to 6 million women through field visits over 3 years. The campaign relies on direct communication with women in the villages and addresses topics such as: violence against women, personal status law, legal rights and the risk of female genital mutilation (circumcision), political participation of women and other women's issues.
- ✓ The 'Taa Marbouta is the Secret of your Power' Campaign reached 110,000,000 viewers. It is based on an innovative approach that focuses on women's power, addresses misconceptions, redefines social roles and promotes women's participation in all spheres of life.
- ✓ "Because I am a Man" Campaign: launched to involve men and youth, which has reached 10 million viewers on social media, and the number of participants in the programme reached 24000 men in all governorates of Egypt.

## **Egypt's measures to prevent violence against women facilitated by technology**

### **1) Providing or strengthening legislation and regulatory provisions**

- ✓ The Criminal Code (2014) (arts. 306 (a) and 306 (b)) has been amended to criminalize sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined for the first time under the law which makes verbal, physical, behavioural, telephone and Internet sexual harassment liable to a prison sentence of 6 months to 5 years and a fine of up to LE 50,000. This is a major step in achieving safety for Egyptian women and girls in public spaces (Annex 5).
- ✓ Act No. 175 of 2018 "Combating Information Technology Crimes as the first Egyptian legislation, addressing the crimes committed through the Internet
- ✓ The Internet Department of the Ministry of Interior plays an important role in combating electronic crimes, whether physical extortion or counterfeiting, to reach electronic terrorism through three methods:
- ✓ The Ministry of Interior' Internet Information Unit is the website of the Ministry ([www.moiegypt.gov.eg](http://www.moiegypt.gov.eg)).
- ✓ Department of Cybercrime and Information Networks.
- ✓ Hotline (108).

### **2) Implementing awareness-raising initiatives aimed at public, young women and men in educational settings**

- ✓ Raising legal awareness of women through awareness seminars carried out by the Office of Complaints and its branches, targeting (60,199) women.
- ✓ Implementing awareness-raising activities within universities through the 19 Anti-Violence Unit.



## **Measures taken to address discrimination against women in the media**

### **1) Supporting the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct**

- ✓ Media Code (professional and ethical controls) for women's issues in the media was issued with the aim of:
  - Creating an information policy that works to ensure balance and fairness in presenting and highlighting positive images of women and their achievements.
  - Changing the negative image presented by the media about women, and not restricting them as a means of temptation, or a commodity for sale, or a tool for defamation.
  - Focusing on the positive role of women and enhance their family and community status and their contribution to the development process.
- ✓ Establishment of the media committee within the specialized committees of the National Council for Women
- ✓ Establishment of a media observatory: to monitor and analyze all the negative and positive reports published in various media outlets on women, and to analyze them in order to achieve comprehensive results.

### **2) Providing training for media professionals to promote the creation and use of stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media**

- ✓ Training programme makers and media professionals in the press, radio and television on issues of empowerment and rights of women and combating violence.
- ✓ Issuing a media-monitoring guide that assesses the current representation of women and men in the media and analyzes the portrayal of their roles, gender relations and violence against women in the public and private spheres with a view to combating stereotypes and advocating the production of gender-sensitive media content.
  - **Establishing or strengthening consumer protection services to receive and review complaints about media content or gender discrimination / bias in the media**
- ✓ Addressing the anti-discrimination discourse against women, especially through the media and various promotional materials: (some examples, but not limited to, using the consumer protection system to stop the marketing campaign under the title "You Are not a spinster" through the consumer protection system and change the campaign message to become supportive of women).

## **Actions designed to address violence against specific groups of women faced with multiple forms of discrimination**

### **Women with disabilities**

- ✓ The Constitution sets forth articles guaranteeing and protecting the rights of "persons with disabilities" in all aspects of life. Article 81 states: "The State's obligation to guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural, entertainment, sporting and education rights of dwarfs and persons with disabilities. The state shall provide work opportunities for such individuals, and allocate a percentage of these opportunities to them, in addition to equipping public utilities and their surrounding environment. The state guarantees their right to exercise political rights, and their integration with other citizens in order to achieve the principles of



equality, justice and equal opportunities. ". Other articles also guarantee the right to work and political, social and economic empowerment.

- ✓ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (Act No. 10 [ 2018]) promulgated, guaranteeing more rights for women with disabilities. The law provides for the first comprehensive definition of persons with disabilities and contains all the categories of disability. Act No. 11 of 2019 was issued, organizing and specializing for the National Council, for persons with disabilities.
- ✓ The President of the Republic declared 2018 a year for people with disabilities.
- ✓ Provision of services for women with disabilities: through institutions of persons with disabilities, provision of rehabilitation, physiotherapy, early intervention, cash support and economic development of women and girls with disabilities.
- ✓ The issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 42 of 2015 on the implementation of inclusive education for students with simple disabilities in regular school classes.
- ✓ The issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 42 of 2015 on the implementation of inclusive education for students with simple disabilities in regular school classes.
- ✓ The decision of the Supreme Council of Universities to accept students with hearing disabilities in Egyptian universities.
- ✓ Inclusion of disability component in national health strategy which includes early intervention services for the detection of disability.
- ✓ Providing 5,000 jobs for persons with disabilities in the state apparatus.
- ✓ Allocating a "dignity pension" to the person with the same disability within community protection programmes.
- ✓ Allocation of 5% of housing units for persons with disabilities within social housing projects.
- ✓ Launch of the Presidential Initiative for the Integration and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the ICT Sector.
- ✓ Establishment of a permanent committee for women with disabilities within the committees of the National Council for Women, which is concerned with the study and evaluation of public and private policies and their impact on women with disabilities, and make suggestions and recommendations in this regard.
- ✓ Launching a Friendly Governorate for people with disabilities in the governorates of Beni Suef, Sohag and El Dakahlia to implement the system of providing services within the cities for persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Launching the "Be Productive" Initiative to train and rehabilitate girls with various handicaps on handicrafts and organize an exhibition of products. The most important activities that emerged from the initiative during the year 2018: (2) training courses for handicrafts for embroidery, (20) female trainees of the same visual disability in the Association of light and hope.
- ✓ A research study on "Violence against women with disabilities" is under way.



#### **FOURTH DIMENSION: PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE INSTITUTIONS**

Areas of critical concern

1. Women in power and decision making
2. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
3. Human Rights of Women
4. Women and the media
5. The Girl-child

#### **Procedures and measures taken to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making**

##### **1) Reforming the Constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, including the reform of the electoral system, and the adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, standards and objectives**

- ✓ Within the Constitution:
  - Article 11 of the Constitution recognizes the principle of gender equality and equal opportunities at all levels and commits the State to take the necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination. It also provides for the establishment of an independent anti-discrimination commission and measures to ensure the appropriate representation of women in the houses of parliament, in the manner specified by the law, emphasizing that "non-stipulation of a quota for women" was in line with the public interest. Women are not like the other segments that demand a quota in parliament.
  - At the municipal level, article 180 of the Constitution guarantees women a quarter of the seats in the elected council for each local unit at different levels of local government (from governorate to centre, then city to village level). The number of seats to be filled by women is approximately 13,500, at local elections to be held after the adoption of the Egyptian Constitution.
  - The allocation of 25% of women in parliament in accordance with the constitutional amendments of 2019.
- ✓ Within the legislative framework:
  - The Political Rights Act promulgated in 2014, by means of which half of the seats are allocated to women's list to ensure their proper representation.
- ✓ Within the strategic framework:
  - The Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 targets the status of women's rights, which have been adopted by international conventions, the Constitution and national laws, and the political empowerment of women in parliamentary representation, while preserving the gains made in this field. (Annex 2).

##### **2) Capacity-building, skills development and other measures**

- ✓ Proclaiming mentoring programmes for young women to develop their leadership and managerial skills and capacity building 2017





- ✓ Initiating a Master's Degree for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and graduation of the first batch in 2018.

**3) Collection and analysis of data related to the political participation of women, including positions of appointment and election**

- ✓ The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) collects and disaggregates data. The Egyptian Women's Observatory monitors and analyzes data on women's participation in all fields:
  - The rate of women in the Egyptian Parliament increased from 2% in 2013 to 15% in 2018 (the highest representation of women in the Egyptian Parliament).
  - The rate of women ministers in the Cabinet increased from 6% in 2015 to 20% in 2017 and then to 25% in 2018 (the highest representation ever for women in the Egyptian Cabinet).
  - 25% is the percentage of women in the upcoming local councils (the highest rate of women in local councils is 25%).
  - The rate of women serving as Deputy Minister increased from 17% in 2017 to 27% in 2018.
  - The proportion of women in the Central Bank of Egypt reached 25%.
  - The rate of women in the boards of banks increased from 10% in 2018 to 12% in 2019.
  - The rate of women working in joint stock companies and public bodies increased from 418 in 2017 to 441 in 2018.
  - The elections of the House of Representatives of 2015 witnessed judicial supervision of (1613) female judges, (25981) female employees in the sub-committees, and (205) employees in the public committees.
  - Egyptian women participated in formulating the five-year plans for the social and economic development of the state (2007/2012 - 2012/2017) to integrate gender into the national plan of the state in various fields of development.
  - About 24% of the total members of the diplomatic corps are female diplomats, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions abroad for the year 2017
  - The proportion of female ambassadors is about 14% of the excellent ambassadors, and about 13% of the total number of ambassadors. This percentage is increasing from the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary to the level of diplomatic attaché, where the percentage of the female diplomatic attachés reaches 43.4% , with equal opportunities for all diplomats to assume supervisory leadership positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to the statistics of 2017, where the percentage of female assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is estimated by 20.8%, Deputy Assistant Minister by 18.3%, Director of Affairs by 14.28%, Unit Directors of the Ministry by 33%, Directors Office by 25 %. Hence, the total of female representation in the leadership positions of the Ministry is 17.1% of the total number of men.

**Measures taken to further empower women to express themselves and participate in decision making in the media, including in ICT.**



**1) Promoting the provision of TVET education and training in the media and information and communication technology, including in the areas of management and leadership**

- ✓ Training programme makers and journalists in the press, radio and television on the issues of women empowerment and rights and the fight against violence.
- ✓ The publication of a media monitoring guide assesses the current representation of women and men in the media and analyzes the portrayal of their roles, gender relations and violence against women in the public and private spheres with a view to combating stereotypes and advocating the production of gender-sensitive media content.
- ✓ The establishment of a media observatory: to monitor and analyze all the negative and positive reports published in various media outlets on women to produce comprehensive results.

**2) Taking actions to promote access to and affordability of ICTs and enable their use for women and girls**

- ✓ Access to a million young men and women through the initiative "Egypt is working" in order to build their skills and provide services to them with a special focus on training on information and communication technology and employment services.
- ✓ Targeting (17,000) young women and men in order to rehabilitate and upgrade their abilities in the field of the use of information technology through the "Entrepreneurship" Social HUB "programme to solve societal problems.
- ✓ Providing information related to entrepreneurship for women who wish to establish a small pilot projects: in terms of the necessary research, marketing and management skills, and encourage them to make use of information technology in the field of small projects.
- ✓ The "Programming Hour" Campaign was launched to promote women's awareness and skills by providing them with the basics of computer science and teaching them the basics of computer programming.
- ✓ Issuing a study on the identification of quantitative targets for sustainable development objectives at the governorate level in January 2018 through the analysis of mobile phone use indicators and their classification by gender. The data indicate that 65% in 2017 use the mobile phone and the target would reach 80% by 2030.

**Tracking the proportion of the national budget invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budget)**

Egypt has carried out several experiments to support the implementation of gender-sensitive budgets:

- ✓ Egypt has started implementing the "Equal Opportunities for Women in the State Budget" project since 2006 in order to achieve the principle of equality of opportunity and social justice. The project has produced a training manual "Financing for Women's Development" to correct gender concepts and gender responsive budgets and to contribute to mainstreaming the experience of balancing programmes and performance and gender responsive in all state agencies.
- ✓ The Minister of Finance issued a decree No. (668) for the year 2009 to take necessary procedures to analyze the budget estimates based on the programme of activity, projects and businesses and the inclusion of some additions related to social justice in the publication of the State Budget for the fiscal year 2010/2011 in page (6), the need to commit to analyzing



all aspects of spending on the main activities, sub-programmes and gender responsive programmes.

- ✓ Egypt has undertaken through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Reform in cooperation with the Parliament (the Plan and Budget Committee) the procedures of the implementation of the Programme and Performance Budget since 2016 to support achieving the goals of the Strategy of Sustainable Development ... Vision of Egypt 2030. The implementation started in 2019 in (19) Ministries and the rest of the ministries and concerned parties by the end of fiscal year 2019/2020.
- ✓ The Prime Minister's Decision No. 1167 was issued in 2019 to form a committee to follow up the system of plans and Programs and Performance Budgets in the ministries.

### **As a donor, the proportion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) invested in promoting gender equality**

The Arab Republic of Egypt is not a donor state.

### **A national strategy or action plan is in place to achieve gender equality**

- ✓ Egypt launched the 2030 National Strategy for Women in line with the goals of sustainable development. It is the first country in the world to launch such a strategy, which confirms the state's belief in the pioneering role of Egyptian women in promoting society. The Egyptian National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 in 2017 was considered by the President as a road map for the Egyptian government to implement all programmes and activities related to the empowerment of women.

The strategy contains 34 indicators of sustainable development objectives and consists of four main axes:

- 1) Political Empowerment and Leadership
- 2) Economic Empowerment
- 3) Social Empowerment
- 4) Protection

With legislation and culture as cross-cutting axes of these four axes

Egypt is the first country to settle the quantitative targets for the sustainable development goals at the governorate level and started to employ them to ensure the participation of the entire society and ensure that no one is left behind.

Egypt also launched the first observatory for the strategy of empowerment of Egyptian women "Observatory of Egyptian Women" to follow up the progress of indicators on women.

### **A plan of action and a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

- ✓ The Arab Republic of Egypt has a plan of action and a timetable. A report was presented in 2010 on the achievements of the Convention's decisions and recommendations. However,



the 2011 revolution hindered the implementation of the executive steps. The plan was incorporated into the Egyptian women's strategy 2030.

- ✓ The eighth and ninth periodic reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are being prepared.
- ✓ The report was prepared in a way that takes into consideration:
  - Guidelines developed by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
  - General observations and guidelines of the CEDAW Committee;
  - Beijing's decisions and programme of action;
  - Sustainable development goals, in particular Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
  - General observations of CEDAW;
  - Expert observations on the sixth and seventh consolidated periodic report;
  - All United Nations documents to which Egypt is committed, with a view to taking into account its recommendations, especially those relating to gender equality.

### **The existence of a national human rights institution in the Arab Republic of Egypt**

#### **National Council for Human Rights**

- Article 214 of the 2014 Constitution provides for the right to report to the public authorities any violation pertaining to the fields of work of the independent national councils, including the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Women, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, and the National Council for Persons with Disability. The same article ensures that the four councils have legal personalities and enjoy technical, financial, and administrative independence. They are to be consulted with regards to draft laws and regulations pertaining to their affairs and fields of work.
- The National Council for Human Rights mandate includes the preparation of annual reports to monitor and analyze social and economic conditions in society, including violations of women's and children's rights, and studies to determine the psychological, social and criminal dimensions of women's vulnerability to violence. It also reviews all existing legislation and recommends it to be purified of anything opposed to human rights principles and to combat violence and discrimination against women.
- The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) plan addressed the Parliament's request to expedite the issuance of a package of legislation in line with international human rights standards, including the draft law on combating violence against women, the draft law banning discrimination between citizens and equality of opportunities and the training of lawyers cadres to provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations and abused women and girls.
- The National Council for Human Rights participated with the National Council for Women in the preparation of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women 2015/2020 and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030.



## FIFTH DIMENSION: PEACEFUL SOCIETIES IN WHICH NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

Areas of critical concern

- Women and Armed Conflict
- Human Rights of Women
- The Girl-child

### **The actions taken to establish and maintain peace and to promote peaceful, non-marginalized societies for sustainable development and for the implementation of women's agenda and peace and security**

- ✓ Egypt announced the start of the preparation of the first Egyptian national plan on enhancing the role of women in the field of making, preserving and building peace, in implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which highlighted the importance of taking further measures to strengthen the role of women at all levels of decision making, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peace building. This is an affirmation of the State's intention to strengthen the role of Egyptian women in all fields, especially since the declaration of 2017 a year of the Egyptian woman.

### **Sections 27 and 28 do not apply to the case of Egypt.**

### **Measures taken to eliminate discrimination against and abuse of the rights of female children**

#### **1) Measures taken to fight negative social norms and practices and to increase awareness about the needs and potential of female children**

- ✓ Article 242 of the Criminal Code (2016) was amended to provide for a term of imprisonment of 7 to 15 years for those who practice female genital mutilation if the case results in permanent disability or death.
- ✓ Adoption of the National Strategy (2015-2020) for the Reduction of Early Marriage.
- ✓ Adoption of a national strategy to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) (2016).
- ✓ The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood was established in accordance with the Constitution. It is empowered to combat harmful practices against the girl child, including the establishment of a child helpline (16000) based on Act No. 126 of 2008. The line provides a specialized service to deal with queries relating to female genital mutilation, to intervene in order to prevent it in many cases.
- ✓ Launching awareness campaigns to protect women from harmful cultural habits and practices based on cultural legacies such as underage marriage, early pregnancy, and circumcision, ignorance of family planning and performing births without medical supervision.
- ✓ Production of audio-visual material to sensitize to raise awareness on the effects of underage marriage, broadcast on national media networks.

#### **2) Promoting girls' access to quality education, skill development and training**

- ✓ Several sections of the Egyptian Constitution are dedicated to education.



- ✓ The overall enrolment rate of girls in nursery education increased to 27% in 2017/2018. The gross enrolment ratio of girls in primary education reached 98.6% in 2017/2018 while that of girls in general secondary education reached 35.1% in 2017/2018 and higher education for girls by 54% in 2018, a substantial increase compared to 2015/2016 (38.4%). Females accounted for 46.5% of the holders of master and Ph. D degrees, and 48.6% of the total university lecturers. The percentage of females reading for a postgraduate degree reached 48.3% in 2013/2014, while it stood at 39.7% in 2000/2001.
- ✓ Launch of the *Ibnti Nour Aini* Campaign to prepare female leaders in all secondary schools for girls. The initiative aims at educating leading female students and empowering them to complete their education and develop the ability to express themselves and influence the environment through positive and constructive interaction.
- ✓ Establishment of one-classroom schools: To enable girls who drop out of school to complete their formal education as a proven treatment for this problem. There were 5,018 such schools in 2014-2015 with a total student population of 82,070.
- ✓ Launch of the Girls Education Initiative in Egypt: aims at empowering girls with equal opportunities in quality and free education. The initiative also works to remove barriers to girls' learning, such as school fees and education expenses.
- ✓ Takaful and Karama Programme: It encourages the education of children by granting monthly cash assistance to individuals and poor families which value is determined according to the number of individuals. A monthly scholarship is given to families with children in basic or intermediate education for 8 months (October to May) of each academic year.
- ✓ Schools offer equal opportunities for male and female students to participate in activities, sports and physical education. Egyptian girls take part in many sports activities and achieved many championships at the national, regional and international levels.
- ✓ Implementation of the initiative (*Reading Aloud*): to improve the literacy skills in basic education. The initiative is based on the concept of active learning in order to reduce low academic achievement as well as reading and writing vulnerability.

**3) Addressing negatives aspects in health outcomes due to malnutrition and early pregnancy such as anaemia, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases**

- ✓ 8 million women benefited from family and reproductive health services.
- ✓ 100 million health initiatives to detect hepatitis, diabetes, high blood pressure and body mass index (weight).
- ✓ Opening of a hotline for reproductive health counselling through family planning physicians to respond to inquiries or complaints regarding the provision of the service or the use of means.
- ✓ Implementing awareness programmes such as women's health, good nutrition and reproductive rights, to protect them from diseases resulting from increased reproduction and early detection of breast cancer. The number of beneficiaries reached 52,611 women in 2018
- ✓ The existence of a national programme on the prevention and protection of sexually transmitted diseases or through blood, in particular HIV and hepatitis, and 100% coverage free of charge through 14 centres in different governorate hospitals that provide clinical care for AIDS patients.



- ✓ 27 "Youth-Friendly Clinics" were set up to educate young people about the seriousness of these diseases and how to prevent them. A hotline has been created to receive inquiries and provide advice.
- ✓ A protection programme of a child from an infected mother is implemented for all pregnant women living with HIV. The programme has been successful in achieving 100% of prevention for children since 2014 by providing medicines for all pregnant women, preventive drugs and screening for children.
- ✓ All HIV follow-up tests such as CD4 and PCR are provided free of charge to all patients on a regular basis and the Ministry of Health provides free treatment and medicines to all patients.

#### SIXTH DIMENSION: RESPECT, PROTECTION AND REPAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of critical concern:

- Women's human rights
- Women and the environment
- The girl-child

#### **Measures taken to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies**

##### **1) Support women's participation and leadership in the management and governance of the environment and natural resources**

- ✓ The Minister of Environmental Affairs is a woman.
- ✓ Egyptian women participated in the formulation of five-year plans for social and economic development of Government (2007/2012 - 2012/2017) to integrate gender into national plans in various fields of development.
- ✓ Establishment, in a number of governorates, of environmental camps entitled "Addressing climate change and its effects" to train and encourage women to engage in environmentally friendly industries and to spread the culture of environmental investment and small projects through a mobile environmental complex as well as training in applied models for most environmental activities such as waste separation containers from the upstream - waste recycling- solar energy use - biofuels - soilless agriculture using feeder solutions and fish - reuse of used cars rubber and oil drums (targeted) 2034 people.
- ✓ Launch of an Energy-by-Card Initiative in cooperation with the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company (EEHC) to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to educate women to the conservation of energy resources.
- ✓ Implementation of a project entitled "Building resilience of food security systems in Upper Egypt" for rural women, which aims to provide mechanisms to address the phenomenon of climate change. The project also grants in-kind loans.



**2) Increasing women's access to and control over land, water, energy and other natural resources**

- ✓ Promulgation of Act No. 219 (2017) amending provisions of Act No. 77 (1943) to criminalize deprivation of women from inheritance.
- ✓ Egyptian women have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other financial products, as long as they meet the requirements, without distinction between them and men, and do not require the consent of the husband or guardian in apply for such loans as long as they are reasonable.
- ✓ Just like men, women have the legal capacity to enter into contracts, manage their property and assets, set up projects, run a business, own property, and have financial assets that are independent of their financial obligations which is in accordance with Islamic shariaa.
- ✓ Investment Act No. 72/2017 which defines the purposes and principles of investment. Article (2) states that the objective of investment in the Arab Republic of Egypt is to foster economic growth and GDP, to create job opportunities, to encourage exportation and increase competitiveness...
- ✓ Launch of the Energy-by-Card Initiative in cooperation with the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**3) Promoting the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines in relation with the natural environment**

- ✓ Implementation of a project on "The Role of Egyptian Women: Egyptian Cotton from Agriculture to Harvest" in collaboration with the fine yarn manufacturers of the private sector, the Cotton Research and Development Centre, the concerned institutions [Ministries of Agriculture and Industry and Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University] Through the implementation of training courses and technical consultations targeting rural leaders in the provinces famous for cotton cultivation (Al-sharquia, Dakahlia, Kafr El Sheikh, Gharbeya, Al-Buhayrah) to enable them to play their role in raising awareness among women farmers by teaching them the proper way to grow and harvest cotton crop, how to care of seeds to avoid pests.

**Measures taken to integrate a gender perspective into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resistance and mitigation**

- **Support women's participation and leadership, including disaster-affected women, disaster risk reduction, policies, programmes and projects to combat climate and mitigate its impacts**
- ✓ Establishing a rapid intervention team to deal with the cases of homeless women and transfer them to the care homes set up for this purpose in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Social Affairs No. (103) of 1970 on the work system in the care houses of beggars and the decision of the Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs No. (268) by issuing the regulations of the work system for the centres of hosting and guidance of women, where it was dealt with in this regard during the period from 2008 to 2018 with the number of (326) cases have been deposited those roles to receive aspects of social, psychological and health care.





- **Strengthening the evidence base and raising awareness that women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters**
- ✓ The establishment of environmental camps entitled "Confronting climate change and its effects" aimed at training women and encouraging them to engage in environmentally friendly industries such as waste recycling projects, organic agriculture, biogas production and alternative energy, targeting (2034) women.
- ✓ Launch of the Energy-by-Card Initiative in cooperation with the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company and the project to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Providing or strengthening and implementing gender-sensitive laws and policies relevant to disaster risk reduction, climate resistance and mitigation (for example, disaster laws addressing the risks faced by women in the event of a disaster)**

- ✓ Issuance of the Social Housing Act No. 33 of 2014, which aims to provide housing units for low-income people, and the establishment of a fund to finance social housing.
- ✓ The programme aims to develop the slums and poor villages to suitable areas to ensure a safe and dignified life for citizens; that has a direct impact on the safety and well-being of many women and girls who live in those slums and the number of beneficiaries reached 4330.

### SECTION III: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES

#### **Existence of a national mechanism for gender equality and empowerment of women**

- ✓ The National Council for Women is the national mechanism for the advancement of the status of women, established by the Presidential Decree No. 90 of 2000 and falls directly under the supervision of the President of the Republic. In 2018, the National Council for Women Act No. 30 was promulgated.
- ✓ Article 214 of the Constitution provides for the independence of the National Council for Women and its opinion on the draft laws and regulations pertaining to it shall be taken into account in the terms of reference of the Council's work in the field of the protection and empowerment of Egyptian women and the scope of its work.
- ✓ Since the eruption of the 2011 and 2013 revolutions, the National Council for Women has been reconstituted twice in February 2012 and February 2016 to realize the constitutional principles stipulated. A woman with special needs and a rural woman were appointed within the 30 members of the National Council for Women. Specialized committees were established to develop efforts and improve the services provided to both of them.
- ✓ The Council shall consist of thirty members from among the public figures and those with experience in the affairs of women and social activity. The term of office shall be three years renewable. The Council shall be established by presidential decree. At its first meeting, it shall elect a President of the Council
- ✓ The Council is competent to:



- Proposing the general policy of the society and its constitutional institutions in the development of women's affairs and enabling them to fulfil their economic role and integrate their efforts into comprehensive development programmes.
- Developing a draft national plan for the advancement of women and solve the problems they face.
- Follow-up and evaluation of public policy in the field of women progress with the proposals and observations of the competent authorities in this regard.
- Giving an opinion on the draft laws and decisions concerning women before submitting them to the competent authority, and to recommend the draft laws and decisions that are necessary to improve the status of women.
- Giving an opinion on all conventions relating to women.
- Representation of women in international forums and organizations concerned with women's affairs.
- Establishment of a documentation centre to collect information, data, studies and research on women and conduct studies in this field.
- Convening of conferences, seminars, panel discussions and research on issues related to women.
- Organizing training courses to raise awareness of the role of women in society and their rights and duties.
- Publications of bulletins, magazines and prints related to the objectives and terms of reference of the Council.
- Topics referred by the President of the Republic to the Council.

### **Membership of the head of the national machinery for women in the institutional process for the implementation of sustainable development goals**

President of the National Council is a member of the institutional process to implement the goals of sustainable development:

- ✓ The Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030, launched by Mr. President last year, is a working document for all bodies, agencies and government agencies and includes 34 indicators.
- ✓ The strategy focused on all the goals of sustainable development 2030. The focus was not only on the fifth objective on women. It included four main axes: social, economic, political and protection, add to the legislation and changing the prevailing negative societal culture and exit the national data documented by the relevant state agencies for adoption at the international level.
- ✓ The Ministry of Planning adopts the Women's Empowerment Strategy in full and the Egyptian Women's Observatory as part of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. It is also keen to ensure that the strategy for empowering women is part of the new vision for Egypt 2030.
- ✓ A report on the status of women comes out to be presented every two years not only at the national level but also to the international community.

### **Existing formal mechanisms for the various stakeholders involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan**



**1) Formally-participating parties in the national coordinating mechanisms to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

2- Implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action declaration, such as:

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Organizations concerned with women's rights
- ✓ Academia and research institutions
- ✓ Religious institutions.
- ✓ A national committee has been formed to include all ministries and governmental bodies concerned with women. Some of these ministries represent the directors of equal opportunity units.

3- Plan of Action for Sustainable Development, 2030

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Organizations concerned with women's rights
- ✓ Academia and research institutions
- ✓ Religious organizations
- ✓ private sector
- ✓ United Nations system

4- A special committee for NGOs and the Civil Society Forum was established in the National Council for Women, which includes more than 52 associations and institutions, with more than 150 participants participating in its meetings, emphasizing that civil society is a key partner in women's issues.

**2) Mechanisms to ensure the participation of women and girls from marginalized groups and to highlight their concerns in these processes**

- ✓ A broad base of women and girls at the central and local level participates in all policies and efforts for the advancement of women as well as monitoring, follow-up and evaluation through the following mechanisms:
  - o Under the umbrella of the National Council for Women
    - Committee on Women with Disabilities
  - o Equal opportunity units in ministries to represent working women
- ✓ Develop a training manual on gender and sustainable development.
- ✓ Holding periodic meetings at the local level to raise awareness of the strategy for the advancement of women 2030, and to introduce the role of the executive bodies.

**3) How the concerned authorities contribute to the preparation of this national report**

- ✓ The National Council for Women prepared the report on a participatory basis through a committee whose membership includes a number of experts specialized in the various fields of advancement of women, including:
  - Experts specializing in various fields.
  - Representatives of ministries and government agencies concerned, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, and some specialized national councils such as the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the National Population Council, the National Council for Human Rights,
  - Representatives of Research and Studies Centres.



- Representatives of several civil society organizations from civil associations, trade unions, political parties, etc.
- ✓ The Council is keen to review, coordinate and communicate with the concerned national bodies and civil society organizations to obtain the necessary data, consult with them and poll their opinion on any subjects or observations related to the report to take into consideration.

**Including both gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a key priority in the national plan / strategy for the implementation of sustainable development goals**

Gender equality is included as a key priority in the national strategic plan through:

- ✓ The adoption and launching of the President of the Republic of National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 in March 2017, to serve as a platform for all governmental and non-governmental organizations to empower women in all spheres of life: The strategy was prepared in line with the vision of Egypt 2030
  - The Egyptian Women's Strategy 2030 includes four pillars: political, economic and social empowerment, as well as protection in addition to cultural and legislative interventions.
  - The Strategy also seeks to respond to the actual needs of Egyptian women, particularly breadwinners, elderly and disabled, as the most needy groups in making development plans in order to provide them with full protection and to make full use of human and material resources and capacities to achieve the principle of equal opportunities as stipulated in the Constitution of Egypt 2014.

Egypt is the first country to settle the quantitative targets for the sustainable development goals at the governorate level and began to employ them to ensure the participation of the entire society and that no one is left behind.

## SECTION IV: DATA AND STATISTICS

### Introduction

The collection, analysis and disaggregation of data by gender is a key part of policy activities, where planners and policy makers need to assess trends and develop gender-sensitive strategies and programmes, as well as to monitor and evaluate policies and programmes in the light of national goals and Millennium Goals.

### **Areas of progress in gender statistics at the national level**

- 1) **Conducting new surveys to produce national background information on specialized topics**
  - ✓ Periodic reports on the status of women and men are issued by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the official statistical agency in Egypt.



- ✓ The Survey of the Economic Cost of Gender-Based Violence was conducted in 2015-2016, which is the first study of its kind at the level of the Arab countries. The survey was carried out on a sample of (20157) thousand women aged 18-64 from different segments of society in all governorates, with an international methodology. The study is the first of its kind in the Arab countries.
- ✓ A research study on "Violence against women with disabilities" is underway.

**2) Improving sources of administrative or alternative data to address gender gaps**

The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics is the official statistical agency in Egypt that collects, processes, analyzes and publishes all statistical data and census.

**3) Developing a database and / or a central online monitoring panel on gender statistics**

- ✓ Establishment of the Egyptian Women's Observatory:  
It was launched in March 2018. It contains 35 indicators of the follow-up of the Egyptian Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030. The targets for these indicators were estimated for the years 2020, 2025 and 2030. During 2018, employees of Government institutions were trained on how to use the observatory

**National indicators for monitoring progress in sustainable development goals**

There are indicators developed to monitor progress in sustainable development goals through the four pillars of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030 through the Egyptian Women's Observatory.

- ✓ Political Empowerment Indicators
  - Participation rate in elections.
  - Percentage of representation in Parliament.
  - Participation rate in judicial bodies.
  - Percentage of female participation in public office.
- ✓ Economic Empowerment Indicators
  - Percentage of women breadwinners under the poverty line.
  - Participation rate of women in the labour force.
  - Unemployment rate
  - Percentage of women in administrative posts
  - Percentage of women in professional jobs
  - Estimated total income (income gap between females and males)
  - Percentage of small projects targeted at women.
  - Ratio of micro-lending directed to women
  - Percentage of females who have a bank account.
- ✓ Social empowerment indicators
  - Illiteracy among females +10
  - Female illiteracy rate is 20-29 years
  - Percentage of married women who use family planning methods
  - Total fertility rate
  - Percentage of women who received regular pregnancy care
  - Caesarean delivery rate
  - The rate of maternal mortality per 100,000 live births



- Life expectancy at birth.
  - The average number of years a female is in good health.
  - Percentage of disabled women who work in the government sector.
  - Number of elderly homes.
- ✓ Protection indicators
- Percentage of females aged 20-29 who married before age 18
  - Percentage of females aged 20-29 who had children before age 20
  - Percentage of women aged 15-49 who had already been married and had been circumcised
  - Percentage of girls under 19 years of age expected circumcision.
  - Percentage of marriages that were subjected to physical violence by the husband.
  - Proportion of wives who were subjected to psychological violence by the husband
  - Proportion of wives who have been subjected to sexual violence by the husband.
- (Annex 2)

**Data collection and compilation for each of the indicators of goal 5 of the sustainable development goals Gender indicators within the framework of other sustainable development objectives**

Data on each of the five target indicators of sustainable development goals and gender indicators have been initiated within the framework of sustainable development objectives:

- A report was issued on the achievements of the first half of the year 18/2019 to monitor indicators of women's empowerment in sustainable development goals. The report stated that the goal of achieving gender justice and empowering women is one of the integrated and cross-cutting goals in all sustainable development goals. Women's access to all their rights in all goals ensures justice and social integration and the benefits of sustainable development for all citizens and future generations
- Data on women's empowerment are collected through the Egyptian Women's Observatory as previously noted.

**Major periodic surveys are provided on:**

- ✓ Geographical location
- ✓ Income
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Age
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Social status