



المجلس القومي للمرأة
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN



**The Egyptian Arabic Republic On
Progress Made in Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action
Report (2019 to March 2024)**

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Introduction and Background

Empowering women and achieving gender equality was and remains a top priority for the Egyptian state and political leadership, this is demonstrated by the achievements and tangible steps taken by state institutions to translate the political will into strategies, policies and procedures on the ground.

In light of the recognition of the political will of the role of women empowerment in the advancement, development and stability of society; the state is making unremitting efforts to enhance the gains that Egyptian women have achieved over the past years, and to consolidate the values of justice, gender equality, and equal opportunities, in line with Egypt's 2030 vision and Egypt's strategy for achieving sustainable development goals, seeking to enhance the social integration and inclusion of all groups, that also means empowering women and qualifying them to achieve sustainable development at all levels social, economic and political. Translating women's constitutional rights into laws, strategies, plans and executive programmes to ensure sustainability of women empowerment, which in turn led to an effective participation of Egyptian women in various fields of work, contributing to restoring societal balance and placing women in a position that befits their value and sacrifices, so that the Egyptian women achievements and successes demonstrate the promising horizons the future holds for women and for society in its various social groups. In turn, Egypt's efforts and achievements received wide praise of the international institutions.

Egyptian women are proud that their rights are stated in Egypt's constitution that was issued in 2014 in the chapter addressing the state and basic fundamentals. Which confirms the state prioritizing and acknowledging women rights and role in society. It also confirms that women are not just a group of society, but rather half of society and the foundation of the family. The Constitution includes more than 20 or more articles that are specific to women or benefit them, especially Article (11).

Under the country's current constitution, citizens are equal before the law, equal in rights, freedoms and public duties, with no discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, sex, origin, colour, disability, social level, political or geographical affiliation. The Constitution considers discrimination and incitement of hatred as a crime punishable by law, and binds the state to take the necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

During the period covered by the report, promising practices and tangible achievements on the ground can be pointed out, which is positively reflected in the percentages and indicators that will be presented in detail in the second part of the report.

Section One- Main Points

The Beijing Platform for Action is one of the most important international paths that countries take as a platform for action on the basis of which they set their strategic goals to work towards achieving the principle of gender equality in all fields in order to advance women. With the thirtieth anniversary of following up on the progress made in the Beijing Platform for Action, we present through this report the achievements that have been made in implementing this platform.

The political will of the Egyptian state has helped to achieve development in the status of women at all levels, as the state's interest in the women's empowerment file is one of the most important priorities that the state has sought and made many efforts to achieve tangible achievements that we are working to reap now.

The methodology for preparing the report relied on the participatory methodology adopted by the National Council for Women in preparing all national reports, as the report focuses on what has been achieved in comprehensive development and enhancing women's opportunities to obtain work, with an interest in entrepreneurship and encouraging women to establish micro-enterprises while raising their capabilities to manage these projects.

The report also refers to the measures taken by the Arab Republic of Egypt to reduce the digital gender gap and the measures taken to enhance women's participation in this context, in addition to the national initiatives and projects that helped enhance women's participation in the labor market.

The report addressed the health protection measures taken by the state through presidential and national initiatives and measures that contributed to reducing the rates of chronic disease infections in addition to providing health insurance support for the needy, as well as the measures taken by the Egyptian state towards the novel coronavirus crisis and its economic and social impacts.

The report reviewed the programs and mechanisms followed by the Egyptian state to eliminate poverty and bridge the development gaps between different regions in a way that achieves equality and equal opportunities between social groups.

The report also included the priorities set by the Egyptian state to address the phenomenon of violence against women in all its forms and the measures taken by the state to protect women and girls, including the legislation and laws issued in this regard.

The report also monitored the contributions made by the state to preserve the environment by directing the establishment of green projects through national initiatives that urge women's participation in preserving the environment.

Challenges faced in Enhance Financial Inclusion Programs:

- Rural women's orientation towards small projects due to their fear of losing their pensions or aid, when participating in large projects.
- Women's lack of awareness of their importance and role in society.
- The spread of misconceptions about banking services.
- Ignoring rural women as important beneficiaries of banking services.
- Lack of access to financial services in rural areas.
- The need to educate women on the importance of financial inclusion.
- Developing women's financial decision-making skills.
- Illiteracy and digital literacy among elderly women and fear of fraud.
- The need to have specialized human resources to empower women.

Challenges in Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Programs

- Lack of financial resources in villages and high prices of raw materials.
- Setting incorrect prices.
- The escalation of personal conflicts in some productive societies.
- Lack of trained workers.
- Relying on traditional products without innovation.
- The necessity of knowledge on design concepts.
- Lack of marketable products and fear of failure of new projects.
- Ignorance of the market needs that leads to the production of goods that are not in demand.
- Weak marketing strategies and opportunities of handcraft products.
- Challenges specific to villages and Upper Egypt, represented by the lack of financial resources, markets, and buyers.

Challenges facing Social Empowerment Programs for Women

- Changing negative stereotypes about masculinity and femininity concepts in marital relationships and raising children is a major challenge.
- The importance of restoring the father's role in raising children and his participation in education and discipline.
- The need for men and boys to participate in household chores to improve women's access to educational and economic opportunities.
- False customs and traditions that pressure families to commit the crime of female genital mutilation FGM towards their girls although they believe in its harm.
- Normalization and tolerance of violence against women and girls VAWG within the family.

- Some religious leaders are ignorantly against the criminalization of FGM, which requires more awareness-raising.
- Education challenges for girls vary between governorates and according to societal customs and traditions. In some regions, girls are encouraged to reach postgraduate studies, while in other regions some communities prefer to educate only boys due to lack of financial resources. The lack of schools for girls in some villages and the inability of parents to transport their girls to nearby villages that have schools are major challenges.

Challenges facing the Women's Complaints Office

The ongoing need to enforce laws and train executive bodies, develop plans to examine and train executive gaps. This also includes developing specific oversight plans and setting measurable goals, investing in training relevant executive bodies such as the Public Prosecution and Internet Investigations. In addition to training first response teams in hospitals and police stations, and spreading awareness in the poorest areas and those most exposed to violence against women.

Challenges facing the Environmental Aspect

- Lack of conviction in the importance of the environment as a vital resource, and the prevailing pattern of not caring for the environment that leads to negative treatment of resources, especially among low-income groups.
- The use of some agricultural wastes as food for animals. This was dealt with by preparing questionnaires and analyzing them to determine which wastes are suitable as organic fertilizer.

Despite the challenges facing starting projects in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were overcome through continuous communication with partners and providing the necessary support through virtual means.

Lessons Learned

- The importance of continuing working on awareness, despite the slow observed effects at times, as it has long term positive change.
- The need for continuous efforts to eliminate violence against women especially domestic violence and wife beating.
- The importance of continuous raising awareness of religious leaders on the criminalize violence against women and female genital mutilation.
- Begin integrating components of eliminating and defining VAWG into school curricula.

Section Two - Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Obstacles

The main achievements, challenges and obstacles in progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment over the past five years (April 2019 - March 2024)

Egypt has witnessed remarkable progress in supporting and empowering women and gender equality. Considered the golden age for Egyptian women empowerment, represented in the presence of a supportive political will for empowering women in all fields that worked to translate women constitutional rights into laws, strategies, initiatives and sustainable executive programs to empower Egyptian women at political, economic and social levels.

The achievements and successes of Egyptian women prove the promising prospects for themselves and society as a whole, and the Egyptian efforts received wide international praise for Egypt's efforts in this file, including:

UN Women in the year 2023 praised the improvement in women's representation on boards of directors and senior leadership positions in companies listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange, the banking sector, the public business sector, and non-banking financial institutions, as it increases annually by 3%, and women are expected to reach 30% on boards of directors by 2026 to achieve the goals of the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030.

In 2023, the World Bank noted that over recent decades, Egypt has made significant investments to narrow gender gaps in the health and education sectors, as well as launching the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 in 2017, which includes efforts that represents a catalyst for creating more sustainable jobs.

The Egyptian government pays great attention to investing in girls in Egypt, especially through the partnership led by the National Council for Women, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund under the patronage of the First Lady, wife of His Excellency the President of the Republic, which will have an effective role in accelerating the pace of work in the plan to achieve the desired transformation.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in 2023 that Egypt has witnessed remarkable progress in the agenda of women's empowerment and gender equality over the past years, which is supported by a strong political will to activate women's constitutional rights, and a clear commitment that translates into strategies and programs implemented by the government.

In 2023, the World Economic Forum focused on Egypt's increasing share of women in senior officials and women's share in leadership positions.

Egypt's improved position in international indicators reflecting the status of women

Egypt rose 22 places in the Gender Inequality Index issued by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), where it ranked 109th in 2021, compared to 131st place in 2014, noting that the improvement in the ranking indicates an improvement in levels of equality.

Egypt's score improved in the gender gap index (World Economic Forum), where Egypt scored 57.7 points in 2022, compared to 43.9 points in 2014.

Egypt advanced 49 places in the Women's Political Empowerment Index issued by the World Economic Forum, where it ranked 85th in 2023, compared to 134th place in 2014.

Egypt's score improved in the Women's Civil Liberties Index issued by Our World in Data, where it recorded 0.43 points in 2023, compared to 0.41 points in 2014, (note that the closer the number to 1, the better).

Egypt advanced 28 places in the Women, Security and Peace Index issued by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), where it ranked 110th in 2023, compared to 138th place in 2016

Egypt's score on women's share of seats in parliament improved to 54.3 points in 2022, compared to 1.6 points in 2014.

Egypt advanced 50 points in the work environment index issued by the World Bank (The World Bank), where it recorded 75 points in 2024, compared to 25 points in 2014, knowing that the index measures the ease of women's access to jobs and the safety of the work environment.

Egypt advanced 14.7 points in the index of the percentage of females with education to record 100 points in 2022 compared to 85.3 points in 2014.

Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births decreased, according to the World Health Organization, reaching 17 deaths in 2023 (data reflect 2020), compared to 45 deaths in 2014 (data reflect 2013).

Egypt advanced 11 places in the WEWORLD index, where it ranked 103rd in 2022, compared to 114th place in 2015, knowing that the index measures the living conditions of women and children, by measuring the rights of children and women within each country.

Egypt advanced 25 points in the World Bank's Entrepreneurship Laws Effectiveness Index, where it obtained 100 points in 2024 for the third consecutive year compared to 75 points in 2014, in addition to continuing to obtain the highest 100% point in the index on the effectiveness of laws related to women's pensions in 2024.

Egypt surpassed the global average and the average of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region in the percentage of women's representation in the House of Representatives in 2023 to reach 27.5%, compared to 27.4% in 2021, 14.9% in 2016, and 1.8% in 2012, noting that the global average is 26.5%, and the average of the Middle East and North Africa is 17.7%.

Political Empowerment

The constitutional amendments in 2019 amending Article 102 of the Constitution, which includes the allocation of a quarter of the seats in the House of Representatives to women, and the following articles (8, 9, 17, 19, 74, 80, 81, 83, 181, 180, 214, 244 amended and Article 244 bis added) stressed non-discrimination between the sexes in all rights and duties

Law No. 140 of 2020 amending some provisions of the Law Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights promulgated by Law No. 45 of 2014, the House of Representatives Law promulgated by Law No. 46 of 2014 and Law No. 198 of 2017 of the National Elections Authority to be in line with the constitutional amendments by allocating a quota of at least 25% of the parliamentary seats to women permanently

Law No. 141 of 2020 promulgating the Senate Law, Article 1 of the law stipulates that a percentage of not less than 10% of seats shall be reserved for women, and the President of the Republic has appointed 20 women, bringing the percentage of women's representation to approximately 14%.

In 2021, women were appointed to the Public Prosecution and the State Council for the first time in the history of Egypt and allowed females and males

Women in legislative councils: Women's representation in the House of Representatives reached 28% (165 out of 592 seats in 2024), compared to 9 seats in 2012, and their representation in the Senate reached 14% (41 out of 300 seats in 2024, compared to 12 seats in 2012).

Decision-making positions: Women's representation in the last cabinet to reach 6 ministers in 2024 increased by 25%, including portfolios headed by women for the first time, compared to two ministers in 2012, and the percentage of women represented in the position of deputy minister reached 27%, and in the position of deputy governor 31%.

Women in the Judiciary:

In 2020, a woman judge was appointed Vice-President of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the second woman to be appointed to this position since the establishment of the Court in 1969,

In 2021, for the first time in Egypt's history, 98 women were appointed to the State Council,

In 2021, two women were appointed to leadership positions in the State Lawsuits Authority: the Assistant Secretary-General for Women Affairs and Human Relations, the first female counsellor to hold this position in the history of the State Lawsuits Authority, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Affairs.

In 2021/2022, for the first time in the history of Egypt, 11 female prosecutors were appointed,

In 2021, 30 women heads of offices of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in the governorates were appointed, for the first time of its kind.

In 2021, the number of female judges in the courts reached 66, and 73 new judges were appointed in 2022,

In 2022, it was the first time that the State Council allowed applications to join the judiciary to be made equally available to females and males

2022, 39 female judges were appointed to the State Council, bringing the total number of female judges to the State Council to 137,

In 2024, the number of female judges in the State Lawsuits Authority reached 1290,

In 2024, the number of female members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority reached 2363

Breaking the glass ceiling for women: With regard to the positions held by women for the first time ever, the first female adviser to the President of the Republic for National Security, the first woman deputy governor of the Central Bank, the first woman to serve as a deputy senator, the first woman to hold the position of governor, the first president of the Economic Court, and the first woman to serve as president of the National Council for Human Rights. And the appointment of the first advisor to the Sheikh of Al-Azhar for expatriate affairs 2022 - the first woman to assume the Al-Azhar Observatory to combat extremism

Economic Empowerment Pillar:

Law No. 152 of 2020 promulgating the Law on the Development of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises.

Law No. 5 of 2022 on the development and use of financial technology in financial activities, which encourages the availability of various financial services to all groups and the protection of their rights

2019 Egypt launched the UNDP Seal of Gender Equality programme to recognize the good performance of private and public organizations and achieve transformative results for gender equality.

Decision of the Financial Regulatory Authority No. 50 of 2020 regarding the necessity of a female element to be represented on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of non-banking financial activities

Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 204 of 2020 on Promoting Gender Equality in Non-Banking Financial Services

Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 205 of 2020 Regarding Providing Incentives to Companies and Non-Banking Financial Entities in which the percentage of women benefiting from their services is 25% or more

Prime Minister's Decree No. 2659 of 2020 Re-forming the National Council for Wages established by Decree No. 983 of 2003 to determine its competencies and include in its membership the National Council for Women

The Minister of Labor Decree No. 43 of 2021 was issued regarding determining the jobs in which women may not be employed, provided that women may not be employed in underground work, mines and quarries of any kind, and all work related to the extraction of minerals and stones from the ground. Without prejudice to their right to join any job or profession, taking into account the principles of equal opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination at work.

The Ministry of Manpower Decree No. 44 of 2021 was issued regarding the regulation of women's employment at night, which includes that women may be employed except at their request to work during night periods in any establishment of any kind, provided that the necessary measures are taken to avoid work-related health problems, and the employer is obligated to provide day work alternative to night work for working women in several cases, namely: During a period of at least 16 weeks before and after delivery, including at least eight weeks before the likely date of delivery, the employer is obligated to provide transportation for workers during night shifts, provide safe transportation for working women, provide first aid, including transporting them when necessary to places to provide the necessary treatment, and is committed to providing all occupational safety and health requirements.

Prime Minister's Decree No. 654 of 2021 issuing the executive regulations of the Law on the Development of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises by Law No. 152 of 2020, which includes granting non-tax incentives to programs and projects that prioritize some issues, including economic empowerment of women's issues, and allocating up to 40% of government procurement for the benefit of small, medium and micro enterprises

FRA Resolution No. 48 of 2022 regarding the representation of women on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of insurance and non-bank finance activities,

which stipulates the representation of at least 25% or two women on the boards of directors of companies and non-banking financial entities.

The female unemployment rate decreased by 7.1 percentage points to 17.7% in the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to 24.8% in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Increase in the number of women who own financial transaction accounts by 244.1%, reaching 20.3 million women in 2023, compared to 5.9 million women in 2016,

The percentage of women on the boards of directors of companies listed on the Egyptian Exchange and the banking sector is currently 17%, in addition to the percentage of women in the non-banking financial services sector companies reached 22%, in addition to the percentage of women among the beneficiaries of the project to digitize remittances of workers abroad.

The number of beneficiaries of the financial inclusion, savings and digital lending program "Tahwisha" in 14 governorates reached 1.8 million beneficiaries through the formation of savings groups and training them in the field of financial education and economic and social empowerment and holding awareness meetings for natural leaders in the governorates to create direct support for the objectives of the program.

Egypt is the second country in the world to win the Gender Equality Award for Institutions with the United Nations Development Program, and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority was the first in Egypt and the Arab region.

At the level of small, medium and micro enterprises, the cost of women's economic empowerment projects from the Ministry of Social Solidarity amounted to EGP 4.1 billion with a total of 1.3 million beneficiaries, most notably the Mastoura program, which benefited more than 28,000 beneficiaries worth EGP 560 million, more than 27,000 beneficiaries of the Mastoura program under the umbrella of Nasser Bank worth EGP 560 million, in addition to 18,000 NGOs and institutions working in the fields of women's employment.

The share of women in the total projects within the National Project for Community, Human and Local Development (Mashrouak) reached 35%, while the total number of small and micro projects directed to women reached 78.9 thousand projects until the end of February 2024.

As for the Enterprise Development Authority, the share of women in the total projects is 45%, at a cost of EGP 15.4 billion, while the total number of small and micro projects directed to women reached 870.3 thousand projects until the end of January 2024, while the share of women in the total projects of the Local Development Fund reached 65%, where the total number of beneficiaries of these projects reached 19.2 thousand beneficiaries until March 4, 2024.

Social Empowerment Pillar

Law No. 11 of 2019 promulgating the National Council for Persons with Disabilities Law.

Law No. 148 of 2019 promulgating the Social Insurance and Pensions Law.

Law No. 149 of 2019 promulgating the Law on the Practice of Organizing Civil Work.

Law No. 200 of 2020 promulgating the law establishing the Fund for the Support of Persons with Disabilities.

Law No. 19 of 2024 was issued promulgating the Law on the Care of the Rights of the Elderly

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Minister of Education Decree No. (45) of 2020 Regarding Exempting Female Breadwinners from School Fees

Prime Minister's Decree No. 104 of 2021 issuing the executive regulations of the Law Regulating the Practice of Civil Work promulgated by Law No. 149 of 2019

Prime Minister's Decree 2437 of 2021 issuing the executive regulations of the Social Insurance and Pensions Law promulgated by Law No. 148 of 2019

FRA Board Resolution No. 13 of 2021 amending some provisions of the Human Resources Regulations.

The periodic decision of the Central Bank dated 30/9/2021 regulating transactions related to guardianship over money in order to facilitate work on the disbursement of expenses prescribed for minors for women who are under custody.

The Central Bank issued the periodic decision on November 11, 2021 obliging banks to represent women on boards of directors by at least two members

Circular of the Public Prosecution No. 2 of 2022 regarding the right of the concerned parties to apply directly to the competent Family Prosecution for requests for disputes of possession of the marital home and custody without the requirement of prior resort to the police authority

The Ministry of Manpower Decree No. (342) of 2023 was issued to form a committee to prepare a draft domestic labor law with the membership of the National Council for Women to address this group of workers and legalize their conditions as one of the forms of human trafficking

Education: The percentage of females enrolled in higher education increased by 49.8% in 2023/2024, compared to 45.4% in 2013/2014, as well as the increase in the percentage of females enrolled in

postgraduate studies, reaching 58% in 2023/2024, compared to 47.9% in 2013/2014, and the dropout rate among females in the (primary stage) decreased by 0.23% in 2022/2023, compared to 0.45% in 2013/2014.

Health: Work has been completed in the presidential initiatives for women's health, and the number of women who conducted the examination through the initiative reached 47.4 million women until February 2024, and 2.5 million women were examined through the maternal and fetal health care initiative, in addition to the implementation of 9.3 million door-knocking visits through the 2 Kefaya program to raise awareness of the importance of family planning, in addition to 2.2 million women benefiting from the universal health insurance system since its launch, representing 49.4% of the total beneficiaries.

The percentage of women among the total beneficiaries of the Takaful and Karama program reached 76%, with 3.6 million women, while 6 million women receive an insurance pension and 3 million insured women, in addition to providing EGP 4.9 billion annually to support women breadwinners with a total of 736,000 women, and allocating about EGP 3.2 billion annually to support women of determination with a total of 435,000 women, in addition to issuing one million national ID cards for the most vulnerable women within 6 years.

Covering alimony provisions for more than 394,000 divorced and abandoned women with EGP 6.8 billion from the Family Insurance Fund, in addition to 538,000 girls benefiting from the direct training of the program to preserve the Egyptian women's entity "Mawadda", and qualifying 15,000 social workers to expand the "Awareness" program for family and community development, which are implemented by the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Priorities to accelerate the progress of women and girls in Egypt over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programs

- The constitutional amendments in 2019 amending Article 102 of the Constitution, which includes the allocation of a quarter of the seats in the House of Representatives to women, and the following articles (8, 9, 17, 19, 74, 80, 81, 83, 181, 180, 214, 244 amended and Article 244 b is added) stressed non-discrimination between the sexes in all rights and duties
- Law No. 140 of 2020 amending some provisions of the Law Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights promulgated by Law No. 45 of 2014, the House of Representatives Law promulgated by Law No. 46 of 2014 and Law No. 198 of 2017 of the National Elections Authority to be in line with the constitutional amendments by allocating a quota of at least 25% of the parliamentary seats to women permanently

- Law No. 141 of 2020 promulgating the Senate Law, Article 1 of the law stipulates that a percentage of not less than 10% of seats shall be reserved for women, and the President of the Republic has appointed 20 women, bringing the percentage of women's representation to approximately 14%.
- Law No. 28 of 2023 amending some provisions of the Egyptian Nationality Law, to achieve the principle of equality between men and women alike in the acquisition of Egyptian nationality for children, provided that the law determines the conditions for acquiring nationality.
- In 2020, a woman judge was appointed Vice-President of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the second woman to be appointed to this position since the establishment of the Court in 1969,
- In 2021, for the first time in Egypt's history, 98 women were appointed to the State Council,
- In 2021, two women were appointed to leadership positions in the State Lawsuits Authority: The Assistant Secretary-General for Women Affairs and Human Relations, the first female counsellor to hold this position in the history of the State Lawsuits Authority, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Affairs.
- In 2021/2022, for the first time in the history of Egypt, 11 female prosecutors were appointed,
- In 2021, 30 women heads of offices of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in the governorates were appointed, for the first time of its kind.
- In 2021, the number of female judges in the courts reached 66, and 73 new judges were appointed in 2022,
- In 2022, it was the first time that the State Council allowed applications to join the judiciary to be made equally available to females and males
- 2022, 39 female judges were appointed to the State Council, bringing the total number of female judges to the State Council to 137,
- In 2024, the number of female judges in the State Lawsuits Authority reached 1290,
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- Decision of the Financial Regulatory Authority No. 50 of 2020 regarding the necessity of a female element to be represented on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of non-banking financial activities
- Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 204 of 2020 on Promoting Gender Equality in Non-Banking Financial Services

- Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 205 of 2020 Regarding Providing Incentives to Companies and Non-Banking Financial Entities in which the percentage of women benefiting from their services is 25% or more
- Prime Minister's Decree No. 654 of 2021 issuing the executive regulations of the Law on the Development of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises by Law No. 152 of 2020, which includes granting non-tax incentives to programs and projects that prioritize some issues, including economic empowerment of women's issues, and allocating up to 40% of government procurement for the benefit of small, medium and micro enterprises
- FRA Resolution No. 48 of 2022 regarding the representation of women on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of insurance and non-bank finance activities, which stipulates the representation of at least 25% or two women on the boards of directors of companies and non-banking financial entities.

With regard to the most important priorities that Egypt has sought to accelerate the progress of women and girls in the past five years, based on the mandates of the political leadership, in accordance with the directives of the President of the Republic, which are issued annually on March since 2019 to 2023

The conceptual basis on which Egypt works to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment is to adopt a "dual-track approach", by taking into account the gender equality perspective, and working on achieving its goals. Egypt realizes that despite the importance of enhancing efforts to mainstream gender equality within the framework of existing plans for the public and private sectors, and the importance of using an integrated approach without separating the women's agenda, it is not sufficient to achieve the desired goals and results. Therefore, Egypt focuses on having axes specific to women's issues to reduce the gender gap.

The dual-track approach to gender equality was outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as taken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, in addition to being included in the targeted measures through the fifth goal within the Sustainable Development Goals which works to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

These priorities are based on the following axes:

- Women's political empowerment and leadership includes increased participation of women in decision-making positions, and the Women and Peace Agenda.
- Women's economic empowerment includes increasing the umbrella of women's financial inclusion, and providing rural women with productive assets and production tools.

- Women's social empowerment revolves around increasing the umbrella of the citizen rights program and national ID cards, supporting women and persons with disabilities, investing in girls.
- Women and the environment, energy and digitalization, and is interested in advancing the role of women in environmental programs and green and blue economy projects.
- Protecting women from forms of discrimination and violence focuses on strengthening protection mechanisms, building a strong national referral system between different parties, strengthening the role of the Women's Complaints Office, in addition to eliminating female genital mutilation, combating cyber violence, and supporting a safe environment for women in all fields.
- Raising public awareness and urging to change the general behavior of society towards women and their issues.
- Support gender-responsive budgets, support gender-disaggregated data and statistics and knowledge products.
- Promote institutional transformation at the private sector level through the Closing the Gender Gap catalyst tools and the first model of public-private collaboration in Africa and the Middle East to help governments and businesses take decisive action to close gender economic gaps, increase women's participation in the workforce, close wage gaps and push more women into managerial and leadership positions.
- Finally, strengthening and building the capacity of national machineries concerned with women in all areas.

Specific actions taken to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of marginalized groups of women and girls over the past five years

1) Digital Lending and Savings Program "Tahouisha"¹:

- With the launch of the Central Bank's initiative to include women financially, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the National Council for Women, which is the first of its kind around the world, to work on enhancing women's financial inclusion and digitizing the process of saving and lending using modern technology through the smart application "Tahwisha". The program aims to form nearly 60,000 savings groups comprising one million and 200,000 women in 14 governorates (Minya, Beni Suef, Qena, Fayoum, Assiut, Sohag, Qalyubia, Sharqia, Beheira, Giza, Aswan, Luxor). The results of the program's work from 2019 to April 2024 resulted in the following:
- Preparing a training manual "Tahwisha" that includes topics on financial education, savings methodology, digital lending, how to monitor and evaluate, team management and women's social empowerment, and the trainings contributed to qualifying 1,340 financial facilitators, field supervisors and governorate supervisors to work as change agents and be able to form and manage savings groups.
- Creating community support for the program through the implementation of various awareness activities such as seminars and door-knocking campaigns targeting approximately 812,347 natural leaders and women in local communities.
- Change agents (program facilitators) succeeded in forming (20,000) savings groups that included a total of 402,332 members from the concerned governorates, nearly 50% of whom were registered on the smart cyber application Tahouisha that was launched in coordination with the concerned companies and banks. Women in savings groups received training courses in financial and social awareness, and various banking services were provided to them.

¹[Financial Inclusion Digital Savings and Lending Groups Project Tahouisha \(ncw.gov.eg\)](#) :For more information about this project, please visit

2) The National Framework for Investment in Egyptian Girls "Noura" ²:

The initiative was launched in its first phase in Assiut and Sohag governorates as they are the most discriminated communities based on the social roles of women and men. Among the results of the initiative:

- Implementing various activities to introduce the initiative and create community support for it through:
 1. Launching a marathon at the National Museum of Civilization under the slogan "Run with Noura and Dawi" with the participation of 850 contestants
 2. Holding introductory meetings that benefited 488 students of joint schools in Assiut and Sohag governorates
 3. Create a page for the initiative on social networking sites.
- Preparing a training manual to empower girls in various fields, 74 trainers were trained, who were also trained in the field of providing psychological support to girls.
- Qualifying 457 facilitators for the program in 18 villages in Assiut and Sohag governorates. Through training them on the training manual and integrating them into training camps to combine practical activities and theoretical lectures, and linking and networking with other national initiatives, including the National Initiative for Smart Green Projects, and to encourage girls to join it and participate in it.
- Training 7,802 girls aged 10 to 14 on the program's sessions, in Assiut and Sohag governorates, with the aim of creating a generation of girls who are aware of their rights and have the necessary skills and abilities to become active citizens of the new republic.
- Integrating and networking Noura with the family counseling and balanced upbringing program, and implementing community events that included 2187 girls and 1,071 mothers.
- Producing a cartoon series called "Noura" that carries the most important messages that girls are trained on in the training program and contributes to communicating the ideas of the initiative to every Egyptian girl.
- Noura's posts on social media reached 434,050 and 36,951% engaged

² نورا (ncw.gov.eg)

<https://egypt.unfpa.org/ar/Noura>

3) Among the marginalized groups for which the State has made great efforts to improve their situation are women and girls with disabilities.

- Expanding the national program for the early detection of 19 genetic diseases, following up cases of genetic defects with guidance and treatment, reducing 50% of the ticket value for persons with disabilities by trains and metro, and providing rehabilitation services to a total of 230,000 people with disabilities in rehabilitation bodies and care institutions.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity launched the "Hanwaslak" campaign, to extract one million additional integrated service cards for persons with disabilities nationwide. The number of cards issued increased from 950,000 cards to one million and one hundred thousand cards that were extracted until June 2023.
- Allocating about EGP 3.2 billion annually to support women with disabilities, with a total of 435,000 women.
- The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development has launched the first incubator for entrepreneurs with disabilities to help them coexist and overcome the challenges they face. The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority provided vocational and vocational training services for employment and employment of others, self-employment of people with disabilities, and provided financing for the establishment of small and micro enterprises, in addition to providing opportunities for their participation in exhibitions organized or participated by the authorities, and the number of beneficiaries reached 138 people with disabilities.
- The Central Agency for Organization and Administration has established an assessment and competition center dedicated to persons with disabilities to take into account their needs with regard to various hearing, visual, motor and intellectual disabilities.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in coordination with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, has allocated support for the deaf and hard of hearing, and provided sign language interpreters for students of faculties of specific education in Egyptian public universities in the academic year (2021/2022), in addition to providing a number of talking laptops for people with visual disabilities to help them complete their studies, in partnership with NGOs, and financial support was provided to blind students in eighteen Egyptian universities.
- The Ministry of Justice has prepared the buildings of judicial bodies and bodies and their affiliated bodies, and made them available to persons with disabilities and the elderly in a manner commensurate with their disabilities, and provided all services to them in an accessible manner, and took into account the Egyptian code for the design of external spaces and buildings

to suit people with motor disabilities in all facilities of the Ministry of Justice that will be designed in the future. The Ministry has also allocated assistance desks to serve persons with disabilities and the elderly in all courts of first instance and summary instance nationwide, and a number of employees have been trained in all courts to provide legal assistance to persons with disabilities and facilitate all their work.

- In all its new projects, the Ministry of Transport has provided the "Availability Code No. 601" for people with disability, to facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities in various means of rail transport (metro - train), through new projects such as (light electric train, new subway network lines, monorail lines east and west of the Nile, and the high-speed electric train network).
- The National Council for Women (NCW) launched the "Code of Conduct" to deal with women with disabilities in government-service agencies.

Measures taken to prevent different crises negative impact on progress related to women and girls (COVID - food crisis - fuel - climate change - conflicts)

In the last five years, the world has witnessed a number of crises and natural disasters, which have had a great impact on hindering progress towards improving the conditions of women and girls.

1) COVID-19

The spread of the novel COVID-19 virus has had an impact on both men and women. However, its impact on women was greater and in different ways. In Egypt, women make up about 42.4% of physicians and 91.1% of nursing staff already working in the Ministry of Health, in addition to constituting 73.1% of nursing staff in hospitals and treatment facilities in the private sector.

Furthermore, overcrowded health services limit access to family planning services and contraception, resulting in high fertility rates as well as a socio-economic impact on individuals, families and communities, which has made it difficult for women to access reproductive health care services and products. Since pregnant women are more likely to communicate with health services, pregnant women do not receive prenatal and postnatal health services.

During the peak of the virus, this posed a serious threat to women's participation in economic activities especially in the informal sectors, and increased gender gaps in livelihoods. We find that 18.1% of women are breadwinners, 40.9% of total female non-agricultural employment is employed in informal sector and 33.9% of female employment is in vulnerable work. Also, 6.7% work in the industrial sector, 36.4% of females work in agriculture and 56.8% work in the service sector. Egyptian women represent 70% of the workforce in the paid care sector (especially as teachers, health and social

workers). Moreover, the paid care sector in Egypt accounts for about 28-31% of the total female employment, and women are four times more likely to work in the paid care sector than men.

Aware of this, the Egyptian government has begun to take strict measures to contain and combat the spread of the virus according to the rate of its spread, and has worked to pay attention to all vulnerable groups likely to be affected, including women. In particular, the government has been keen to integrate all the needs of Egyptian women in all stages of decision-making and implementation of programs in order to ensure their protection from the social, economic and psychological repercussions of the emerging Corona virus. Where it has been Issuing a program and policy papers that exceeded 165 executive decisions to deal with all women needs during the pandemic.

The government, in coordination with NGOs, also provided compensation to those affected by crises and disasters, represented in providing cash, food and treatment support to families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, benefiting 21 million individuals worth EGP 5 billion and 400 million. It also provided grants for irregular workers worth EGP 500 per month against the backdrop of the crisis, in addition to

- 1) The Emergency Benefits Fund for Workers pays the wages of workers whose wages have been interrupted by the pandemic. It has established a fund to support irregular employment against various risks aimed at disbursing them during the period of income interruption "income compensation subsidy" as a result of economic emergencies or epidemics, and to address the lack of unemployment insurance coverage for irregular workers and small employers. The Egyptian Red Crescent provided many services in regional and international calamities at a cost of EGP 290 million, and funded aid to a total of EGP 942 million to 228,715 families affected by individual and public crises and disasters.
- 2) With regard to food and fuel crises caused by natural disasters and geopolitical tensions, Egypt has made intensive efforts to reduce the effects of this crisis.

A number of (14) logistics zones have been established in 10 governorates with a total investment of EGP 33.5 billion, serving all parts of the Republic to reduce trading loops and achieve fair distribution to make food commodities and products available with high quality and reasonable price. The logistics zones provide about (61,235) direct job opportunities, and (183705) indirect job opportunities with a total of (244,940) job opportunities in general, with the participation of the private sector in financing, construction, operation and management.

New silos were constructed, the storage capacities of existing silos were increased, and old silos were upgraded, which increased the country's ability to maintain a safe strategic stock of wheat of up to 5

million tons covering the country's needs for up to nine months in the future. Wheat stocks have also been preserved from damage, loss and imbalance of technical specifications of their nutritional value, which was up to 10-15% lost and damaged annually.

The project of cars and mobile outlets comes within the framework of the state's plan to expand mobile commodity outlets to reach villages and hamlets in all governorates of the Republic to provide food commodities at the appropriate price and quality, in addition to providing job opportunities for young graduates, as the project allowed the provision of mobile cars for young graduates and girls that provide 2-3 job opportunities for each car.

Priorities to accelerate the advancement of women and girls over the next five years through laws, policies and/or programs.

- The constitutional amendments in 2019 amending Article 102 of the Constitution, which includes the allocation of a quarter of the seats in the House of Representatives to women, and the following articles (8, 9, 17, 19, 74, 80, 81, 83, 181, 180, 214, 244 amended and Article 244 bis added) stressed non-discrimination between the sexes in all rights and duties
- Law No. 140 of 2020 amending some provisions of the Law Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights promulgated by Law No. 45 of 2014, the House of Representatives Law promulgated by Law No. 46 of 2014 and Law No. 198 of 2017 of the National Elections Authority to be in line with the constitutional amendments by allocating a quota of at least 25% of the parliamentary seats to women permanently
- Law No. 141 of 2020 promulgating the Senate Law, Article 1 of the law stipulates that a percentage of not less than 10% of seats shall be reserved for women, and the President of the Republic has appointed 20 women, bringing the percentage of women's representation to approximately 14%.
- Law No. 28 of 2023 amending some provisions of the Egyptian Nationality Law, to achieve the principle of equality between men and women alike in the acquisition of Egyptian nationality for children, provided that the law determines the conditions for acquiring nationality.
- In 2020, a woman judge was appointed Vice-President of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the second woman to be appointed to this position since the establishment of the Court in 1969,
- In 2021, for the first time in Egypt's history, 98 women were appointed to the State Council,
- In 2021, two women were appointed to leadership positions in the State Lawsuits Authority: The Assistant Secretary-General for Women Affairs and Human Relations, the first female counsellor to hold this position in the history of the State Lawsuits Authority, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Affairs.

- In 2021/2022, for the first time in the history of Egypt, 11 female prosecutors were appointed,
- In 2021, 30 women heads of offices of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in the governorates were appointed, for the first time of its kind.
- In 2021, the number of female judges in the courts reached 66, and 73 new judges were appointed in 2022,
- In 2022, it was the first time that the State Council allowed applications to join the judiciary to be made equally available to females and males
- 2022, 39 female judges were appointed to the State Council, bringing the total number of female judges to the State Council to 137,
- In 2024, the number of female judges in the State Lawsuits Authority reached 1290,
- In 2024, the number of female members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority reached 2363
- Decision of the Financial Regulatory Authority No. 50 of 2020 regarding the necessity of a female element to be represented on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of non-banking financial activities
- Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 204 of 2020 on Promoting Gender Equality in Non-Banking Financial Services
- Financial Regulatory Authority Resolution No. 205 of 2020 Regarding Providing Incentives to Companies and Non-Banking Financial Entities in which the percentage of women benefiting from their services is 25% or more
- Prime Minister's Decree No. 654 of 2021 issuing the executive regulations of the Law on the Development of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises by Law No. 152 of 2020, which includes granting non-tax incentives to programs and projects that prioritize some issues, including economic empowerment of women's issues, and allocating up to 40% of government procurement for the benefit of small, medium and micro enterprises
- FRA Resolution No. 48 of 2022 regarding the representation of women on the boards of directors of consortia of companies and entities operating in the field of insurance and non-bank finance activities, which stipulates the representation of at least 25% or two women on the boards of directors of companies and non-banking financial entities.

The Egyptian state adopts the same priorities as the past five years because of the importance of continuing to pay attention to those priorities and adds the following priorities to them

- 1) Combat cyber violence against women and girls through ensuring zero tolerance for cybercrime and technological violence against women.
- 2) Expanding women's economic empowerment programs, including expanding the efforts of women's financial inclusion to cover all governorates, and providing rural women with productive assets and production tools.
- 3) Investing in adolescent girls by building their social, economic, political and health skills in the framework of building girls' capacities.
- 4) Supporting entrepreneurship and preserving the trademarks and intellectual property of women who preserve heritage and handicraft heritage products
- 5) Supporting the establishment of a women's museum that includes the history of Egyptian women and their achievements in all eras to serve as role models and success stories for young women and girls.
- 6) Bridging the gender gap catalyst featuring corporate adoption of both the Egyptian Seal of Equality (EGES) and the Global Principles for Gender Equality (WEPS) to support increased women's participation in the workforce.
- 7) Supporting environmental projects submitted to women, promoting sustainable development, supporting the implementation of blue and green economy strategies, integrating sustainable practices into women's projects, and creating new opportunities to finance and support green projects.
- 8) Work to implement national steps for women and peace in implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

Section Three - Progress across the Ten Critical Areas of Concern

First dimension: inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

6. Actions taken in the past five years to promote gender equality in work (including informal and non-traditional work as well as entrepreneurship)

On 6/12/2023, the Child Court was opened in Assiut Governorate, with the aim of raising the efficiency of the role of justice and the readiness to deal with children's cases with appropriate procedures and to facilitate their presence with their families in a way that suits the nature of the pending cases and benefit from modern technologies (in light of the Minister of Justice Decree No. 9562 of 2015)

On December 18, 2023, the secured area for women victims of violence was inaugurated inside the East Alexandria Court (in light of the Minister of Justice's decision No. 9562 of 2015)

The National Council for Women participated in the membership of both the ministerial committee on "workers affected by the economic repercussions of the Corona virus", and the committee formed to study the material compensation and minimum salaries of workers in national projects regarding their suspension of work due to the precautionary measures taken.

In 2022, the Ministry of Labour launched the National Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Field of Work, which seeks to achieve six general objectives: creating a general framework supportive of the principle of gender equality in the field of work; enhancing women's participation in the workforce and leadership positions; providing a safe work environment free from violence or discrimination; developing and providing an updated knowledge structure in the field of work in accordance with societal roles; and enhancing means of support and raising community awareness of gender equality issues in the field of work; Creating sustainable institutional mechanisms to govern the national plan and integrate all relevant entities and groups.

Training and awareness programs to spread entrepreneurship for women: The National Council for Women has worked to enhance the skills and expand the knowledge and administrative aspects of entrepreneurship among businesswomen owners and those wishing to establish small and micro enterprises, through the implementation of a variety of activities directed to women in all governorates, especially the villages covered by the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family, and the villages that export the most immigration, which include the following:

- Enhancing the provision of quick guidance services for women entrepreneurs, through the preparation of a guide in cooperation with the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Studies, which includes a database of successful mentors and experts in the field of entrepreneurship, steps

to establish a private business, procedures and supporting bodies. In addition to providing quick guidance sessions and training courses for beginners in their projects

- The Council cooperated with the International Labor Organization in disseminating the methodology of the training program "Small Business Owners Get Ahead", in addition to preparing and developing a training manual entitled "Female Entrepreneur", and implemented many training courses at the level of villages and hamlets of governorates, benefiting 178,795 women in all governorates through 458 certified trainers.
- Launching a door-knocking campaign entitled "Rural Women's Entrepreneurship" that benefited 332,344 women from the villages of the Decent Life presidential initiative. The Council's branches in the governorates were able to reach approximately 278,341 women through awareness seminars held in cooperation with the concerned authorities to spread the culture of establishing projects.

The Egyptian government has implemented several programmes in cooperation with the Canadian government to qualify women for the market, including:

- Project to enhance women's employment opportunities in the field of agricultural processing OWAP: It is implemented under the supervision of the National Council for Women and in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Industry in the governorates of Minya and Beni Suef (since August 2022 and for a period of four years), benefited from the project that aims to "improve the economic situation of women in the agricultural processing sector in the governorates of Minya and Beni Suef For 900 beneficiaries, the project is based on three basic components: (1) promoting employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, more equitable economic ownership and economic empowerment in environmentally sustainable agro-processing. (2) Improving the working environment for women within agricultural processing companies. (3) Improving the supportive environment in terms of policies, regulations and national strategies to promote women's economic empowerment.
- The Joint Program on Women's Economic Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Egypt "Rabha": implemented in seven governorates (Cairo, Giza, Fayoum, Alexandria, Beheira, Beni Suef, Minya) during the period from August 2019 to May 2025; (1) Increasing the number of new projects established by women entrepreneurs in the sectors of dates and their derivatives, medicinal and aromatic plants and handicrafts, and their value chains. (2) Improving the business environment. (3) Enhance the capacity of women-owned businesses to attract the workforce. (4) Enhancing the performance of productive clusters in the sectors concerned. (5) Increase the percentage of women employment in the rapid-growth sector. (6) Increase women's access to

financial and non-financial services. [As of June 2023, the project has been able to promote the economic empowerment of more than 6,433 women.

- The project began in April 2020 and will continue until March 2025 and its achievements include: (1) 42 facilitators completed their training on a guide entitled Heroes and Heroines of Change, and reached 2000 girls and boys who are raising their awareness of inequality issues and how to address them through several consecutive sessions. (2) Financial awareness and the concept of savings and lending for 1000 women and the formation of 40 groups starting with savings and lending sessions in Dahshur and Manial Shiha.

The Egyptian state launched an initiative under the title "Promoting Women in International Trade in Egypt" in cooperation between the International Trade Center, the International Finance Corporation, the Islamic Development Bank and the Export Development Authority, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the National Council for Women and the Export Council, and through this initiative, 50 women-owned SMEs were provided with the skills required to increase their sales and exports.

In September 2022, for the first time of its kind, the state launched the National Intellectual Property Strategy to advance the Egyptian economy and achieve the sustainable development goals in its various social and economic dimensions, and in this regard, the National Council for Women implemented a project entitled "Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship for Women in Egypt" in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization "WIPO" to empower women entrepreneurs in local communities by raising their awareness of how and how and the importance of trademark registration and its returns Targeting awareness and empowerment of nearly 70 women entrepreneurs working in the field of Tali craft in Sohag Governorate, the project resulted in the registration of the first heritage craft bearing a collective brand in Egypt (Tali Sohag) (Tally Shendwell). Work is underway to register the rest of the heritage crafts.

The Council implemented a project in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) under the title "Economic Empowerment of Expatriate and Egyptian Women", which targeted vocational training for Egyptian women and Egyptian breadwinners, and resulted in equipping a sewing workshop and a community kitchen at the headquarters of the Council's branch in Giza Governorate, which resulted in training approximately 1,726 women, including women, who were trained in the community kitchen on the production of pastries and chocolate candies with European standards and quality.

In order to expand the idea of training in the craft field and ensure continuity in it, the Council launched in 2019 an initiative entitled "Adha and Adoud" to develop crafts, and a program entitled "The

Workshop" to increase the labor market for women and women in the field of mastering the handicraft industry, and to expand the establishment and equipping of workshops and production units affiliated to the Council, especially with its assumption of women's economic empowerment interventions in the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family, which among its objectives is to equip 200 productive workshops and training units and provide job opportunities for nearly 75,000 Lady by 2025. As of April 2024, more than 44,000 women in the villages of the governorates, including refugee women, have benefited from vocational training courses.

An initiative entitled "Egyptian Kitchen" was launched in conjunction with Ramadan 2022 with the aim of training women on how to manage and operate large kitchens, prepare banquets and ready meals as a nucleus for a small project, as well as provide integrated ready-made meals to the neediest families in the villages of the governorates [benefited from kitchen training until April 2024, and their number reached more than 25,000 trainees]

To enable women to deal with market perceptions, the National Council for Women launched the "Egyptian Initiative" to provide and open marketing channels for the network of women entrepreneurs consisting of (400) women craftsmen included in the Council's database, in addition to providing marketing opportunities for distinctive products through their networking in local and international exhibitions, and the Council also produced in partnership with the Sawiris Foundation for Development and ALEXBANK 4 versions of the e-marketing catalog The title "Egyptian" included the products of women business owners and their success stories.

7. Measures taken in the past five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, promote work-life balance and promote the rights of paid care workers

- The value of Egyptian women's unpaid work is estimated at about 30% of the country's GDP, in addition to women bearing an additional burden, and therefore the care economy is a productive sector, a source of job creation, and a means to support equal job opportunities for women, as the sector includes many employment opportunities for women, the most important of which are in the fields of education, nursing, child care, care for persons with disabilities, long-term care, elderly care as well as domestic work.
- Egypt has calculated the cost of unpaid care, which is estimated at EGP 496 billion, with women and girls taking care of children and the elderly as well as daily household chores, accounting for nearly 30 percent of GDP, according to the Ministry of Social Solidarity.
- Egypt's labor law guarantees the right to maternity leave for women in the public and private sectors. Where the Civil Service Law provides for maternity leave for a period of four months and

is entitled to leave without pay to care for her child for a period of two years at most at a time, and the law guarantees the promotion of the employee who has a childcare leave without the need to return to work, and the Egyptian Labor Law provides for maternity leave for a period of three months and is expected to increase to four months according to the text of the draft labor law amended for the year 2023.

- The law obliges institutions to establish nurseries if there are more than 50 female workers inside the institution.
- The total number of beneficiaries of nurseries until 2023 is estimated at one million and 466 thousand children with a total of approximately 27 thousand nurseries, and the number of licensed nurseries is approximately 19 thousand nurseries and 6500 nurseries have submitted requests to regularize their conditions, and the infrastructure has been developed for a total of 1250 nurseries at the level of 27 governorates and 5700 service providers have been trained.
- The National Council for Women, in partnership with international bodies such as the World Bank and UN Women, has implemented several programs aimed at consolidating positive concepts of the economic and social return from increasing women's participation in the labor market and raising awareness of the importance of involving employers, men, boys and the family in supporting and supporting working women by providing a work environment suitable for the different roles played by women in society.
- Launching the study "Social Norms and Women's Labor Force Participation in Egypt", in collaboration with the World Bank and Baseera Center for Public Opinion Studies, which showed how women's empowerment is affected by a value system that elevates the role of women within the family above their social and economic roles, and the results showed that there is a need to raise awareness and modify concepts and opinions about the benefits of women's work (2023)³
- In 2024, the Council formed a national working group to discuss the problems related to domestic workers in Egypt and develop solutions to challenges they face.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity established the Association for Domestic Helpers Services to keep women domestic workers safeguarded. The Ministry has also coordinated with the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking to implement a desk study of regional best practices within the framework of legislation and laws on the protection of domestic workers through the project "Combating Human Trafficking in Egypt" at the International Labor Organization (ILO). as

³ <https://www.enow.gov.eg/Report/Social%20norms%20conference%2006.pdf> الدراسة رابط

8. Actions taken in the past five years to reduce the digital gender divide

- 36% of Egyptian university graduates of the faculties of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for the year 2021 are women.
- Nearly 40% of the STEM workforce for 2021 is women.
- The National Council for Women implemented a plan to digitize a model program to encourage women to save and lend development to start small projects for women and include them in the formal banking system, where 248 training courses were implemented on the methodology of saving, lending and financial and digital education, benefiting 6,498 trainers, and training courses were implemented for savings groups (social empowerment and protection), targeting more than 74,000 women, and savings groups (financial education) were trained for 177,435 women, at the level of 14 governorates.
- The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has launched a training grant to train 20,000 young men and women nationwide to work on freelancing platforms, and the initiative is concerned with building the capacities of Egyptian youth and building their skills in various fields that help them get jobs through e-freelance platforms, in several fields such as: e-marketing, mobile applications, web development, graphic design, and others.
- ICT access programs for women, and designing training courses to learn how to benefit from them:
 - Social Innovation HUB program: which was implemented in partnership between the National Council for Women and Social Responsibility at Microsoft Egypt with the aim of empowering talented youth of both sexes, especially girls, to accomplish more work using technology, and bridging the gender gap in Egypt, by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship among girls Raising their capabilities in the field of software development and community entrepreneurship and bridging the gap between public education and the needs of the labor market. The program was implemented in several phases, benefiting 17,167 young men and women who were trained on the latest Microsoft technologies in the field of social entrepreneurship using technology, and part of them qualified as trainers to transfer that experience by enrolling them in training of trainers courses.
 - Training women in the field of e-marketing through cooperation with major companies and training centers, the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, the CLS Center in training (144) women owners of small projects to introduce them to how to use information technology and social networking pages to market their products.

- Launching the cyber platform "My Strength in My Craft", to highlight women craftsmen and link them with female entrepreneurs to increase their chances of entering the labor market. The number of members on the platform reached 1200 members.
 - Launching the "Fikratak" platform to support girls, turn their ideas into reality and enable them to engage in the field of information and communication technology.
- The percentage of women benefiting from the project to digitize remittances of workers abroad is 85%.

9. Macroeconomic and fiscal policies that were pursued to support a more gender-equal economy

Within the framework of dealing with the repercussions of the emerging Corona virus pandemic, Egypt was the first country in the world to issue a policy paper on responding to the special needs of women and girls in the context of dealing with the pandemic, and launched a mechanism to monitor and follow up the implementation of these policies, as more than 165 measures, decisions and preventive measures were monitored in support of Egyptian women during the pandemic. The policy paper included an analysis of the current situation, presenting a number of proposals for response measures, whether at the level of immediate or medium-term responses of ministries and stakeholders within the framework of four axes: impact on the human component (health, education and social protection), women's effectiveness and decision-making (violence against women, leadership and representation), impact on economic opportunities, and enhancing data and knowledge.

At the international level, Egypt led an initiative at the United Nations to put a resolution before the General Assembly with the sisters Algeria and Saudi Arabia as well as China and Zambia on "strengthening the rapid national and international response to the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls." Egypt succeeded in mobilizing support and support within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly for the adoption of the unprecedented draft resolution by consensus and consensus. Nineteen Arab countries and 60 countries around the world joined the list of sponsors.

Egypt has entered the COVID-19 crisis armed with large margins, thanks to reforms it has implemented since 2016 to resolve macroeconomic imbalances, including floating the exchange rate to de-overvalue, fiscal consolidation to reduce public debt, energy subsidy reform to address a key financial risk, space for social spending, and structural reforms to strengthen the business climate, attract investment, and increase employment, especially for youth and women. As a result, the government was able to respond quickly through a comprehensive support plan while maintaining economic stability. For example, financial support included helping businesses and workers in the hardest-hit sectors such as tourism and manufacturing, deferring tax payments, expanding cash transfer programs to poor families and informal workers, and the Central Bank of Egypt cut policy rates by

400 basis points during 2020 – lowering the overnight deposit rate from 12.25% to 8.25% – to help support economic activity and ease pressures in domestic financial markets. The Bank has also launched several initiatives to ease pressure on borrowers and ensure liquidity for the most affected sectors, including increasing access to credit at preferential interest rates and deferring existing credit maturities for six months. These exceptional measures at the financial sector level were important to ensure a smooth flow of credit in the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Egypt focuses on using evidence-based research to guide policy. Significant efforts and resources are invested in improving data accessibility and enhancing the quality of data. The Egyptian state supports quantitative research that has clearly defined political implications, such as poverty and income research, which led to poverty reduction for the first time in 20 years in 2020 to 29.7% compared to 32.5% in 2018.

The country was able to reduce the effects and repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic thanks to the effort and resources previously allocated to the health and education sectors, social protection programs, and pre-crisis economic reform. The state has expanded spending on the most priority areas related to the needs of citizens, especially the lowest-income groups, in the areas of health, education, adequate housing and social protection programs.

In February 2024, the government approved a new package for urgent social protection, the sixth package in two years' worth EGP 180 billion, starting from March, to alleviate the burdens of citizens, and the constant quest to contain the largest amount of repercussions of global economic crises and challenges, and reduce the severity of their internal effects, the package covers the health, education, and pensioners, by raising the minimum wage by 50%, to reach EGP 6,000 per month, and increasing the wages of state workers and authorities. Economic budget, with a minimum of EGP 1,000 to EGP 1,200 per month depending on the job grade, as well as allocating EGP 15 billion additional increases for doctors, nursing, teachers and faculty members in universities, and allocating EGP 6 billion to appoint 120,000 members of the medical professions, teachers and workers in other administrative bodies.

The social package also included the approval of a 15% increase in pensions for 13 million citizens, at a total cost of EGP 74 billion, and a 15% increase in "Takaful and Karama" pensions at a cost of EGP 5.5 billion, bringing the increase within a year to 55% of the value of the pension, provided that EGP 41 billion will be allocated for "Takaful and Karama" pensions in the fiscal year 2024/2025.

As well as taking the necessary steps and procedures that would contribute to the provision of goods in appropriate quantities and prices, as well as efforts to control markets, to meet the needs and requirements of citizens.

The government is working to achieve social protection and eradicate poverty by expanding the base of beneficiaries of social protection programs to protect the most vulnerable groups and vulnerable families to achieve a better level of their economic, social and environmental lives and reduce the burdens on their shoulders, as dealing with social programs launched by the government comes within the goals of Egypt's vision for sustainable development 2030.

Second dimension: poverty eradication, social protection and social services

10.Actions taken in the past five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women

The successive short-term sustainable development plans include a number of programs and initiatives concerned with development, achieving integration between development efforts in rural and urban areas, bridging development gaps between different regions, and responsive planning for gender equality, in order to achieve equality and equal opportunities among social groups, and serve priority issues for women, children and persons with disabilities.

1) Supply subsidies for Commodities

- Loaf of bread and basic food commodities are subsidized by 60.5% of the total value of support provided by the state at a cost of 90 billion pounds in the budget for the fiscal year (2022-2023) compared to 87.2 billion pounds in the previous year's budget, an increase of 2.8 billion pounds, an increase of 3.2%.
- The number of beneficiaries of the subsidy of food commodities reached 63.6 million individuals (at 50 pounds per month for four individuals registered on the card and more than 25 pounds per person per month). The cost of supporting a loaf of bread reaches 48.9 billion pounds of the total cost of subsidizing food commodities, and with the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, (100) EGP were added on the supply card on which one family is registered and an addition of (200) EGP for the card that has two or three families registered, while the cards that has more than three families registered (300) EGP was added, with a total of more than 37 million beneficiary registered on the cards at an estimated cost of 823 million EGP per month.

2) Takaful and Karama Cash Transfer Program for Vulnerable Families⁴

- The Takaful and Karama program began in 2015, with 2.5 million families comprised of 9.3 million individuals, 86% of whom benefited from the Takaful program, and 14% benefited from the Karama program worth EGP 6.7 billion for the year (2015/2014). The number of beneficiaries increased to 5.3 million families, including approximately 20 million individuals, between 60% beneficiaries of "Takaful" and 40% beneficiaries of "Karama" and the cash

⁴[Ministry of Social Solidarity Program Details \(moss.gov.eg\)](https://moss.gov.eg)

support provided under this program was increased by 35% until in October 2023. After the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, The President of the Republic directed an increase in the number of families benefiting from the program.

3) National Initiative for the Development of Egyptian Rural Villages (Decent Life) ⁵

- An initiative launched by the President of the Republic in January 2019, to improve the quality of life of Egyptian citizens through a comprehensive approach aimed at developing the infrastructure of 3,185 villages in 21 governorates, of which 46% of the beneficiaries were women. The female-headed households, divorced women and the neediest women are among the targeted groups. The main themes of the women's initiative are based on training and employment through micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as social and human development interventions that include building and qualifying the capacities of women /individuals and awareness initiatives to reduce poverty and multidimensional unemployment rates.
- The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (MSEDA) participated in the "Decent Life" initiative. The work is headed by the Economic Development and Job Creation Committee, and the achievement of the agency within the framework of the initiative is as follows: (the volume of financing reached EGP 2.126 billion to finance 80,532 thousand small and growing projects in the targeted villages, providing about 141.7 thousand jobs), and divided into EGP 458.1 million to finance 5.6 thousand small projects in addition to EGP 1.7 billion to finance 75 thousand micro projects.

⁵[حياة كريمة \(presidency.eg\)](http://presidency.eg)

4) "National Project for Family Development"

- It was officially launched in February 2022 in the presence of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The main themes of the project included: digitization, raising cultural awareness, education, providing services (reproductive health services), economic empowerment with the application of legislation and financial incentives. The project has clear quantitative objectives to be achieved during the first three years, and a ministerial committee has been formed to coordinate government efforts and follow up on the desired goals. The committee includes the National Council for Women to ensure the successful implementation of the women's components within the project. Women's empowerment is an important component of the national development project. Women are the main drivers and beneficiaries of economic empowerment, culture, awareness, digitization and service delivery. The National Council for Women implements the following programs within the National Project for Family Development:

- National ID Cards
- Financial inclusion for women (financial awareness programs at a basic and advanced level) in addition to providing banking services paid free of charge to women to encourage them to use financial inclusion tools
- Digital Savings & Lending Groups
- Entrepreneurship and Green Enterprise
- Establishment of "sewing workshops" to provide trainings and help women production of products
- Awareness sessions for women by trained religious leaders
- Family counseling and parental programs,
- Empowering girls including Nourah and Dawi's programs under the patronage of the First Lady of Egypt.

5) Social Housing Support Program

- The estimates of the appropriations included to support the social housing program in the draft state budget (2022/2023) are about 5 billion and 20 million pounds, which represents what the state bears in supporting low-income beneficiaries of this program. The program aims to support 120,000 housing units. An amount of EGP 2 billion and EGP 75 mn was also added from the appropriations of Chapter Eight on loan repayment, representing the value of the amounts financed from the loan granted to the Social Housing Fund, bringing the total amount listed for social housing in the budget for cash support and utility support to about EGP 7 billion and EGP 780 million.

6) Equipping housing units

- 16,056 housing units have been equipped at a total cost of EGP 624 mn in alternative housing areas (Asmarat 3 / Ahalina / Rawdat Al-Sayeda / Al-Mahrousa -1 / Al-Mahrousa -2 / Ma'an area), and 17,400 housing units are being furnished until the end of 2022, in new developed areas that include (Ard Al-Khayala / October Gardens / 15 May Flowers / Rawdat El Obour / Disma Village / Drissa Railway Workers' Housing / Production Land Project, Factory 18), at an estimated cost of EGP 750 mn.

7) Health insurance support for the unable

- The state is supporting comprehensive health insurance for the incapable, including the unemployed, not legible or beneficiaries of the unemployment compensation period, as well as each dependent family member at a cost of EGP 864 million for the fiscal year (2022/2023). The state is also supporting health insurance for the unable to earn social security pensions at a cost of EGP 200 mn, in light of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030.

11. Actions taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls

- 86% of elderly women benefit from bread subsidies in 2024.
- 14% of women receive Karama support out of the total cash support in 2024, at an annual cost of EGP 7 billion.
- Allocating 51 social welfare institutions in 2024 for homeless adults, women and men.
- 174 shelters for the elderly in 2024 compared to 154 in 2020.
- In 2022, the value of pensions disbursed annually increased to EGP 295 billion, compared to a total of EGP 86.5 billion in 2014, with the number of women and men beneficiaries of pensions reaching 10.7 million, compared to EGP 8.7 million for the same period. 6 million women receive an insurance pension, 3 million women are insured, in addition to providing EGP 4.9 billion annually to support female heads of households for a total of 736,000 women.
- The total number of beneficiaries of social, health and economic services in the first phase of the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Countryside "Decent Life Initiative" reached 186,525 families, including approximately one million citizens, and the services provided to families included 8.4 thousand drinking water connections, 7,200 sewage connections, 11,519 roof installations, and 10,357 houses that were upgraded. At the beginning of 2023, the second phase of the project was launched at the level of 52 centers that include more than 1600 villages to serve twenty million citizens, at a cost ranging between EGP 300 and EGP 400 billion, out of a total of one trillion pounds allocated to implement the initiative in its three phases.
- The item allocated to subsidies, grants and social benefits increased by about EGP 529.7 billion (4.5% of the current gross national product) in the fiscal year 2023-2024, compared to about EGP 428.5 billion (4.7% of GDP) in the fiscal year 2022/2023, an increase of about EGP 101.2

billion or 23.6%, where the estimated amount for each item of support, grants and social benefits will be increased, the most important of which is the increase in petroleum subsidies to reach EGP 119.4 billion, an increase of 53.1%. announced the expected estimates in the budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023, and the increase in subsidies for food commodities to reach EGP 127.7 billion, in addition to increasing the allocation for health insurance and medicines to reach EGP 6 billion, an increase of 93.5% over the expected estimates for the fiscal year 2022/2023, and increasing social housing support to reach EGP 10.2 billion, an increase estimated at 92.7%, and increasing the allocation for social security pension and the Takaful and Karama program to reach EGP 31 billion, an increase of 28.6%.

- The current coverage rate of drinking water at the level of the country is about 98.7% (100% at the urban level - 97.4% at the rural level), and during the past two years, 75 drinking water projects with a capacity of 1747 thousand cubic meters per day with a length of networks of 1200 km have been implemented. Current sanitation services coverage in cities is 96% (79.2% in 2014) and in villages 38% (12% in 2014).
- The Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Authority has extended drinking water lines to deprived areas with a total length of about 26.32 km, and replaced and renewed drinking water lines with a total length of about 18.8 km, in addition to extending sewage slope lines with a total length of 3.15 km, replacing and renewing slope lines with a total length of about 8.9 km, and rehabilitating canals with a total length of about 9.8 km.

12. Actions taken in the past five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls

- The issuance of Law No. (12) of 2022, establishing and organizing the Egyptian Health Council, which aims to regulate health specialized training and rehabilitation in post-higher education, and enhancing the scientific and clinical skills of doctors, workers in various health specialties, as well as for graduates from medical and health colleges.
- In response to the request of the National Council for Women and within the framework of the annual celebrations of Egyptian women, the presidential initiative to support the health of Egyptian women was launched under the slogan "The Egyptian woman is Egypt's Health" targeting the early detection of tumors specially "breast cancer", in addition to the detection of non-communicable diseases (diabetes, pressure, obesity), heart disease and osteoporosis for 47.7 million women from all governorates, which led to a 60% decrease in the late detection of the disease in its late stages (stage IV).
- Within the "Decent Life" initiative, the Ministry of Health launched about a thousand free medical convoys in all governorates of the Republic, especially in remote areas deprived of health services and the most needy villages, and the convoys included conducting blood tests, tests for parasites and x-rays, holding health education seminars to raise health awareness among citizens, and transferring thousands of cases to hospitals to issue treatment decisions from specialized medical councils, and performing the necessary surgeries at the covered by the state. To receive medical services, the Medium and Small Enterprise Development Authority in the field of health: renovated and maintained (8) units, including 2 health units and 6 veterinary units, and the number of families benefiting from health services reached 38.895 families, 6.3 million home visits were carried out, the number of cases that were

medically cared for was 245.774 cases, and 536 medical convoys were implemented, benefiting about 69 thousand cases.

- The new universal health insurance system was officially launched in Port Said Governorate in November 2019, and it is a qualitative leap for the health system in Egypt, and aims to provide universal health coverage and integrated health care to 100 million Egyptians under a unified insurance umbrella. In February 2021, the comprehensive health insurance system was launched in the rest of the six governorates covered by the first phase, namely: Ismailia, Suez, Luxor, Aswan, and South Sinai, where the total number of citizens who have been registered in these governorates reached five million and 150 thousand citizens, and a comprehensive medical examination was conducted for more than 3 million citizens in these governorates, and 15 million medical and treatment services were provided through 156 medical facilities, 7.8 million family medicine services, and 223 thousand operations were performed, and 2.2 million women have benefited from the comprehensive health insurance system since its launch, by 49.4% of the total beneficiaries.
- The Ministry of Health provides safe, effective and affordable services to women of childbearing age (ages 18 to 49), including providing contraceptive methods and counseling, evaluating and treating cases of sexually transmitted diseases, treating side effects that may result from the use of these methods, raising community awareness about reproductive health issues, and providing a variety of contraceptives to women at state-subsidized prices or free of charge. The Ministry has also expanded the availability of the service and provided a visiting doctor to units and places that has no resident doctors at a rate of 14,000 visits annually and funded by the Health Care Development Project in Egypt, as well as increasing the missions of mobile clinics to 30,000 missions per year directed to remote areas far from service, and the number of clinics that provide them with means of organization has been increased.
- Universal health insurance support allocations for the unable increased from EGP 865 mn in 2020/2021 to EGP 200 mn in 2023/2024, allocations for the Presidential Initiative for Women's Health from EGP 135 mn in 2020/2021 to EGP 202 mn in 2022/2023, allocations for the presidential initiative for model hospitals from EGP 503 mn in 2020/2021 to EGP 603 mn in 2022/2023, and allocations for the presidential initiative for self-sufficiency in plasma derivatives from EGP 135 mn in 2020/2021 to EGP 201 mn in 2022/2023. The allocations of the presidential initiative for the early detection of the hearing impaired of newborns increased from EGP 67 million in 2020/2021 to EGP 134 million in 2022/2023, and the allocations of the presidential initiative for the detection and treatment of kidney failure from EGP 67 million in 2020/2021 to EGP 134 million in 2022/2023.
- The Ministry of Health and Population continued its efforts to enhance the coverage of health services nationwide, including working through the 14 presidential initiatives to improve public health, which amounted to 132 million medical services to 93 million beneficiaries at a cost of EGP 32 billion and 200 million. Health indicators and the impact on the implementation of presidential initiatives to improve public health indicated a 25% decrease in the prevalence of anemia between 2019/2022, as well as an increase in the detection rate of Breast cancer in women in the early stages of the disease by 70%.
- In the field of reproductive health, the National Population Council is working on a program that incorporates fixed academic subjects throughout the school and university years of study

related to reproductive health, family planning principles to create a stable academic path that educates students and new generations about the importance of this issue.

- The National Council for Women supported Baheya Foundation's journey to open Baheya Breast Cancer Hospital in its new branch in Sheikh Zayed City.

13. Actions taken in the past five years to improve the outcomes and skills of education for women and girls, including in underrepresented sectors

- The strategic plan for the development of education and technical education (2024-2029) aims to draw a roadmap in a way that maximizes the use of all the components and resources of the state represented by the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, and it is a future plan to face the ongoing challenges through a clear vision for reform and the development of basic axes and specific priorities, as the plan shows the national education reform agenda "Egyptian Education Reform Project", in addition to keeping pace with global developments and integrating international conventions and linking and integrating with Sustainable development with its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and access for all to high-quality education and training, and the provision of the necessary skills for a sustainable future.
- The strategy is based on determining the number of "axes" with a number of "priorities" as necessary requirements for implementation mechanisms in line with the state's updated strategic plan for sustainable development: Egypt's Vision 2030, the government's action program (Egypt moving forward), the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the African Agenda (Africa Agenda 2063), and the national context among the rights guaranteed by the Egyptian Constitution to all citizens in education. It also adopts the principle of planning in partnership with all entities of the ministry, teachers, students and development partners, and to be consistent and integrated with global, regional and national strategies, and that the student is the focus of the educational process through high-quality education in accordance with international standards, and to achieve justice by providing education in remote and marginalized areas that respond to societal roles, and achieving sustainability and transformation towards green and smart education, creativity and innovation.
- A number of community schools have been established in the neediest places, through the establishment of 200 community schools, where the number of schools reached 4943 community schools and accommodates 139,772 children, as well as the establishment of schools for applied technology in the fields of food industries, pharmaceutical industry, wood and furniture industry, building materials industry, mechanical and electrical industries.
- The most important initiatives of the Ministry of Education and presidential initiatives that work to develop education in the five-year strategic plan: the Egyptian education reform project (curricula - technological infrastructure - methods of evaluation and examinations - educational platforms), distinguished schools for middle-income (Japanese - international governmental - Nile - STEM), linking technical education to the labor market, as well as offering new specializations in applied technology schools according to the state's investment map and geographical distribution, in addition to the Takaful and Karama initiative, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the presidential initiative "Decent Life" to establish classrooms, where (2,676) semesters were established in 2021/20, (2605) semesters in 2022/21, and (1,137) semesters in 2023/22.

- The National Council for Women, ALEXBANK and Ghabbour Foundation for Development have partnered to launch the "Ghalia" initiative to empower girls to work in the car maintenance sector by enrolling in Ghabbour Schools for Applied Technology, which was established in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education to provide entrepreneurship opportunities for a number of outstanding students, and provide them with accredited training scholarships in Germany.
- Launching the "Egyptian Women: Future Leaders" project through a partnership between the Sawiris Foundation for Community Development, the French Embassy and UN Women. Through the project, 450 girls from Cairo's impoverished areas completed training on life skills, administrative development and employability skills. The project also provided opportunities for women to work in French and international companies operating in Egypt, or subsidiaries of international companies such as L'Oréal, Lafarge, Crédit Agricole, Accor, Saint-Gobain and others.
- A partnership between the National Council for Women and the Young Leaders Foundation in implementing the "She Leads" program to qualify technical education students for leadership, which is the first program of its kind to support technical education students by training and qualifying them to implement projects related to their field of specialization after graduation. More than 4,800 girls benefited from the program in 8 schools in 5 governorates; after the training the trainees submitted graduation projects, and the winning projects were given financial support of approximately EGP 3.5 million to develop those projects.
- The National Council for Women, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, Health, Social Solidarity, and the Young Leaders Foundation also partnered to launch the first student platform Leaders League 6 that brings together student activities from all universities nationwide, in order to achieve the sustainable development goals and Egypt's 2030 strategy, benefiting nearly 363,000 students. From all governorates, financial support of more than one billion Egyptian pounds was provided for these activities.
- "Qudwa Tech" initiative, to enable Egyptian women to use modern technological means in developing their project and reaching target markets, as well as contributing to the social and economic empowerment of girls and women in the governorates of Egypt, especially remote and marginalized areas, using information and communication technology, with attention to representing women from the informal economy sector and in the craft and agricultural industries sector, motivating them towards entrepreneurship and enhancing their capabilities in the field of information and communication technology and digital financial technology, and provided "Qudwa.Tech" initiative provides digital support to more than 11,000 women and entrepreneurs, by graduating 55 training groups from all governorates in the fields of crafts and services by building their skills in digital marketing using social networking sites, in addition to holding more than 70 advisory sessions and awareness seminars on topics supporting e-commerce, artificial intelligence applications, and the production of visual digital content Digital awareness of sustainable development issues has also been raised for women artisans

⁶ <https://ylf-eg.org/leaders-league/>

and knowledge pioneers who have transferred their experiences to more than 3,000 women in their local communities in different governorates.

14. Measures taken to ensure that economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is geared towards closing the gender gaps in poverty, employment, social protection, education or health that the pandemic has exacerbated

- The government, in coordination with NGOs, provided compensation to those affected by crises and disasters, represented in providing cash, food and treatment support to families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, benefiting 21 million individuals worth EGP 5 billion and 400 million. It also provided grants to irregular workers worth EGP 500 per month against the backdrop of the crisis, in addition to the Emergency Benefits Fund for workers, paying workers' wages that were suspended as a result of the pandemic. The government established a fund "income compensation subsidy" to support irregular workers against various risks that may disburse them during the period of income interruption as a result of emergency economic conditions or epidemics, and to address the lack of coverage of unemployment insurance for irregular workers and small employers. The Egyptian Red Crescent provided many services in regional and international calamities at a cost of EGP 290 mn, and funded aid to a total of EGP 942 mn to 228,715 families affected by individual and public crises and disasters.
- The National Council for Women (was the first government in the world) proposed programs and policy papers on Egypt's plan to respond quickly to the special needs of women, followed by five reports to monitor policies and programs responsive to women's needs⁷. benefiting more than 3 million and 400 thousand individuals. It is noteworthy that the Women's Complaints Office received inquiries and requests for basic and social needs as a result of the repercussions of the virus, amounting to {34,000}, all of which were dealt with and subsidies were provided in coordination with the concerned authorities.
- The NCW also cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in leading an international action at the United Nations to mitigate the social impact of the spread of the pandemic on the most affected groups, especially women and girls; The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Human Rights adopted the unprecedented Egyptian draft resolution on protecting the rights of women and girls from the repercussions of the emerging COVID-19 virus in November 2020, and 19 Arab countries and 60 countries around the world joined the list of sponsors of the resolution.
- The Council launched two awareness campaigns on ways of prevention during the pandemic, the first: an interactive campaign on the ground that benefited {3,397,639} individuals at the level of 1068 villages / 99 centers in all governorates; and the second: online awareness campaigns on the Council's social media pages joined by a group of community members, public figures and specialized doctors to provide psychological and health support, which included many messages and instructions to reduce stress, communicate with others, and how to enhance psychological immunity in light of the pandemic {achieved over 6,600,000 views}. In conjunction with the launch of the virus vaccine, an interactive campaign was implemented on the ground in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population to raise awareness of

⁷ [Corona Files \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

the importance of vaccination, benefiting 1,572,667 individuals. It also launched on social media sites and various radio stations (led by the Holy Quran Radio) an extensive media campaign entitled "Vaccination is to protect you and your family", which included 7 radio announcements, and a set of videos that achieved 445,000 views.

- The Prime Minister issued Resolution No. 2659 of 2020 to restructure the National Council for Wages to define its areas of competence and include in its membership the National Council for Women, as part of a plan to include policies that take into account the perspective of gender equality and promote gender equality and women's needs, especially in light of the economic repercussions of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Third dimension: freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

15. In the past five years any forms of violence against women and girls and in any specific contexts or topics that your country has prioritized for action

Capacity Enhancement Programs for Dealing with Violence Cases

Within the framework of cooperation between the National Council for Women and the human rights, women and children sector at the Ministry and judicial bodies, several trainings were carried out as follows:

In 2020

- Holding the first interactive training on the skills of communication, leadership and prosecution arts before disciplinary courts
- A virtual workshop on the role of the Administrative Prosecution in combating crimes of violence against women in the workplace was held for members of the prosecution, which targeted (113) members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority

In 2021

- Interactive training for female prosecutors at the Administrative Prosecution Authority on communication and leadership skills and combating violence against women, targeting 26 female prosecutors
- The second virtual workshop was held for members of the Administrative Prosecution on the role of the Administrative Prosecution in combating crimes of violence against women in the workplace and targeted 75 members
- Holding the second interactive training for members of the Administrative Prosecution on the skills of communication, leadership and prosecution arts before disciplinary courts, targeting 17 members
- Holding the first and second interactive training for members of the State Lawsuits Authority on communication skills, leadership and combating violence against women, which targeted 53 members
- Holding an interactive training for members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority to support the skills of members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in the field of investigations into cases of violence against women, which targeted 35 members

- Holding the first and second interactive training for female judges on combating violence against women, communication skills and leadership.

In 2022

- The first workshop was held for judges with the wisdom of appeal and the Court of First Instance in Alexandria on cases of violence against women and female genital mutilation (judge)
- The basic training course for the new judges for the judicial year 2022/2023 was held (the introductory day on the role of the judiciary in combating against women, a program for new judges (2022/2023) and targeted 367 judges
- The third interactive training for members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority on the role of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in combating crimes of violence against women in the workplace targeted 40 members.
- The third interactive training for members of the State Lawsuits Authority on the role of the state in protecting women and combating violence against them in light of the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030, targeting 40 members
- The first interactive training for female judges of the State Council on combating violence against women and the skills and arts of communication and leadership, targeting 45 judges
- The first training program for the employees of the Ministry of Justice on the national efforts to combat the crime of female genital mutilation, which targeted (150 employees)

Within the framework of cooperation between the Council and the National Training Academy on raising the skills and awareness of Egyptian women abroad on women's issues and the gains made by the Egyptian state to empower women in light of the implementation of the Egyptian Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030, the Council prepared a program that includes the following: The Council's efforts / national legislation in cases of violence against women / the international dimension of crimes of violence against women (targeting 54 women).

In 2023

- Program for female employees and employees of the Ministry of Justice (2 workshops: 150 employees)
- Basic training course for the judicial year 2023-2024 (induction day on the role of the judiciary in combating against women)

1) Combating cyber violence against women and girls

In recent years, the threats and risks faced by girls and women in cyberspaces have become dangerous and represent one of the types of violence that we need to unite in order to eliminate it, and in this regard, the National Council for Women, represented by the Women's Complaints Office and its branches in the governorates, implements human rights awareness activities for women on the importance of protection and prevention of violence and cyber extortion, how to address it, and related legislation. The Forum of the National Council for Women also discussed NGOs role in raising awareness to avoid falling into these issues, and to discuss reporting mechanisms and preserving

evidence through a seminar held for civil society organizations entitled "Cyber Extortion and Combating Violence against Women".

The Council's efforts were as follows:

- Holding meetings with representatives of the Facebook administration to develop policies to protect women from cyber violence and ways to use social media platforms, especially the Meta platform (Facebook), under the title of the "Women's Safety Resources" campaign in 2020 with the aim of spreading awareness about ways to protect women from cyber violence through the protection tools provided by the Facebook platform to prevent cybercrime [39,000 followers].
- Collaborate with UNICEF to hold focus groups with girls on the impact of social media on them and prepare a draft policy paper that includes recommendations for a response model based on international best practices and the We Protect model.
- Participate in the We Protect Summit for Child Online Protection in order to identify the best international practices for online protection and develop a guide for online protection.
- Hold meetings with Google to discuss ways for women and girls to safely use Google and YouTube.
- A partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to implement training courses entitled "Digital Citizenship and Cyber Extortion" for 116 members of branches and community leaders in Assiut, Cairo and Minya governorates, the training included specialized topics in the field of digital literacy, digital rights and identity, and cybersecurity, and this training is a prelude to conveying its messages and objectives to women and girls in local communities.

2) Combating violence against women with disabilities

- A study on violence against women with disabilities was conducted in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), and this research is the first of its kind in the Arab region.
- Launching the "Be Productive" initiative to train and qualify girls with different disabilities on some handicrafts and organize an exhibition of products.
- Issuing a code of conduct for dealing with women with disabilities in various aspects of life, and the code aims to address three levels, the first for workers in the administrative apparatus of the state, whether in their dealings with service recipients or a female co-worker, the second level for women with disabilities with the employee providing the service, and the third level for community dealing with women with disabilities.
- Launching the "Your Protection in Your Law" initiative, during which the Council led a series of meetings with representatives of equal opportunities units in the ministries and experts from civil society organizations concerned with women's issues with disabilities, in addition to a group of women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities, to come up with simplified and clear awareness messages about the various forms of violence to which women with disabilities are exposed, and as a result, (18) messages were drafted, and included in

brochures that included the articles of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all other laws and related penalties.

- Launching the "Let's Protect Her" initiative within the framework of the 16 Days to Combat Violence against Women campaign to encourage school students to express themselves through drawing on how to combat violence against women with disabilities, through which a mural was carried out on which paintings were hung for 400 students from preparatory and secondary schools from (10) governorates: [Cairo - Giza - Alexandria – Aswan – Menoufia – Red Sea – Ismailia – Sohag – Minya – Dakahlia]. The Council issued a booklet to document the drawings and distribute it to all schools to educate students.

3) Eradication of FGM

National Committee for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation:

The first national committee for the elimination of female genital mutilation FGM was formed in 2019, before the completion of the national strategy to combat female genital mutilation, with the membership of all related state partners from the executive, legislative and judicial authorities, in addition to civil society and religious institutions, in order to institutionalize work in a sustainable manner to address this crime and prepare for the completion of the strategy. The committee's work axes were prepared, which were built on the strategic coherence and integration of this file. With the National Strategy for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030, and the National Strategy for Human Rights

- Law No. 10 of 2021 was issued amending some provisions of the Penal Code promulgated by Law No. 58 of 1937 (stiffening the penalty for female genital mutilation), and the amendments included amending the text of each of the two articles (242 bis, 242 bis "a"), which is the amendment and stiffening of the penalty for female genital mutilation and the punishment of those who perform female genital mutilation as mentioned in the law, which covers the international definition of female genital mutilation, as any reference to the use of medical justification was deleted, and more severe penalties if the act leads to permanent disability or the death of the victim, independent penalties for doctors and nurses, closure of the facility where genital mutilation was performed, punishment of anyone who requests female genital mutilation and the act was committed based on his/her request, and punishment for anyone who promotes, encourages or calls for the commission of the crime of female genital mutilation, thus expanding the scope of criminalization to include new forms to criminalize all forms of incitement or encouragement to commit the crime, even if the act has no effect.
- Launching the National Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (2022-2026), which includes specific priorities that enable actors to achieve the desired progress, the most important of which are (eliminating FGM, changing the attitude of Egyptians towards FGM, providing care services and supporting survivors, providing data for follow-up and evaluation, and developing the institutional framework of the National Committee for the Elimination of FGM).
- Issue a joint statement of "zero tolerance" to treat female genital mutilation (FGM).

- In 2021, the results of the "Egyptian Family Health Survey (EFHS)" were launched⁸, which revealed:
 - The rate of female genital mutilation among previously married women decreased to about 86% compared to 92% in 2014.
 - The percentage of mothers planning to perform FGM on their daughters in the future has dropped to just 13%, compared to 35% in 2014.
 - The percentage of females (20-29 years) who married before the age of 18 years decreased from 18% in 2014 to 16.9% in 2021.
 - The rate of genital mutilation among girls aged (19 years) decreased to 14% in 2021 compared to 21% in 2014. During the period from January 2020 until mid-August 2022, the Public Prosecution investigated (72) cases of female genital mutilation, in which (18) convictions were issued, and some cases are still under investigation.
- Launching an initiative under the title "Ambassadors Against Female Genital mutilation" and forming a facilitation committee for the initiative that includes a group of religious leaders from Al-Azhar, the Egyptian Churches in its three denominations, social and health specialists concerned with the issue of FGM, and aims to: (1) Collecting evidence, legal references, and the efforts of jurists, and monitoring positive trends in legal fatwas and religious responses to common questions about FGM.. (2) Drafting scientific articles on the dangers of FGM on physical and mental health. (3) Drafting a legal article that reviews the areas and reasons for the criminalizing of FGM, these articles will be a reference to produce a comprehensive training manual on the collected sharia, legal and medical materials.
- In order to strengthen the institutional framework and enlightened religious discourse to eradicate FGM, the committee coordinated workshops that benefited more than 2,000 religious leaders at the governorate level from endowments and the church to learn about the extent of the knowledge development of religious leaders in addressing the issue of FGM after two years of working with the Council.
- The Committee continued its activities by holding events to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (February 6), as well as the National Day for the Elimination of FGM "Badour month" to combat FGM, and launched new phases of the Protect Her from FGM campaign, in addition to social media activities, bringing the number of awareness outreach of the campaign from 2019 to 2023 to more than 108.6 million women and men. For All campaigns are preceded by training workshops to enhance the capabilities of community leaders and religious leaders on the campaign's messages, effective communication skills with the targets, door-knocking mechanisms, receiving complaints on the hotline of the National Council for Women and the Child Helpline.

⁸ [Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics \(capmas.gov.eg\)](http://capmas.gov.eg)

16. Actions made as a top priority in the last five years to address violence against women and girls

- The Ministry of Health issued a "Medical Guide for Dealing with Victims of Gender-Based Violence", which was circulated to all hospitals of the country, and doctors and practitioners were trained to use it, and law enforcement agencies, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, the General Secretariat of Mental Health, the National Council for Women, and the National Council for Childhood, provide psychological care services and subsequent community support for women who have been subjected to violence.
- Al-Azhar University issued the "Guide to Islam's Position on Violence against Women" as a reference for training courses for preachers -women and men. The guide deals with various practices of violence against women and the position of Islamic law towards them, and means of confronting and preventing their occurrence, and addressing VAWG from a humanitarian perspective. The Coptic Orthodox Church also launched documents against violence against women, female genital mutilation and encouraging family planning.
- The state has allocated a building for the "Combined Unit for the Protection of Women from Violence" in implementation of Prime Minister's Decree No. 827/2021 to establish an integrated center for services provided to women, including a one-stop shop for the protection of women victims of violence (there are sectors of law enforcement, forensic medicine, social services, and reception for psychological and legal support). The unit aims to receive complaints and reports related to cases of violence against women, through representatives of the ministries and concerned authorities in the unit, to take the necessary measures, in accordance with the established legal rules, and to communicate and coordinate with the ministries and concerned authorities in this regard in addition to providing a temporary appropriate residence for victims during the investigation procedures.
- The first national referral form for reporting cases of violence against women was developed, guided by the international model and in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The package of services provided by the ministries of justice, public prosecution, interior, health, social solidarity and other relevant ministries was targeted. Judges, prosecutors, police officers and medical staff were trained. Representatives of anti-violence units, 5,365 trainees over the past years, and several manuals have been issued, such as "a guide for forensic doctors", "an effective police response to crimes of violence against women", a medical guide for health service providers, a prosecutors' guide "an effective judicial response to crimes of violence against women", a case management and psychological support manual, a guide to standards and controls for judges, a guide to establishing and activating units to combat violence against women in universities, and a guide for safe women's units in university hospitals.
- NCW's mandate includes "receiving and studying complaints about violations of women's rights and freedoms, referring them to the competent authorities, working to resolve them with the concerned authorities, and providing the necessary legal assistance free of charge, and the NCW Complaints Office receives complaints through personal interviews, the hotline 15115

and other means of communication, as it provides legal assistance and advice to battered women, through its network of legal supporters, 80 lawyers and case managers, 620 volunteer lawyers in all governorates of Egypt. During the period from 2018-2023, NCW's complaint office provided services to approximately 182,827 women and 255,630 complaints, about 80% of which were resolved, either by providing advice to the complainant, taking referral procedures to the competent authorities, or filing lawsuits and obtaining judicial rulings in favor of the complainant woman. The State also has reporting lines in the Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Transport, as well as the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and the General Secretariat for Mental Health.

- The Women's Complaints Office issued (6) procedural guides⁹ to deal with various cases of violence against women: personal status and guardianship issues / human trafficking crimes / civil status and identification papers / rules and procedures for the implementation of judgments / inheritance and inheritance / labor complaints / training manual for case management and psychosocial support for women survivors of violence.
- Within universities 42 units have been established to combat harassment and violence, a unit to combat violence against women at the Ministry of Justice, departments in the directorates of the Ministry of Interior, 12 "safe women" units in university hospitals to deal with women victims of violence, 18 medical response units within the basic care units of the Ministry of Health and Population, 3 forensic clinics for the medical examination of women victims of violent crimes and sexual assault, and digital offices for the family offices of the Public Prosecution. There are also 12 hosting centers for women victims of violence in different governorates, and the first hosting center for victims of human trafficking was opened in November 2020 with the aim of dealing with victims of human trafficking who suffer as a result of what they have been exposed to, and in need of different and special care.

17. Strategies implemented in the last five years to address violence against women and girls

- The National Council for Women (NCW) has launched awareness campaigns on all forms of violence against women, cyber violence, reporting and protection, and Egyptian laws, through social media, door-knocking campaigns, school awareness campaigns, in addition to the use of art and drama. Awareness campaigns have been successful in reaching millions of women on the ground. 8.4 million visits were held until December 2023, family camps for upbringing and positive parenting, as well as cooperation with Al-Azhar, the Church and the Ministry of Awqaf to raise societal issues to respect partnership within the family, honor women, and renounce domestic violence in Friday sermons and church sermons on Sundays.
- Egypt has prepared many studies such as the study of the economic cost of violence against women in 2015¹⁰, as Egypt was the first country in the Arab region to conduct, in addition to the Health Demographic Survey 2021, the first study on "violence against women with disabilities"¹¹ in 2022, and questionnaires during the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, which emphasized the importance of eliminating violence against women.

⁹ [Complaints Office Research and Studies \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

¹⁰ [Egypt 2015 GBV Economic Cost Survey \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

¹¹ [The National Council for Women launches the results of the research on violence against women with disabilities \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

- The National Council for Women also launched several awareness-raising events on issues of violence against women, including the "awareness camp for units to combat violence against women in Egyptian universities", with the aim of raising awareness of concepts related to violence against women and behavior change, communication and negotiation skills, reproductive health and its stages.
- Since 2016, the Council has been intensifying its various awareness activities annually under the slogan "Kony" within the framework of the international campaign "16 Days of Activities to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls", which kicks off annually from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until December 10, which is the International Human Rights Day. During which the Council implements many awareness activities such as door-knocking campaigns, media awareness campaigns on audio-visual media and social media sites, and awareness kiosks in Egyptian universities, competitions and exhibitions of arts, interactive theatrical performances, consultative meetings with the concerned authorities to discuss ways to eliminate violence against women and girls, lighting some important and archaeological buildings in orange (the color adopted internationally to represent combating VAW). During these campaigns, awareness of women's rights is carried out in accordance with legislation, laws and international conventions, and the various types and forms of violence such as domestic violence, cyber extortion, bullying and other forms of violence based on societal roles for men and women are introduced. {During the period from 2016-2023, the campaign achieved nearly one million and 134 thousand beneficiaries through interactive activities on the ground}.
- The National Council for Women has completed its efforts in addressing the inherited negative cultural legacies, through the preparation of a guide to "Integrating Gender in Cultural Policies", and the Council's Media Observatory monitors the image of women in audio-visual media production in all works and follows up on what is published on social media sites, in addition to producing 6 series and providing technical support to a number of others and participation in the establishment of 7 editions of the Aswan International Festival for Women's Cinema, which is a cinematic dialogue between creators in various continents of the world with the aim of highlighting the role of women in society and highlighting the most important issues and challenges they face and in which films from different countries of the world participate;
- The Council launched the report "Social Norms and Women's Participation in the Labor Force in Egypt",¹² which was issued within the framework of the activities of the Egyptian Women's Observatory in cooperation with the Council, the World Bank and Baseera Center for Public Opinion Polls Research, out of emphasis on the Egyptian state's interest in studying social norms to confront negative values that are not conducive to women's empowerment.
- Launching the second phase of the "Safe Cities" program to combat violence against women in public places in 2019.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity launched a number of campaigns to combat violence against women, including the "Anti-Child Marriage" campaign raise awareness on social and economic harms of child marriage and dropping out of education at the governorate level, where 2 million participants benefited from the campaign, and the "Awareness campaign

¹²[Egyptian Womens Observatory \(enow.gov.eg\)](http://enow.gov.eg)

against harmful practices" (female genital mutilation - child marriage - depriving girls of education) through social community leaders, and the campaign targeted one million and 600 thousand families from the most vulnerable families.

- A number of (11) training courses were organized for employees of the Ministry of Interior in the field of combating violence against women, with a total number of (170) trainees, including (2) training courses for male and female students of the Police Academy. In addition, a study tour was organized to Spain with the aim of identifying the experiences carried out in areas related to violence against women for a number of (10) male and female officers in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- A "Code of conduct in the Transportation Sector" was adopted to promote the safe mobility of women and an ethical charter to promote a safe work environment for women, Training programs for service providers and competent authorities were institutionalized, that reached 5,365 women and men trainees during the past years from different relevant sectors such as, judges, prosecutors, police officers, medical staff and representatives of anti-violence units. Several guides were issued such as (Forensic Doctors Guide, "Effective Police Response to Crimes of Violence against Women", Medical Guide for Health Service Providers, and Prosecutors' Manual "Judicial Response" effective crimes of violence against women", a guide to case management and psychological support, a manual of standards and controls for judges, a guide to the establishment and activation of units to combat violence against women in universities, and a guide for safe women's units in university hospitals).
- The National Council for Women implements interventions to raise awareness of the population issue in the villages of Decent Life covered by the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family to raise community awareness, through which it was able to reach more than 6.4 million citizens through various interactive activities such as roundabout sessions, cultural evenings, family counseling programs and balanced upbringing, where they were made aware of the dimensions of the population issue and its social and economic impact on the family and society, and awareness of negative phenomena and practices in the family such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, inequality and violence against women. These activities are carried out in cooperation with religious leaders and figures from the Ministry of Awqaf, Al-Azhar and the Egyptian Church to correct misconceptions about the use of violence against women in the family from a religious perspective.

18. Actions taken in the past five years to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (e.g. online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)

- Among the awareness campaigns implemented by the Council are awareness campaigns on combating cyber and cyber violence against women and girls, such as: "Speak Up" campaign, "Hold Me Your Words Campaign" in partnership with the Instagram platform, "Empowering Women to Feel Safe on the Internet" in partnership with the Facebook platform, in addition to videos with celebrities in Egypt who support women to ensure their safety online. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) partnered to implement training courses entitled "Digital Citizenship and Cyber Extortion", in addition to cooperating

with Facebook and YouTube to develop policies to protect women from cyber violence and ways to use safely.

- Since 2016, the Council has been implementing various awareness activities annually under the slogan "Kony" within the framework of the international campaign "16 Days of Activities to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls", which kicks off annually from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, which is the International Human Rights Day. During which the Council implements many awareness activities such as door-knocking campaigns, media awareness campaigns on audio-visual media and social networking sites, and awareness kiosks. In Egyptian universities, competitions and exhibitions of fine art, interactive theatrical performances, consultative meetings with the concerned authorities to discuss ways to eliminate violence against women and girls, lighting the council building in orange ... During these campaigns, awareness of women's rights is carried out in accordance with legislation, laws and international conventions, and the various types and forms of violence such as domestic violence, cyber extortion, bullying and other forms of violence based on societal roles for men and women are introduced. {During the period from 2016 to 2023, the campaign achieved nearly one million 134 thousand beneficiaries through interactive activities on the ground}.
- Within the framework of the Council's continuous efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the Council launched a media campaign to combat blackmail and cyber harassment on social networking sites, in cooperation with the Ambassador Aziza program on DMC channel under the hashtag #You_Not_Alone_Fearful through the official pages of the Council and the channel on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The campaign aims to educate the community about the importance of dialogue with children, especially girls, and to contain them, encourage them and give them confidence and strength to express themselves and the problems they face without fear or hesitation to protect them from the crime of cyber extortion punishable by law, and educate parents to support their daughters and help them obtain their legal rights.

19. Measures taken in the past five years to provide resources to women's organizations working to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- The National Council for Women includes under its umbrella the NGO Forum "Dr. Nabil Samuel Forum", which aims to establish a partnership between the National Council for Women and civil organizations in order to build common visions, propose work policies and conduct effective interaction in favor of empowering women in public life and improving their conditions in all fields, and includes in its membership 78 associations and civil institutions. The Forum carried out several activities as follows:
- The Forum held many meetings with the participation of its members to discuss and exchange experiences and joint work to identify issues related to women's empowerment and prepare programs on them, and the most important topics that were discussed were:
 - Plan the issue of education and the role of civil society.
 - Presenting the experience of Takatof for Development to develop the work environment within the kindergarten classes of the Ministry of Education, including replacement of the

school structure, training for facilitators, awareness-raising meetings for parents and activities for children.

- Protection policies related to the crime of child marriage and the problem of crime in accordance with the legal context and legal proposals to criminalize child marriage and share expertise and experiences from the field to combat crime.
 - The issue of alternative care and population growth and its relationship to reproductive health.
 - The image of women in the media and the role of civil society.
 - Mechanisms to address climate change in international bodies and civil organizations, and review the Council's experience in this issue in cooperation with civil society organizations.
- Implementation of a seminar on "ILO Convention No. 190 on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment", with the aim of encouraging Egypt to sign the Convention aimed at reducing harassment in the world of work.
 - Holding a dialogue session in cooperation with the Arab Council for Childhood on "Knowledge Building in Support of Women and Children's Issues. Challenges and Problems" to develop a set of mechanisms towards supporting the role of women and civil society in building awareness and changing cultures.
 - Holding a two-day virtual training on the role of NGO members during the Coronavirus pandemic.

20. Measures taken in the last five years to address portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in social media

- The Council, in cooperation with the Supreme Media Council, issued the first media code of conduct to address women's issues in the media. Coinciding with the Covid-19 pandemic and the growing use of social media, efforts have been intensified to raise awareness of cybercrime through: (1) Preparing an ethical code aimed at how to spread the culture of using social media among women. (2) Cooperating with social media platforms in preparing a guide "Optimal and safe use of social media platforms for women – social responsibility" in order to raise awareness of protection policies on platforms. (3) Preparing policy papers and research papers on cybercrime and its repercussions on Egyptian women, "How to manage social media in times of crisis", and "TV series and improving the general taste of the Egyptian family".
- The Media Observatory works through the Council's Standing Committee for Media to monitor the image of women in media production in accordance with the standards of the media code, and forms an annual committee to monitor the image of women in Ramadan works and media scene in everything related to women and women with disabilities. In this regard, it is noteworthy that during 2023, the rate of negative images of women in dramas and media works decreased.
- The National Council for Women started the partnership in the production and technical review of a number of drama series (visual and audio) that discuss many important topics and issues concerned with women, as they play an important role in building awareness, shaping public

opinion, socializing, and changing the stereotypical image of women (producing series and providing technical support for a series).

- While the Aswan International Women's Film Festival was launched, which is a cinematic dialogue between creators in various continents of the world with the aim of highlighting the role of women in society and highlighting the most important issues and challenges they face, in which films from different countries of the world participate, and the recent period has witnessed positive progress from writers and program makers represented in a distinguished media production of media works from series and programs that reflect real issues and roles that affect women and create a supportive public opinion for them (the festival held 7 sessions).
- The National Council for Women (NCW) has completed its efforts to address inherited negative cultural legacies by preparing a guide to "Integrating Gender in Cultural Policies".

21. Measures taken in the last five years specifically designed to address violence against marginalized groups of women and girls

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity launched the "Rural Women's Development" project to provide support to rural women in medium, small and micro enterprises, in partnership with several NGOs, and benefited 2,069 women.
- The National Council for Women (NCW) launched a project entitled "Addressing the Economic Drivers of Illegal Immigration", which provides an alternative to illegal immigration by developing projects and job opportunities for women and youth in the governorates to export illegal immigration. The project aims to economically empower 2,000 women who are heads of their families and are looking for income-generating opportunities to protect them and their families from economic conditions that may encourage them to migrate illegally. Through its inclusion in a package of integrated training programs in the field of entrepreneurship and financial awareness, and craft training in the field of handicrafts and agricultural processing, in addition to working on establishing business incubators, providing business development services to women entrepreneurs, as well as awareness activities on the dangers of illegal immigration, the project targets the economic empowerment of 2000 women in 4 of the governorates known to be a source of illegal immigration [Beheira / Gharbia / Luxor / Minya], directed to women and their families from During family camps entitled "On Land" and storytelling circles targeting children.
- The number of unsafe areas developed from 2014 to 2022 reached about 296 areas out of a total of 357 areas, and the program includes replanting, providing infrastructure and facilities, and improving the quality of life and public health, and the government has implemented an alternative housing program at a cost of EGP 63 billion during the period from 2015 to 2022.
- The state has implemented a project to develop slums, and has allocated more than EGP 425 billion to develop these areas, and the project aims to develop all aspects of life for citizens, and provide various social, cultural, economic, health, and other services. 135 regions have been selected nationwide, with a total area of 152,000 acres inhabited by about seven million people, where 56 areas have been completed, and the rest are being developed successively, and the state is keen to consult with the residents of the areas being developed. The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority has contributed to improving living and decent

housing in slum areas and rural villages by paving roads with a total length of 10.4 km, developing and establishing 2 urban markets, developing 1 pedestrian bridge, and rehabilitating streets with interlock tiles with a total flat area of about 112.000 m².

Fourth dimension: Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

22. Actions and measures taken in the past five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making

Gender equality laws and strategies

The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 includes a number of axes, the first of which addresses political empowerment and decision-making positions, enhancing women's leadership roles, stimulating their political participation, preventing discrimination against women in assuming leadership positions in executive and judicial institutions, and creating an environment for the success of women in positions. The second axis deals with economic empowerment with the aim of developing women's capabilities to expand their work options, increase their participation in the labor force, achieve equal opportunities in employing women in all sectors, and assume leadership positions in public bodies and private companies.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report, Egypt ranked tenth out of nineteen countries in the MENA region in 2023, and Egypt ranked thirteenth in 2010.

Egyptian women obtained a quota of 25% of the parliament in the recent constitutional amendments (2019), and it is noteworthy that the current representation of women is 28%, and it ranks second in the Middle East and North Africa region for the year 2021.

The quota for women in the Senate according to the law is 10%, and the percentage of women in the Senate is currently about 14%, after the President of the Republic doubled the number of women by appointing female deputies in the Council.

According to the 2014 constitution, the percentage of women in the upcoming local councils is 25% (the highest ever quota for women in local councils).

Launching the smart application of the Financial Regulatory Authority for the empowerment of women, which provides a database of qualified female competencies for membership in the boards of directors of non-banking financial companies.

1) Enhancing women's access to leadership positions:

Partnership between the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the National Council for Women in the implementation of rehabilitation programs for women leaders:

- The first program, entitled "Women's Executive Leadership for Women in the Egyptian Government", in cooperation with the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development and the University of Missouri, USA, benefited 740 women leaders at the governorate level.
- The second program, entitled "The National Program for Women in Leadership", aimed to enhance the capacities of 300 women from the upper and middle grades of the Egyptian government, and the training is a field for exchanging international experiences in enabling women to reach leadership and decision-making positions, as the training process was carried

out by the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization in Turin. 50 distinguished trainees participated in the annual fellowship program of the Academy for Women Empowerment, Inclusion and the Future of Work, which was implemented at the headquarters of the International Training Center in Turin, Italy.

- Preparing a training manual for career guidance to raise the skills of women at executive levels to assume senior positions, and 2 workshops were held targeting 27 women who had previously participated in women's leadership courses.

Partnership between the National Council for Women and the National Training Academy in:

- Holding the training program "Women Lead in the Governorates" and qualifying (405) women from all governorates through participation in the Women Driving in the Governorates program implemented by the Academy under the umbrella of the "Women's School for Leadership Qualification".
- Within the framework of cooperation between the Council and the National Training Academy on raising the skills and awareness of Egyptian women abroad on women's issues and the gains made by the Egyptian state to empower women in light of the implementation of the Egyptian Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030, the Council prepared a program that includes the following: The Council's efforts / national legislation in cases of violence against women / the international dimension of crimes of violence against women (targeting 54 women).

2) Educating women voters about the importance of their electoral vote

To enhance the role of women voters, the National Council for Women implemented many awareness events on the importance of women's participation in their voice in all entitlements and the referendum on constitutional amendments, the most prominent of which are the campaigns of Your Voice for Egypt Reel and the Knocking on Doors My Municipality 2023 campaign, which reached nearly 19 million beneficiaries in all governorates of Egypt.

3) Government Excellence Award for Equal Opportunities and Women's Empowerment

Cooperating with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in spreading and deepening the culture of excellence and institutional development in the various sectors of the state to build capacities and enhance opportunities for women's participation in government jobs, through the launch of the second session of the Government Excellence Award for Equal Opportunities and the establishment of a workshop for (194) government excellence ambassadors from 30 ministries: 26 governorates: 26 universities on strategic planning, gender equality and equal opportunities.

- 4) Presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt Work of the Regional Network to Support Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities and Women's Access to Leadership Positions in the Public Sector, for a period of one year, succeeding the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since May 2023 and for a period of one year
- 5) Launching the "Super She" initiative under the auspices of the National Council for Women and in cooperation with Banque Misr with the aim of qualifying young female competencies within the bank, retaining leadership talents, and enabling women to reach a new level of knowledge-based trust.

23. Actions has your state taken in the past five years to increase women's empowerment of expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through ICTs.

The National Council for Women is keen to establish an effective partnership with all media outlets, especially with media content producers, in order to promote the Council's purposes and support it in implementing and achieving its goals, foremost of which is promoting a culture of respect for women and confronting negative values that entrench discrimination against them through:

- Cyber safety campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications in 2020 to raise awareness about cyber risks, safe use methods and ways to report cyber violent crimes [307 thousand arrival].
- Hold Your Words 2020 campaign in collaboration with Instagram to highlight the problem of cyberbullying [5 million and 800 thousand arrive].
- The Aman Railways campaign in cooperation with the Egyptian Railways included the dissemination of awareness messages in some stations to raise awareness of various women's issues, especially the phenomenon of harassment 2020.
- The harassment campaign is a crime ... Speak Up to raise awareness about the importance of not being silent on harassment crimes in transportation and public places to provide a safe commuting environment for women and girls.
- The program "Journey of Hope with Breast Cancer" was broadcast live on the Council's page in 2020 with the participation of a group of specialized doctors, who interacted with them and received relevant comments and inquiries [17,000 followers and more than 1,500 interactions].
- Launching the positive education initiative on social media for the Council and partners in 2024, which included (3) interactive sessions, and (10) live episodes on dealing with daily pressures and the difference between traditional and modern education with the help of experts specialized in the field of education and family dealing.
- A campaign entitled "simple but will have an impact – Basita bs hatefre ala alkharita" on environmental sustainability and climate change in 2022 included messages about the role of women in preserving natural resources and rationalizing consumption with simple ideas that are suitable for application at all levels, through (4) videos with the voice of the artist Nelly Karim and the artist Ahmed Amin, which were published on various television channels and the official social networking sites of the Council.
- A series of episodes of the program "My Guarded Magicians and My Charming Egypt and its Neighborhoods" produced by the Council during the Ramadan 2021, 2022; it aimed to promote ethics and values as well as tolerance and mutual respect with a focus on different forms of violence against women such as violence in public places, domestic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other topics.
- Nihad's Stories Program The program included more than (50) episodes that included awareness messages on various issues, including violence against women, during which he received many related questions and inquiries. The number of viewers of the program (12.7 million per month), according to statistics of social media pages as well as television views

[70% women, 30% men], and the number of interactions and comments on it reaches nearly 4 million.

- A series of campaigns entitled "Women are the Key to Life" that dealt with many important issues affecting the Egyptian family, including the impact of divorce on children, the importance of rationalizing consumption, the role of drama in rejecting violence against women, the importance of empowering women in society, raising awareness of issues of violence against women, and other women's issues. Notes by Dr. Ali Gomaa, former Grand Mufti of Egypt and member of the Council of Senior Scholars of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, and Ms. Nashwa Al-Hofi, journalist writer and member of the National Council for Women, was broadcast daily for 6 months on various radio stations and social networking sites of the Council (more than 31 million accesses)
- Media Campaigns Two media campaigns to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and the importance of eliminating it, which included several mentions of the voice of Dr. Ali Gomaa and Ms. Nashwa Al-Hofi, which were broadcast on radio stations and social networking pages of the Council.
- A radio program entitled A Story Behind Every Door, which included (30) episodes broadcast on the public program over a whole month.
- A radio campaign under the slogan "On Land" broadcast on the most listened to radio channels in 2023, and a video about the dangers of illegal immigration was released on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, to raise awareness of the dangers of illegal immigration. This is within the framework of the project to address the economic drivers of illegal immigration.
- "My country is a trust" campaign, where the number of views of the campaign reached (536 thousand without television views).
- A media campaign entitled "We are with you" was launched in the form of a series of dramatic cartoon episodes inspired by real stories from the files of the Women's Complaints Office at the Council to discuss the various issues of violence to which women are exposed.

The Council also produces films that are published on women's social networking sites to raise awareness of various women's issues, in addition to broadcasting radio announcements on the topics they contain, which are broadcast on various radio stations:

- Launching a number of various videos to raise awareness of different women's issues.
- To strengthen the national referral process, a film was produced that discusses the referral path between basic services for women who are subjected to violence, and another animated film on the role of anti-violence against women units in universities.
- Production of a number of films, including: - The Beginning of a Thread and won many international awards including the best short documentary film at the New York International Film Festival, and was screened in viewing clubs in 6 governorates and reached 18,000 views, The film Between Two Seas discusses the challenges faced by women and girls to confront FGM and domestic violence and won 21 awards / The film Maryam and the Sun highlights the difficulties women and girls endure to stay in education.

- The Council produced a number of interactive plays to raise community awareness of harmful traditional practices and means of eliminating them. (The play of the word The secret, a circle and a rotation, a two-letter word, the happy family, who drew the way, the solution of braids).
- He also produced the following songs to discuss addressing the phenomenon of harassment through the song Hatfraqi, and the song Nour, which discussed discrimination against women, especially in the field of work. Noura's song is sung by the choir of the Talent Development Center at the Egyptian Opera House, which expresses the demands of the Egyptian girl.
- Egypt launched the first cyber portal dealing with "ICT for Women", the portal aimed to "support females and enable them to use ICT in all aspects of life, taking advantage of their abilities or joining the ICT field and helping them overcome the challenges they face, and providing information to girls and women interested in ICT field and seeking to learn or join a career opportunity¹³.
- The Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has announced a women's innovation competition in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) to support Egyptian women by empowering them through information and communication technology (ICT). In line with the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Women in ICT Excellence Award comes as part of a series of initiatives and activities implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to support Egyptian women in using ICT tools. The Women in ICT Excellence Award includes two categories: Individuals and MSMEs. A technical committee composed of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the National Council for Women (NCW) and academic institutions has been formed to set standards and evaluate participants according to those criteria.

24. Current national machineries for women (a government body dedicated solely to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women) and measures taken in the past five years to establish and/or strengthen these machineries

The National Council for Women is the national mechanism concerned with the advancement of the status of women, established by Presidential Decree No. 90 of 2000 and affiliated to the President of the Republic, and in 2018 the Law Regulating the Work of the National Council for Women No. 30 was issued.

- Article 214 of the Constitution stipulates the technical, financial and administrative independence of the National Council for Women, and that its opinion shall be taken in draft laws and regulations related to its field of work in the field of protection and empowerment of Egyptian women.
- According to its Law No. 30 of 2018, the Council is responsible for the following:
 1. Proposing the general policy of the state and its constitutional institutions in the field of developing women's affairs, enabling them to perform their economic role, and integrating their efforts into comprehensive development programs.
 2. Develop draft national plans for the advancement of women and solve the problems they face.

¹³ http://www.ictforwoman.gov.eg/overview_obj.aspx

3. Follow up and evaluate public policy in the field of women and submit any proposals and observations it may have to the competent authorities in this regard.
4. Expressing an opinion on draft laws and decisions related to women before submitting them to the competent authority, and recommending the proposal of draft laws and decisions that are necessary to advance the status of women.
5. Expressing an opinion on all conventions related to women.
6. Representation of women in international forums and organizations concerned with women's affairs.
7. Establishing a documentation center to collect information, data, studies and research related to women and conduct studies in this field.
8. Holding conferences, seminars, panel discussions and research on topics related to women.
9. Organizing training courses to raise awareness of the role of women in society and their rights and duties.
10. Issuing bulletins, magazines and publications related to the objectives and competencies of the Council.
11. Matters referred by the President of the Republic to the Council.
12. Egypt has developed the government's work program in accordance with Vision 2030 and includes programs for women in all ministries¹⁴, and it is reported that the budget of the National Council for Women has increased by 1200% for the fiscal year 2024-2025¹⁵, compared to 2019.

25. What other mechanisms and tools has your country used over the past five years to mainstream gender equality at the sectoral level? (e.g., gender-responsive focal points in the executive, legislative or judicial branches, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, gender-responsive budgeting, gender-responsive institutional assessments and consultations with women's organizations)

- The Egyptian Prime Minister issued Resolution No. 1167 of 2019 to form a committee to follow up on the system of plans and budgets of programs and performance, and there is also a committee in the Egyptian Parliament dedicated to performance-based budgets, and the outline of the budget responsive to women's needs was contained in the general budget publication for the fiscal year 2021-2022, and the Ministry of Finance issued a periodic publication announcing the application of the gender-responsive budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023.
- The Egyptian National Railways received the Bronze Award from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for its leadership role in the field of gender equality

¹⁴ [الوزراء مجلس رئاسة \(cabinet.gov.eg\)](http://cabinet.gov.eg)

¹⁵ [«Solidarity of Representatives» approves the budget of the National Council for Women - news of Egypt - Al-Watan \(elwatannews.com\)](http://elwatannews.com)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation in collaboration with the National Council for Women, the World Economic Forum, and the private sector launched the "Accelerator – Bridging the Gender Gap" action plan in 2021 with the aim of eliminating gender inequality.
- In 2022, the Ministry of Labor, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO), launched the "National Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Field of Work", which seeks to achieve six goals, including creating a general framework supportive of the principle of gender equality in the work environment, enhancing women's participation in the workforce and leadership positions, providing a safe work environment free from violence or discrimination, developing and providing an updated knowledge structure, enhancing means of support and raising community awareness of equality issues between men and women at work, creating sustainable institutional mechanisms to govern the national plan and integrating all relevant bodies and groups.
- Establishment of equal opportunities units in ministries: Within the framework of its work since 2000, the National Council for Women has developed national plans to mainstream gender equality, and so far the number of these various structures at the central and local levels and affiliated bodies has reached 853 units / departments, and the 32 equal opportunities units in different ministries are one of the mechanisms aimed at consolidating the principle of gender equality and equal opportunities in all institutions in order to support women's access to Leadership and decision-making positions, narrowing the gender gap, and equal opportunities units work to provide statistical data on the status of women in leadership positions. Providing women with access to projects implemented by ministries and their affiliated agencies, integrating the principle of gender equality and equal opportunities into the stages of preparing, planning, following up and evaluating national strategies and plans, preparing studies and research in the field of women's empowerment, participating in raising awareness about the concepts of gender equality and applying budgets responsive to this concept.

A. Equal opportunities/women's rights units at the central level:

- **27 units** in police stations affiliated to the Ministry of Interior
- **32 equal opportunities units** in all ministries at the central level
- **9 units of committees** in the entities affiliated to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- **4 units** in the entities affiliated to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.
- **A unit** at the Financial Regulatory Authority
- **23 units** belonging to companies and entities affiliated with the Ministry of Military Production.
- **14 units** in the entities affiliated to the Ministry of Transport.

B. Equal opportunities/women's rights units at the local level:

- **27 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Culture
- **19 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation.
- **27 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Environment
- **14 equal opportunities Unit** at the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities
- **16 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Finance
- **17 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade
- **27 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Labour
- **342 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Education and Technical Education in educational units and at the governorate level
- **254 equal opportunities units** in the Ministry of Local Development

C. Tools for Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment:

1. The National Council for Women's Guide to Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment.
2. Ministry of Planning and Economic Development Guide to Planning and Budgeting Responsive to Women's Needs
3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GIA) measurement is carried out by many laws and legislations, which have contributed to legislative amendments that help ensure that women obtain their full rights.
4. Planning and setting gender-responsive budgets¹⁶, the Egyptian state revives its efforts to develop gender-responsive budgets through government agencies, after the Minister of Finance issued the periodic publication on the implementation of gender-responsive budgets 2022-2023, and Egypt also applied the basics of participatory budgets.

26. If there is a national human rights institution in your country, what measures have you taken to address violations of women's rights and promote gender equality?

National Council for Human Rights¹⁷

- Article 214 of the 2014 Constitution introduces the right to report to public authorities any violation related to the scope of work of 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 Disabilities.
- The terms of reference of the National Council for Human Rights include the preparation of annual reports to monitor and analyze the social and economic conditions in society, including violations of the rights of women and children, and studies to determine the psychological, social and criminal dimensions resulting from the exposure of women to violence, as well as reviewing all existing legislation and recommending its purification, which contradicts or conflicts with the principles of human rights and combating violence and discrimination against women.
- Egypt continues its efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for human rights by assuming its duties as of the beginning of 2020, which is concerned with following up Egypt's implementation of its international obligations arising from the provisions of the relevant international conventions and protocols, proposing the necessary legislative measures and procedures, and following up on the measures taken to implement them, and the Committee works as a sustainable national framework in cooperation with various international and regional human rights mechanisms. The Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights also prepared and launched the National Human Rights Strategy (2021-2026).
- Many periodic visits were organized to reform and rehabilitation centers with the participation of delegations that include representatives of (personalities and entities concerned with human rights inside and outside the country, the National Council for Human Rights, diplomatic missions, news agencies and international newspapers, and civil society organizations) to

¹⁶ [Equal Opportunities Unit - Ministry of Finance \(eou.gov.eg\)](http://eou.gov.eg)

¹⁷ [National Council for Human Rights \(nchr.eg\)](http://nchr.eg)

inspect the centers. The period from (January 2019 to June 2023) witnessed the conduct of (52) visits by representatives of various bodies, most notably: The National Council for Human Rights and the specialized national councils: The National Council for Women and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to inspect inmates of their nationals, to check on the aspects of care provided to them, and to inspect the conditions of detained women, especially mothers.

- The Human Rights Sector at the Ministry of Interior provides psychological care and after-community support to women who have been subjected to violence in coordination with the National Council for Human Rights and the National Council for Women.

Fifth dimension: peaceful societies in which no one is marginalized

27. What actions has your country taken in the past five years to establish and maintain peace, promote peaceful societies where no one is left behind for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

- The National Council for Women participated in a workshop implemented by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding under the title "Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa: Overcoming Challenges and Seizing Opportunities" with the aim of highlighting the Council's activities and projects to empower Egyptian women, including presenting an overview of Egypt's national plan to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
- Forming a working group that includes the National Council for Women, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding and the concerned authorities in the state in order to prepare the first Egyptian national plan on enhancing the role of women in the field of peacemaking, peacekeeping and building in implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 issued in 2000, and the working group held (5) coordination meetings to discuss the preparation of the plan.
- Holding a series of consultative sessions in cooperation with the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies and Thought with various parties on Egypt's preparation of its initial action plan for women, peace and security.
- Participation in several events held at the Arab and regional levels to emphasize the strengthening of the role of Arab women in mediation, the most important of which are:
 - 1) Karama Foundation meeting on promoting women's participation in the Arab region and eliminating violence 2020.
 - 2) A session titled "Moving Forward" at Wilton Park 2020.
 - 3) The first annual virtual meeting of the World Federation of Regional Networks of Women Mediators 2020.
 - 4) The fifth virtual workshop entitled "Promoting Women's Leadership in Peace and Security" organized by the League of Arab States on behalf of the Arab Network of Women Peace Mediators in partnership with the British Commonwealth Women Mediators Network 2020.
 - 5) CIHRS Virtual Dialogue on the Role of Women Leaders in the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda 2020.

- 6) High-level virtual training entitled "Negotiations and Mediation of the Arab Network of Women Mediators", organized by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 2020.
- 7) Organizing a symposium "Baheya Song of Peace" at Expo 2020 Dubai (October 2021).
- 8) Participation in the activities of the regional virtual workshop on the women, peace and security benchmark, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which dealt with a presentation of the contents of the women, peace and security benchmark, how to use it, its importance, data sources and special tools, and the ranking of countries guaranteed by it globally, and in the Arab region in particular (January 2021).

28. What actions has your country taken in the past five years to increase women's leadership, representation and participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts and in fragile or crisis areas?

- Representing the National Council for Women in the membership of the Arab Network of Women Peace Mediators of the League of Arab States and participating in a series of high-level trainings for members of the Arab Network of Women Peace Mediators organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States during the period from November 30 to December 2, 2021.
- Participation in the UN Women Young Arab Peacemaking Programme for the Regional Office for Arab States. (June 2021).
- Organizing a door-knocking campaign "Women Peacemakers" in all governorates of the Republic aimed at consolidating the values of security and societal peace through direct communication with Egyptian women and families through door-knocking and various other events targeting 2,608,712 outreach, including artistic activities held in cooperation with the General Authority for Culture Palaces bearing the slogan "Egypt is the land of love and peace". And the establishment of a training program for male and female workers in the General Secretariat of the Council on the topics of the UN agenda women, peace and security and the leading Egyptian role in implementing the international dimension of this agenda.
- The participation of (19) young Egyptian women in the training course held in the UAE for a period of three and a half months, to develop the capabilities of Arab women in the field of women, peace and security.
- Participation in the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Development and Peace entitled "From Marginalization to the Forefront of the Scene: Enhancing the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda during the Pandemic and Beyond" 2022.

29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to promote judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and other humanitarian action or crisis response?

- The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking launched the third national strategy to combat and prevent human trafficking for the period (2022-2026) in September 2022, where the strategy paid special attention to the axis of victim protection by updating national referral mechanisms, and

enhancing the capacity building of social protection workers, including operators of the helpline receiving reports, rural community leaders, social workers, labor inspectors, and law enforcement officials. The Committee launched the Third National Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Illegal Migration (2021-2023) in June 2021 to complement the efforts to implement the National Strategy to Combat and Prevent Illegal Migration (2016-2026). The Egyptian state has succeeded in stopping illegal immigration flows and tightening land and sea border controls.

- The National Coordinating Committee is working in cooperation with all concerned judicial and police agencies to develop and update the database on these crimes to enhance cooperation and find the necessary solutions to combat and reduce the phenomenon. Since 2020, the Public Prosecution has developed a cyber-criminal justice program that includes investigations into human trafficking cases, allowing the analysis of information on human trafficking, illegal migration and migrant smuggling. Specialized criminal chambers had also been established to deal with illegal immigration and human trafficking offences within all courts of appeal to enhance judicial competence.
- In September 2021, the Public Prosecution allocated prosecutions to combat human trafficking and illegal immigration crimes at the headquarters of each appeal prosecution at the level of the Republic, which is specialized in investigating crimes related to human organ transplantation, combating human trafficking, illegal migration and smuggling of migrants. The Department of International Cooperation of the Attorney-General's Office follows up on such investigations in accordance with international standards and mechanisms. The Ministry of the Interior has also established the Organized Crime and Narcotics Sector to ensure prompt arrest, investigation and disposition of such cases.
- During the period from (January 2019 – March 2023), national efforts resulted in the seizure of (1250) defendants in (1030) cases in the field of combating illegal immigration, and the seizure of (442) defendants in (236) cases in the field of combating human trafficking.
- The Public Prosecution provides legal protection to the victim, including isolating victims from other potential perpetrators detained, whether held in places of detention pending the same case or other cases, informing them of the rights guaranteed by law, ensuring the confidentiality of victims' data during investigations and during trial, assigning lawyers to attend investigations, and referring them to a shelter for victims of human trafficking or one of the other shelters affiliated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, while providing the necessary health and psychological care. In addition, 8 judicial departments have been allocated to discuss cases related to human trafficking, in addition to allocating special prosecutions for human trafficking, in light of the special nature of these cases, which requires the presence of trained work teams of concerned prosecutors and judges. The National Committee has also prepared several guidelines for evidence collection, investigations and labour protection.
- In November 2020, the Ministry of Social Solidarity opened a shelter for victims of human trafficking to receive victims of human trafficking. The Ministry of Social Solidarity issued the model regulations governing the work of centers for victims of human trafficking in August 2021.

- In 2019, the National Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking, which aimed to introduce the forms of crime, the penalties set by law for perpetrators, in addition to protection services and assistance provided by the state to victims of crime, and the first part of the campaign was chosen as the best among awareness campaigns at the level of (100) offices of the organization around the world, and awareness efforts continued through media campaigns, so the second part of the media awareness campaign was launched during the period from November 2020 Until September 2022.
- An integrated protection system for victims of human trafficking has been completed, which includes the following: a national referral mechanism that ensures the speedy provision of legal, health (organic and psychological) assistance services and rehabilitation programs for victims, the launch of a complaints system to receive reports of human trafficking crimes, and the provision of all forms of support to victims by supporting and strengthening the hotlines of the National Councils for Childhood and Motherhood, Women and Human Rights.
- The National Coordinating Committee carried out (74) training courses targeting (2120) trainees for all groups concerned with law enforcement (judges, public prosecution, police, labor inspectors, labor attachés, diplomats, staff of child protection committees, employees of complaints offices, social workers, rapid intervention team, judicial officers of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, emergency doctors of the Ministry of Health, social workers, civil society organizations, employees of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and media workers).
- The crime of human trafficking has been included in the training topics for prosecutors, and a brief guide has been prepared for prosecutors on the investigation of human trafficking crimes.
- During the period from 2019 to June 2023, the Public Prosecution organized, through the Criminal Research and Training Institute of the Public Prosecution, alone or in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (29) specialized training courses in the field of combating human trafficking and illegal migration for (577) Public Prosecutions.

30. What measures has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination and violation of the rights of female children, including adolescent girls?

- The Council implements several programs to empower and protect girls in the Egyptian family, including: (a) Awareness campaigns launched by the National Committee for the Eradication of FGM periodically throughout the year, coinciding with both the International and National Day for the Elimination of FGM "month by month". and (b) The national initiative "Dawi", which aims to encourage girls to express themselves freely and communicate their ideas to the family and society, in a way that contributes to empowering them and developing their abilities to make future decisions. Since its launch in 2019 to 2023, the initiative reached most of the governorates of the Republic, especially the governorates targeted by the presidential initiative Haya Karima, the initiative reached nearly 500,000 boys, girls, parents and community members on the ground through community activities (storytelling circles, generational dialogue, digital learning, Dawi camps, viewing clubs, and community interactive theater); and reached more than 60 million on its digital 18 platform. . and (c) the national initiative "Noura", which aims to provide girls with social, health and economic assets in order to achieve their

full potential within their families and communities. The initiative focuses on girls aged 10 to 14 who have been left behind due to limited reproductive health education and services, and the high risk of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, through successive awareness sessions for girls managed by trainers and facilitators who have been qualified on the "Noura" training manual prepared by the Council in partnership with the United Nations Population ... The initiative is implemented as a first phase in 20 villages of Decent Life in Assiut and Sohag governorates, joined by 7283 girls who participated in awareness sessions, 74 trainers at the central level, and 456 facilitators in the two governorates.

- Strengthening the institutional framework and enlightened religious discourse to eliminate FGM by holding workshops targeting 1,941 religious leaders from endowments and the church in the governorates of the Decent Life presidential initiative to learn about the extent of knowledge development of religious leaders in addressing the issue of FGM after two years of working with the Council.
- The Ministry of Education and Technical Education, in cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, launched the National Initiative to Empower the Egyptian Child, in order to address the phenomena of violence, bullying and harmful behaviors, create a safe and supportive school environment for children, and promote inclusion and acceptance of the other.
- The Ministry of Labour has launched the National Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, benefiting children under the age of 18, whether they are victims of child labour or at risk of involvement in it and their families. The Ministry has also worked to update and review all laws and decisions in line with the relevant international standards, as it has completed the amendment of the decision on the list of hazardous jobs and professions in which the employment and training of children up to the age of eighteen years is prohibited. The project "Accelerating the Elimination of Child Labour in Cotton Supply Chains" was implemented in a number of governorates, as part of the National Plan to Combat Child Labour (2018-2023). The child labour rate (5-17 years old) decreased to 5.6% in 2021 compared to 7% in 2014.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in cooperation with a number of ministries and NGOs, has implemented the project "Restorative Approach to Child Justice: Community-Based Models of Reintegration and Alternative Measures to Detention", which works to provide integrated services for the care of children at risk. The ministry also launched the strategic review "Towards Child Friendly Justice in Egypt. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for Children", in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and a number of international organizations.
- The Ministry of Health launched the "Golden Thousand Days" initiative for the development of the Egyptian family, which aims to raise community awareness of the importance and methods of optimal early childhood care in order to improve health care outcomes, improve population characteristics, confront inappropriate societal traditions and behaviors such as early marriage, successive pregnancies, as well as consanguineous marriage, as well as providing post-marital counseling in order to provide young people about to get married with the necessary skills to maintain the integrity of marriage and build a strong family.

- The National Council for Women implements many awareness-raising activities targeting Egyptian women and families and involving children, such as cultural evenings, storytelling circles and family camps for balanced upbringing.

Sixth dimension: Preservation, protection and restoration of the environment

31. What actions has your country taken in the past five years to integrate gender perspectives and related concerns into environmental policies, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and reduction of land degradation?

- The National Population and Development Strategy (2023/2030) was launched, and includes 7 axes, namely (ensuring reproductive rights, investing in human energy, strengthening the role of women, teaching and learning, communication and information for development, population and environment "climate change and population dynamics", and governance of the population file), and aims to achieve a balance between population and development by promoting reproductive health, empowering women, investing in youth, improving educational opportunities, raising awareness of population issues, as well as Achieve the social and economic well-being of all citizens.
- To protect women from climate change, Egypt prepared its international vision for women, environment and climate change within the framework of Egypt's hosting of the COP 27 climate conference, and the National Initiative for Smart Green Projects was launched in the governorates, including a women' s axis, and an initiative on African women and adaptation to climate change AWCAP to enhance cooperation among African member states in the field of protecting women from climate change.

32. What actions has your country taken in the past five years to integrate a gender perspective into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction and building environmental and climate resilience?

- The Council reviewed Egypt's international proposal on women, environment and climate change: a just and gender-sensitive environmental transition sustainable future for all, during the activities of the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) held in New York in March 2022, which is an Egyptian vision that has a global dimension to benefit women in various countries of the world, especially in the Arab region and the Middle East, and includes 7 areas of work on implementation. Since its launch, 16 meetings have been held on an international scale to strengthen work in this framework.
- The branches of the Council in the governorates held awareness seminars on climate change and environmental awareness targeting 648,522 women.
- Holding preparatory activities and live sessions at the COP 27 climate conference, and the launch of the national initiative for smart green projects in the governorates, including a women's axis, a partnership with the Young Leaders Foundation in launching the "Climate Leaders" program to support ideas and emerging projects, launching an awareness campaign with Egyptian university students under the title "WE'RE TOGETHER" aimed at raising awareness of the fifth and thirteenth goals of the sustainable development goals, a media campaign entitled "Simple but differentiated on the map about environmental sustainability and climate change" included Messages on the role of women in preserving natural resources and rationalizing consumption, equipping a special wing of the Council in the Green Zone to

display environmentally friendly products for 44 Egyptian women from all governorates of the Republic, and the products of the Council's productive training units, and a wing of the Women's Complaints Office has been equipped to receive complaints from women participating in the conference.

- Organizing the Gender Day, which witnessed the launch of an initiative on African women and climate change adaptation (AWCAP) to enhance cooperation among African member states in the field of protecting women from climate change. Its overall objectives include: (1) Strengthening cooperation among African Member States through the establishment of an association of heads of women's affairs mechanisms/ministers and ministers of environment concerned. (2) Strengthening existing structures and frameworks by enhancing knowledge production, climate information technology, data collection, research and exchange of experiences. (3) Strengthen commitments to invest in women by increasing capacity-building programmes to support women at various levels from education to the labour market and support for women owners of medium, small and micro enterprises. (4) Promote social protection policies that are sensitive to women's empowerment and gender equality.
- Nearly 12 side sessions and 23 meetings were participated during the Climate Summit: Women's livelihoods in the context of a just transition to a green economy / Women and climate finance change / African women's reality in climate change / COVID-19 and climate change / Gender equality: access to green finance and SMEs / Gender equality in the Climate Action Accelerator / Accelerating gender-sensitive climate finance / Climate Dialogue: The voice of women leaders in civil society / the role of the private sector: women and climate change / People of determination and climate change session / the role of women and youth in facing the repercussions of climate change / seeking to expand the scope of women's employment in the green and blue economy in the Arab region / decarbonization of the shipping sector within the activities of DE carbonization Day.
- The participation of the Health and Population Committee of the National Council for Women in a campaign entitled "The Impact of Climate Change on Pregnant and Lactating Women", which was held under the auspices of the General Authority for Hospitals and Educational Institutes and the Institute of Nutrition and with the participation of the National Council, UNICEF and the World Food Program, during the month of September and October in the governorates of "Alexandria / Beheira / Qena / Luxor / Minya / Gharbia / Assiut / Red Sea / Aswan" coinciding with the celebration of the World Breastfeeding Week.
- Establishing environmental camps with the aim of spreading the culture of environmental investment and small projects through a mobile environmental complex and training on applied models for most environmental activities [such as: garbage separation units from the source - waste recycling - uses of solar energy - biofuels - agriculture without soil using nutrient solutions and fish - reuse of used car tires and oil drums] ... Where (7) camps were implemented in the governorates of [Sharqia - Sohag - Assiut - Minya - Fayoum - Kafr El-Sheikh - Beheira], benefiting 2,043 women, children, rural pioneers, associations working in the field of environmental protection and officials concerned with the implementation of innovative ideas to empower women economically.
- Implementation of the environmental awareness campaign and waste recycling at the level of (124) neighborhoods in Giza Governorate. {532,847 beneficiaries}.

Section Four – National institutions and procedures

33. Existence of a national machinery for women for gender equality and women's empowerment

- The National Council for Women is the national mechanism concerned with the advancement of the status of women, established by Presidential Decree No. 90 of 2000 and affiliated to the President of the Republic, and in 2018 the Law Regulating the Work of the National Council for Women No. 30 was issued.
- Article 214 of the Constitution stipulates the independence of the National Council for Women, and that its opinion shall be taken in draft laws and regulations related to it on the competences of the Council's work in the field of protection and empowerment of Egyptian women and its field of work.
- The Council consists of thirty members from among public figures and those with experience in women's affairs and social activity, and the term of membership is four years, renewable, and the formation of the Council is issued by a decision of the President of the Republic, in which he assigns the 29 members and the president of the council.
- The National Council for Women is a national institution whose goal is the interest of women in particular and society in general, and contributes to proposing public policies for society and its constitutional institutions through several activities, including active participation in conferences, forums and seminars, as well as through the preparation of studies and working papers and submitting them to the relevant constitutional institutions. It is also a partner in the development and expression of opinion in international and regional agreements, and accordingly it is a partner in the following:

Resolution	statement
Prime Minister's Decree No. 2738 of 2022	The National Organizing Committee for the National Initiative for Smart Green Projects in the Governorates of the Republic
Modulation August 2021	Ministerial Committee for the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family
Prime Minister's Decree No. 2659 of 2020 re-forming the National Council for Wages and its competencies [the formation included the President of the National Council for Women].	National Wage Council (responsible for setting the minimum wage at the national level)
Prime Minister's Decree No. 1097 of 2020	The Ministerial Committee to study the financial compensation and minimum salaries of workers in national projects regarding their suspension of work due to the precautionary measures taken to confront the spread of the Corona virus.
Formed in 2020	Employment Committee affected by the economic repercussions of the emerging Corona virus
Prime Minister's Decree 2396 of 2018	The Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights (responsible for developing a national strategy for human rights and action plans for its

	implementation and follow-up).
Prime Minister's Decree No. 192 of 2017	National Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Illegal Migration and Combating Human Trafficking
Participation in the launch of the National Strategy for Human Rights	National Council for Human Rights
Participate in the development of the National Plan for Gender Equality in the field of work.	Ministry of Manpower
Dr. Maya Morsy, President of the National Council for Women and a representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, won the membership of the Committee for the period 2023-2026, after obtaining 126 votes in the elections held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
Minister of Local Development Decree No. 381 of 2023	The Supreme Committee for the Development of Areas Designated for Housing Alternative Slums
Ministerial Decree No. (342) of 2023 to prepare the draft domestic workers law.	The Legislative Committee of the Ministry of Manpower to prepare the draft law on domestic workers.

- The Council participates in all the meetings of the aforementioned committees, in addition to chairing the National Committee for the Eradication of FGM.

Membership of the Chair of the National Machinery for Women in the institutional process for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

- The President of the National Council for Women is a member of the institutional process for the implementation of the sustainable development goals:
- The Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030 is a working document for all state entities, bodies and agencies.
- The strategy focused on all sustainable development goals 2030 and its focus was not limited to the fifth goal only, concerned with women, and included four main axes: the social, economic, political and protection axis, in addition to the existence of legislation and the change of the prevailing negative societal culture and coming up with national data documented by the concerned state agencies for adoption at the international level.
- The Ministry of Planning adopts the full Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030¹⁹ and the Egyptian Women's Observatory to be part of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, and

¹⁹ [National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

is keen to ensure that the women's empowerment strategy is within the emerging reading of Egypt's Vision 2030.

34. Formal mechanisms in place for various stakeholders involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Entities formally participating in the national coordinating mechanisms to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action such as:

- Civil Society Organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- Academia and research institutions
- Religious institutions.

A national committee has been formed that includes all ministries and government bodies concerned with women, and some of these ministries are represented by directors of equal opportunities units.

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Civil Society Organizations
- Women's rights organizations
- Academia and research institutions
- Religious organizations
- Private Sector
- United Nations system

A special committee for non-governmental organizations and the Civil Society Forum has been established in the National Council for Women, which includes more than 52 associations and institutions and in which more than 150 people participate in its meetings, confirming that civil society is a key partner in women's issues.

Mechanisms to ensure the participation and visibility of marginalized women and girls in these processes

A broad base of women and girls at the central and local levels participate in all policies and efforts related to the advancement of women, as well as monitoring, follow-up and evaluation through the following mechanisms:

- Under the umbrella of the National Council for Women
- Committee for Women with Disabilities
- Equal opportunities units in ministries to represent working women
- Preparation of 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 executive authorities.

35. How stakeholders contribute to the preparation of this national report

The National Council for Women prepared the report on a participatory basis through a committee formed that includes a number of experts specialized in various fields of women's advancement, including:

- Experts specialized in various fields.
- Representatives of the relevant ministries and government agencies, 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, and the National Council for Human Rights,
- Representatives of research and study centers.
- Representatives of many civil society organizations from NGOs, trade unions, political parties ..etc.

The Council was keen to review, coordinate and communicate with the concerned national authorities and civil society institutions to obtain the necessary data, consult with them and seek their opinion on any topics or observations related to the report to take them into account.

36. Include gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a key priority in the national SDG implementation plan/strategy

Gender equality is included as a key priority in the National Strategic Plan through:

- The President of the Republic adopted and launched in March 2017 the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 to serve as a platform for all governmental and non-governmental agencies to empower women in all walks of life: The strategy was prepared in line with Egypt's Vision 2030.
- The Egyptian Women's Strategy 2030 includes four axes: political empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment, protection, as well as cultural and legislative interventions.
- The strategy also seeks to respond to the actual needs of Egyptian women, especially breadwinners, the elderly and women with disabilities, as they are the most vulnerable groups when developing development plans in order to provide them with full protection, and to make full use of human and material energies and resources to achieve the principle of equal opportunities as stipulated in the 2014 Egyptian Constitution.
- Egypt is the first country to localize the quantitative goals of the Sustainable Development Goals at the governorate level and began to employ them to ensure the participation of the whole society and to ensure that no one is left behind.

37. Please describe the action plan and timetable followed by your country to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), the Universal Periodic Review or other UN human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women.

The Arab Republic of Egypt submitted the combined eighth to tenth periodic report of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in February 2020, this report was prepared with the following methodology:

- 1) Adopt an action plan that includes defining the method of collecting information, data and statistics, and setting a specific time frame;
- 2) Holding a series of periodic consultative meetings between stakeholders;
- 3) Conducting relevant studies and coordination between government agencies and civil society institutions through official correspondence and direct contacts;
- 4) Forming task forces to analyze and classify information, data and statistics to prepare the drafting of the report in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant United Nations Committee.

This report is the result of intensive consultations with various national stakeholders, national human rights institutions, civil society, and a number of public figures, according to a participatory and inclusive approach, through coordination between the concerned ministries and specialized national councils (the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Women, and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities) and information, research and studies centers (Information and Decision Support Center at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the State Information Service, the Central Agency for Mobilization, Public and Statistics, National Population Council, Supreme Council of Universities) and civil society organizations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt also submitted the report of the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights to the Committee in November 2019, and it was presented to the Committee in the presence of the Egyptian delegation in 2020, this report comes as a result of intensive consultations with various national stakeholders, especially national human rights institutions and civil society, as well as a number of public figures, according to a participatory and inclusive approach. Since the second round, several measures have been taken to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government, including:

- 1) Disseminate recommendations to all government agencies and national human rights institutions
- 2) Conduct a series of governmental meetings and consultations as well as with national stakeholders to follow up on the implementation of recommendations
- 3) Submit the voluntary period text report in March 2018 and complete the efforts until the end of the current report.

Section Five – Data and Statistics

- The collection, analysis and disaggregation of data by gender is a key part of policy activities, as it is needed by planners and policymakers to assess trends and develop gender-sensitive strategies and programs as well as to enable them to monitor and evaluate policies and programs in light of national goals and millennium goals.
- Egypt is one of the largest Arab countries that have compiled the largest number of gender-related and gender-disaggregated 2030 sustainable development indicators in the Global Database of Sustainable Development Goals, where the percentage reached 17%.

1. Conduct new surveys to produce national background information on specialized topics

- Periodic data 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.
- Preparing a study on violence against women with disabilities (2020) in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), and this research is the first of its kind in the Arab region. The study sample included poor women aged 18 years and over who suffer from motor, hearing, visual or multiple disabilities and beneficiaries of the Karama program (recipients of social security support) The survey covered all governorates except the border governorates and the survey sample reached 6000 qualified women.

2. Improving administrative or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps

- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) is the official statistical agency in Egypt that collects, processes, analyzes and disseminates all statistical data and censuses.
- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) launched the Egyptian statistical observatory "Bayanat Misr", which aims to monitor the Egyptian social, economic and environmental statistical reality through statistics issued by the agency as well as data received from ministries. This is in addition to the publications and bulletins issued by the Authority on an annual, semi-annual, quarterly or monthly basis, in accordance with an annual plan followed by the Authority in order to issue and make data available. ADFCA is currently working on preparing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics to develop medium-term development plans for 3-5 years, including initiatives to bridge the data gap, including gender indicators.
- Within the framework of the Egyptian government's development of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, a National Review of Gender Statistics was conducted in Egypt 2022, and the report of the National Review of Gender Statistics then addresses²⁰ three key components of gender statistics in Egypt: creating an enabling environment for data collection, improving data production, and enhancing its accessibility and use. It is envisaged that the report's findings will help to identify ongoing government priorities and produce accurate and comparable data for both women and men, girls and boys. Allowing the measurement and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women, this report was prepared in partnership with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the National Council for Women (NCW), UN Women Egypt, and the Statistical Partnership for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21).
- Within the framework of cooperation with the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), the project on increasing women's participation in public life contributed to strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of employees of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and

²⁰ [National Review of Gender Statistics in Egypt \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg)

the National Council for Women, which monitored Egyptian women and relevant government agencies on how to support, produce and disseminate statistics and disaggregated data that take into account gender equality, women's empowerment and equal opportunities, allowing the analysis and detection of gender gaps and the promotion of policies that take into account the needs of women. The project succeeded in enhancing knowledge on women's empowerment and gender equality through the production of policy papers focusing on women's issues (2023).

3. Development of a central web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics

Egyptian Women's [Observatory www.enow.gov.eg](http://www.enow.gov.eg)

From the launch of the Observatory in 2018 to 2023:

- The number of indicators on the observatory reached 250 indicator.
- The Observatory conducted (10) telephone surveys, issued 25 infographics on various topics and analyzed them, and came up with some recommendations related to each topic.
- The Observatory includes 34 reports and policy papers on the following topics: The impact of climate change on Egyptian women / Ethics of health services in Egypt and women / Towards an ethical system for the educational system / Using administrative data to produce sex-disaggregated indicators / Supporting women's empowerment through macroeconomic policies / Towards a decent life for elderly women in Egypt / Using data to provide indicators on women's empowerment / Economic enablers of rural women / The relationship between higher education outputs and female participation in the labor market / Egyptian women from Reproductive Production / National Review of Gender Statistics in Egypt / Representation of women on the boards of directors of listed companies / Representation of women on the boards of directors of companies listed in the banking sector / Representation of women on the boards of directors of companies listed in business sector companies.
- 3 policy capsules have also been issued.
- The Observatory, in cooperation with the Central Bank, the World Bank and the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research "Baseera", launched a study on "Social Norms and Women's Participation in the Labor Force in Egypt", which the Council is interested in to confront the negative values that perpetuate discrimination against women, by drawing up successful programs and interventions that contribute to the empowerment of Egyptian women.
- Launching the mid-term review report on the indicators of the follow-up and implementation of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women, which monitored progress in 24 indicators, stability in 9 indicators and challenges in 4 indicators.
- The Council, in coordination with the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research "Baseera", implemented (6) training courses that benefited 33 participants from the General Secretariat of the Council and representatives of ministries to enhance capabilities in the field of providing data classified according to the roles of women and men, analyzing them, preparing policy papers, and how to use computer programs and applications.

- A composite index was developed to measure the values of Egyptians towards women's economic participation, and a survey was carried out on a representative sample of 6,600 Egyptians and the data was used to calculate the index.
- Preparing policy papers covering unpaid care work and its impact on women's economic participation in the field of elderly care, childcare, care for persons with disabilities, women in the information technology sector and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Publication of a policy paper on the empowerment of Egyptian women after the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Collaborate with the Financial Supervisory Authority and the American University in Cairo in launching the annual report of the Egyptian Women's Observatory on boards of directors for the year 2020.
- Opinion poll on the impact of COVID-19 on Egyptian women.

Section Six- Conclusions and Next Steps

In light of the directives of the political leadership, which comes every year through the Egyptian Women's Celebration, which comes under the direct presidential patronage, the state is working to achieve further progress in the file of women under the umbrella of the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment, the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the guidelines of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In the last celebration held in March 2024 and to complement the march of supporting Egyptian women, the President put the executive authorities in front of a number of directives that must be worked on in the next stage, as follows:

- Review and apply the principles of gender equality in the use of banking services without discrimination.
- Developing the care economy as an available field for women's work, as it provides new job opportunities for them and allows achieving a balance between their productive and social roles.
- Encouraging the digital economy as an added value in the national economy, accommodating different types of idle employment, providing an opportunity for professional awareness, and enabling women to participate economically effectively by virtue of the flexible work opportunities it provides that help achieve a balance between work and family.
- Providing financing for women establishment of small and medium enterprises with minimum conditions and guarantees, raising women's awareness of financial inclusion programs for women in rural and remote areas, as well as providing technical support for women in the field of entrepreneurship and expanding the provision of business incubators for small and micro enterprises.
- Expanding transformative training programs to raise women's skills in the industries required in the labor market, as well as in the technological fields and digitization, in order to increase women's access to future jobs.

- Develop a hub to promote moral and social values in the national project for the development of the Egyptian family to ensure the building of a cohesive and effective society.
- Assigning the government and the National Council for Women to establish the Egyptian Women's Museum to preserve the heritage of Egyptian women and document the development of women's empowerment over ancient and modern times.

The vision of the National Council for Women is integrated with the above in the file of care economics, and to change the reality, some crucial aspects must be worked on, such as:

- Dismantle the well-established assumption that care work concerns women only through measures such as paternity leave policies and child and elderly care services
- Restructuring the welfare economy in countries to enhance women's productive work
- Promote fair working conditions and invest in infrastructure by enhancing childcare facilities and high-quality aged care services to free up women's time to allow them to pursue their professions.
- Provide women with access to education and skills development programs to enable them to pursue careers outside traditional care roles.
- Financial independence and increased opportunities in women's formal workforce