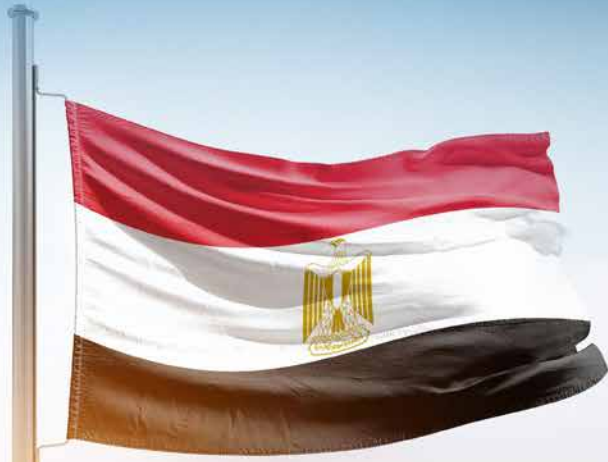




The Egyptian Cabinet
Information and Decision Support Center



Building the Future: Egypt's Political and Social Achievements in 2024 and the Road to 2025

April 2025



The Egyptian Cabinet
Information and Decision Support Center



About IDSC

IDSC is a prominent internationally classified think tank affiliated to the Prime Minister. Since its establishment in 1985, IDSC has undergone many facelifts in the nature of its missions and roles to suit the requirements and needs of decision-makers and cope with the changes in Egyptian society. In its first phase, IDSC dedicated its efforts to establishing an information infrastructure and contributing to the technological advancements in Egypt. Then, its role witnessed a quantum shift to be more specialized in decision support and focused on creating a knowledge community. Later, IDSC progressed steadily to become the Egyptian Cabinet's think tank. Its key mission is reinforcing the decision-makers efforts in various developmental issues and suggesting supportive alternatives, recommendations, and scenarios. At present, IDSC undertakes multiple and diverse missions and roles in conjunction with His Excellency the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2085 of 2023 on restructuring IDSC. This decision declares a new era for IDSC, one in which its scope expands.

IDSC has made numerous accomplishments and launched distinguished projects and initiatives, bolstering its role in developing the digital and information infrastructure and supporting the decision-making process in Egypt across various levels. For instance, IDSC played a pioneering role in setting up the citizen's ID project, introducing the Internet to Egypt, and establishing both the Strategic Documents Center and the Public Opinion Poll Center. Moreover, it contributed to the development and establishment of information centers in governorates and ministries, the launch of the Governmental Complaint Portal, and the development of a crisis management system covering the national and local levels. It founded several specialized observatories: The Egyptian Household Observatory, the Egyptian Observatory for Education, Training, and Employment, and the Egyptian Food Observatory. IDSC additionally produced the State Ownership Policy for Assets and the Egyptian Economy's Most Prominent Strategic Directions (2024-2030) Document.

Along its journey, IDSC has long adopted a vision implying that it should be distinguished in the field of decision support in various comprehensive development issues, conduct constructive social dialogue, and enhance communication with Egyptian citizens, who are the ultimate goal of development. Thus, IDSC has assumed a greater role in the public policymaking process and has been responsible for entrenching the knowledge community.

IDSC is continuously striving to become one of the best think tanks at the local, regional, and international levels. IDSC's vital role as a think tank was crowned by regional and international acknowledgment: The results of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania announced in February 2021 were substantial evidence. They revealed that IDSC:

- Was chosen among the best 20 think tanks in the world responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
- Ranked 21st out of 64 think tanks globally as the owner of the best new idea or paradigm developed in 2020.
- Ranked 14th out of 101 think tanks in Africa and the Middle East for 2020.

In the last 5 years, IDSC won 18 international awards in all its work fields. In June 2022, it was awarded the USA's SAG Award for the digital publication of Egypt's Description by Information; it was chosen out of nearly 100,000 international institutions around the world.

In May 2023, it was awarded 6 awards in the 16th Digital Government Awards held in Dubai. It excelled in the following categories: government innovation, social and governmental responsibility, remote work, government websites, government social media accounts, and smart applications.

In September 2023, IDSC was granted three Globee Business Awards, which are based in the USA. The awards are given to the best organizations in the world in recognition of their achievements in various business and technology-related categories.

Lastly, it won eight trophies from the Middle East and North Africa Stevie Awards. In April 2022, IDSC had been awarded five trophies, including one gold, after competing with over 700 teams from 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In January 2024, it was granted another three trophies, including two golds.

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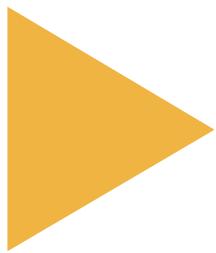
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Introduction: 2024: A Year of Transformation



In 2024, Egypt was on the threshold of a new era marked by transformation, ambition, and hope. As the most populous country in the Arab region and a key player in regional and global geopolitics, Egypt has long been seen as a symbol of resilience and strength. This report explores Egypt's remarkable achievements in 2024 and offers a glimpse of the road ahead, stretching into 2025.

Egypt has exerted strenuous efforts across numerous arenas, yielding significant achievements. Presidential elections held in 2024 were one of the most significant milestones in Egypt's democratic journey. Alongside the political reforms, Egypt has embarked on an ambitious program to strengthen its institutions, reform its legal systems, and modernize its governance. New laws promoting transparency, enhancing civil liberties, and reinforcing democratic checks and balances are gradually reshaping the country's political framework. These reforms reflect the country's resolve to build a more inclusive society where every citizen can contribute to Egypt's future.

Beyond politics, social welfare reforms introduced in 2024 aim to lift the burden off vulnerable populations. Programs focusing on food security, employment, and housing support millions of Egyptians, while targeted poverty alleviation strategies are helping reduce the country's economic disparities.

With a growing middle class and an increasingly engaged workforce, Egypt's economy is gradually becoming more resilient, inclusive, and diversified.

As Egypt looks toward the future, the progress made in 2024 will serve as the foundation for the country's continued growth and development in 2025. Undoubtedly, the challenges Egypt faces are formidable, but the resilience, ambition, and vision demonstrated in 2024 offer hope for a prosperous future. The next few years will be critical as Egypt consolidates its reforms, strengthens its democratic institutions, and builds a more inclusive and diversified economy.





► Egypt's Key Political Achievements in 2024

2024 has been a crucial year for Egypt. It was marked by significant political events reshaping the nation's political landscape and its path toward stability, democracy, and economic progress. Below are some of Egypt's key political achievements during this year.

1 – The 2024 Presidential Elections

Egypt's most important political event in 2024 was the presidential elections, which impressed the world with their organization, integrity, and the number of voters who cast their votes. This number approached forty-five million voters at home and abroad, out of 67.3 million eligible voters, representing 66.8% of the total eligible voters, a percentage that no election has ever reached before and a record percentage by the standards of democratic countries. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had 89.6% of them.

These percentages have several implications, the first of which is the people's conviction in President El-Sisi as the leader and commander of the State at this critical stage in history. The second is the

unlimited popular support to complete the construction of the new republic, which he laid ten years ago and made great strides in building its pillars on solid and purposeful foundations in all fields. Despite all the challenges and crises facing the Egyptian State, the result was a major and comprehensive renaissance. The third is the people's support and authorization for the President to take all necessary measures to protect Egyptian national security from the dangers surrounding the State's borders, especially the eastern borders witnessing repetitive Israeli aggressions on the occupied Palestinian territories. The Presidential election showed that the people support his decisions and measures and authorize him to do what His Excellency deems necessary for the country's good.



2 – Egypt's Accession to BRICS

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during the BRICS summit in Johannesburg that Egypt—along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Iran, and Ethiopia—will join the bloc in 2024.

The BRICS group includes some of the world's largest economies. This group represents about 30% of the global economy and over 40% of the global population. By establishing this economic bloc, the founding countries sought to achieve several economic, political, and security goals that would encourage economic cooperation. Separately, the BRICS members sought to create a parallel global economic system capable of breaking the dominance of the US dollar by 2050.

Egypt's joining the BRICS group is an important step towards gradually disengaging from the US dollar. This disengagement will be reflected in the Egyptian pound in several aspects, the most important of which is the rise in its price against the dollar, especially in the event of an agreement to export through the system of barter deals or the system of trading in local currencies with the BRICS group.

BRICS efforts to create alternative payment systems and non-dollar financial systems,



move away from dependence on the US dollar, and increase trade using local currencies, as well as the possibility of creating a common currency in the long term, could benefit Egypt. Egypt seeks to increase its foreign exchange reserves in US dollars and euros. However, Cairo could diversify its foreign exchange portfolio using BRICS currencies instead. Egypt also hopes that joining BRICS will attract new investments, but analysts believe it may take some time to reap its benefits.

The decision of BRICS members to approve Egypt's accession at this time is a testament to the Egyptian economy's ability to overcome the current global repercussions. It is also an affirmation of Egypt's weight at the international and regional levels, which comes within the framework of enhancing cooperation with international development partners in light of the unprecedented development movement in Egypt. This move establishes a strong partnership with the New Development Bank, which possesses advanced financing capabilities and international expertise that can help Egypt meet its needs and maximize its efforts in developing infrastructure and achieving sustainable development.



3 – Strengthening Relations with China and Launching the Egyptian-Chinese Partnership Year

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of launching the comprehensive strategic partnership between Egypt and China, Presidents Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Xi Jinping announced the launch of the «Egypt-China Partnership Year.» This year will witness many diplomatic, economic, commercial, investment, cultural, and tourism events with the aim of advancing and developing bilateral relations in all fields.

The two presidents also appreciated the two countries' signing of the executive program for the comprehensive strategic partnership for the next five years (2024-2028) in January 2024. This partnership represents a roadmap for developing bilateral relations and raising them to a higher level based on the tangible achievements made over the past years.

Moreover, in response to an invitation from President Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi visited China from May 28 to 31, 2024. The visit included summit talks between the two presidents and meetings with senior Chinese leaders, where they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and open broader horizons for cooperation in various fields. The visit coincided with the tenth anniversary of upgrading relations between Egypt and China to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership.

The talks also included various regional and international issues of common interest, most notably the war in Gaza, and ways to restore stability in the region while achieving the aspirations of its people for peace, security, and development.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi also participated in the opening session of the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in the presence of the Chinese President and several Arab leaders. The President delivered Egypt's speech at the meeting, which focused on enhancing Arab-Chinese cooperation in light of international changes. It also reviewed the current regional situation, especially the war in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the implementation of humanitarian aid.

4 – Strengthening the Egyptian Diplomacy's Pillars in Europe

Egyptian diplomacy in Europe witnessed remarkable activity and strong dynamism in 2024. Egypt sought to strengthen its relations with European countries in various political, economic, cultural, regional, and international fields.

On March 17, 2024, Egypt hosted an Egyptian-European summit that witnessed elevating relations between Egypt and the European Union to the level of «Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership». The aim was to achieve a significant leap in cooperation and coordination between the two sides and to achieve common interests.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi received at Al-Ittihadiya Palace the President of the European Commission, the Prime Minister of Belgium, the current President of the European Union, and the heads of state and government of Cyprus, Italy, Greece, and Austria.

The President held bilateral meetings with the European leaders to discuss ways to enhance relations. A summit meeting was also held to enhance relations between Egypt and the European Union and its member states across various fields, mainly political relations, counter-terrorism, economic cooperation, energy, industry, technology, education, and immigration.

The summit also tackled regional developments, mainly the war in the Gaza Strip, means to restore security and stability in the region and avert the repercussions of the ongoing tensions on international peace.

In addition, Egypt obtained the status of reliable partner with the European Union in March 2024, which provides it with broader opportunities for cooperation with the EU countries in various fields.

5 – Egypt Leadership of AUDA-NEPAD

Egypt is keen to achieve development in African countries and interests, reflecting its shared vision for a strong and prosperous Africa in which the continent's countries integrate to achieve progress and growth as the basic pillar for enhancing security, stability, and peace. Through its current chairmanship of heads of state and government of the AUDA- NEPAD Steering Committee, Egypt seeks to push forward continental and regional infrastructure projects to advance development and economic growth efforts in all African countries to achieve the goals of African civilizational development.

Egyptian contracting companies also play an important role in supporting infrastructure projects and launching huge projects with advanced technological capabilities

in many African countries. These projects include the **Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant and Dam Project in Tanzania** and the expansion project of **Moheli Port** in the **Comoros Islands** and others. Such support emphasizes that Egypt has not and will not spare any effort to support its African brothers in achieving sustainable development and economic prosperity and promoting African interests and priorities in all international forums.

The most prominent Egyptian effort within AUDA- NEPAD's activities was President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's presiding via video conference the 41st session of the Steering Committee of Heads of State and Government of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA- NEPAD) on 13/2/2024, with the participation of the heads of African states and governments that are members of the committee.

6 – The Return of Egyptian-Turkish Relations After Years of Coldness

Relations have gradually begun to improve since 2020, with the exchange of visits between officials from the two countries. This has brought relations between Egypt and Turkey closer to entering a new phase of normalization. Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** visited Egypt in February 2024, which was considered his first visit to Egypt in 12 years. This visit opened a

new page in the path of resuming relations between the two sides.

In September 2024, President El-Sisi also made a similar visit to Turkey, which represented a new milestone in strengthening relations between the two countries and establishing a new phase of friendship and joint cooperation, whether bilaterally or regionally. The region is now witnessing great challenges that require consultation and coordination between the two countries.

The positive development in relations between Cairo and Ankara has many positive repercussions on the region's security, given the two countries' strategic dimension and their weight in the region. Meanwhile, fears are rising regarding the expansion of the circle of threats in light of the ongoing fighting on various fronts, whether in Gaza, Sudan, or the issues that were points of contention, most notably the Libyan crisis, the issue of demarcating maritime borders, and the energy issue in the Mediterranean.



7 – Enhancing the Human Rights Situation in Egypt

The third executive report of the National Human Rights Strategy tackled the progress made in implementing all axes of the Strategy during 2024, ensuring the advancement of the Egyptian human rights situation in all civil, political, economic, social, and cultural aspects. It also aimed to enhancing the rights of women, youth, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The report included all initiatives, programs, and procedures implemented in the four axes of the Strategy. It addressed national efforts to develop the relevant legislative and institutional structure,

consolidate the culture of human rights in society, and build the capacities of workers in all state apparatuses.

The report was submitted to the President of the Republic on December 11, 2024, where he directed to continue efforts to enhance Egyptian human rights. The State was keen to achieve this in a way that guaranteed Egyptian citizens a decent and stable life, ensured their rights, and consolidated the foundations of citizenship, the rule of law, and non-discrimination. The President also directed the continuation of efforts to raise public awareness of human rights in all state institutions, stressing the importance of continuing to develop the legislative and institutional structure that supports the success of this approach.



8 – Launching the Refugee Law

On December 17, 2024, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi ratified the Asylum Law in Egypt, which regulates the status of refugees, their rights and various obligations. It is the first legislation of its kind issued in the country. The law aims at regulating the status of refugees in Egypt following the increase in their numbers with the outbreak of conflicts in the region.

According to the Official Gazette, the law's provisions apply to refugees, asylum seekers, and everyone who acquired the status of a refugee before the law's provisions came into effect. The Prime Minister is scheduled to issue the executive regulations of the accompanying law within six months of its entry into force.

On November 19, 2024, the Egyptian House of Representatives approved the draft law submitted by the Government, which includes 39 articles, according to the international agreements ratified by Cairo. These agreements include the United Nations Convention related to the Status of Refugees, signed in Geneva on July 28, 1951.

The new legislation stipulates that a **Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs** has been established, with legal personality and accountability to the Prime Minister. This committee is responsible for refugee affairs, especially adjudicating asylum applications, providing support, services,

and care to them, and cooperating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

9 – Presidential Pardon for 54 Sinai Convicts

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi issued a presidential decree at the end of December 2024 granting a presidential pardon for fifty-four Sinai convicts. The President's decision comes in implementation of his constitutional powers and in response to the request of representatives, sheikhs, and elders of Rafah and Sheikh Zuwayyed in North Sinai Governorate, and in appreciation of the historical role of Sinai residents in efforts to combat terrorism and achieve development and stability, as well as within the framework of the President's interest in the humanitarian conditions of convicts in various cases.





Part 1:

Political Momentum: Egypt's Path to Stability and Progress





Chapter 1:

Democratic Victory in Egypt 2024: Voice of the People

In 2024, Egypt witnessed a historic and transformative presidential election that captured the attention of the nation and the world. This election marked a pivotal moment in the country's political history, with significant implications for Egypt's democratic process, political framework, and national unity. The following overview will explore the key political events surrounding the election, focusing on voter turnout, the integrity of the democratic process, and the broader impact of the elections on Egypt's political future.

1 – The 2024 Presidential Elections: A Landmark Moment in Egyptian Politics

The 2024 presidential elections stand as a watershed event in Egypt's political history. Having faced years of political turbulence following the 2011 revolution, Egypt's 2024 elections were essential to the country's democratic recovery and stability. The elections, marked by increased voter participation and an environment of political pluralism, symbolized Egypt's ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive political system.

Among the reasons that led to the state of momentum are the pluralism of the presidential elections and the ability of different political parties to participate effectively in the electoral scene. The elections included 3 candidates with different party backgrounds, and other parties supported the candidacy of President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**, who does not belong to a political party and decided to run in the elections in his independent capacity.

Candidate **Hazem Omar** received great support from the Republican People's Party, which enjoys a popular base that enabled it to win 50 seats in the House of Representatives, which means its ability to mobilize citizens to vote after it published an electoral program based on 3 economic, social, and political axes and was able to reach a large number of citizens.

Candidate **Abdel-Sanad Yamama** enjoyed the support of the popular base of the Wafd Party, which is considered the oldest political party in Egypt, and his electoral campaign worked to mobilize and vote in his favour.

Candidate **Farid Zahran**, who heads the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, was able to present himself as a representative of the opposition parties. Several opposition parties supported his campaign and electoral program.

So, the largest share of the crowd was the share of the parties supporting the political leadership, the most prominent of which were the **Nation's Future Party** and **the Homeland Defenders Party**. They continued to hold mass meetings throughout preparation for the electoral race.

The elections were characterized by a heightened sense of political engagement and determination among voters, many of whom saw this as an opportunity to assert their voices in shaping their nation's future. The process demonstrated Egypt's ability to hold competitive elections with greater transparency and credibility.

2 – Voter Turnout: A Strong Demonstration of Civic Engagement

One of the most significant aspects of the 2024 elections was the robust voter turnout. Citizens from all sectors of society showed up in record numbers. The high turnout was a testament to Egyptians' increased political awareness and desire to actively shape the nation's direction.

Voters' commitment, regardless of age, gender, or social background, demonstrated a profound investment in the democratic process. It highlighted the growing importance of participation in influencing policy and securing a government more reflective of the population's desires.

In a press conference, National Election Authority (NEA) Head **Hazem Badawy** said the 2024 presidential elections witnessed a turnout of 66.8 %, with 44.7 million citizens voting in the elections at home and abroad out of nearly 67 million eligible voters.

According to the NEA, **Hazem Omar**, head of the People's Republican Party, won 1.9 million votes or 4.5% of the total votes; **Farid Zahran**, chairman of the left-ist Egyptian Social Democratic Party, won 1.7 million votes (4%); and **Abdel-Sanad Yamama**, head of the Wafd Party, won 822.6 thousand votes (1.9%).

The NEA reported that 489,3 thousand spoilt votes were cast, representing 1.1% of the total. Across 9,376 polling stations nationwide, Egyptians voted in 11,631 sub-committees under the supervision of more than 15,000 judges, as confirmed by the NEA.

Voting in Egypt took place on December 10-12, 2023, and Egyptians abroad voted on December 1-3 at 137 Egyptian embassies and consulates in 121 countries.

Comparative Turnouts

The NEA's statistics revealed that this year's presidential elections witnessed the highest voter turnout compared to previous electoral events in Egypt.

In the 2019 referendum on amending the constitution, the participation rate stood at 44.3% of eligible voters.

President El-Sisi secured his second presidential term in 2018 with 21.83 million votes, which accounted for 97% of the total valid votes.

At that time, just under 24.25 million citizens cast their votes, representing a turnout of 41% out of nearly 59 million eligible voters.

During the 2014 presidential elections, President El-Sisi claimed victory with 23.78 million votes (96.9%), while the total turnout was 47.5%.

The turnout rate in the 2014 referendum on constitutional amendments was 38.6%.

In the 2012 presidential elections, the turnout was 46.4% in the first round and 51.8% in the second round.

For the referendum on the 2012 constitution, turnout was 32.9%.

The general referendum in 2011 recorded a turnout of 41.2%.

3 – Role of Electoral Transparency in 2024

Transparency was a central theme throughout the 2024 elections. International observers, civil society organizations, and local monitoring groups were invited to ensure the electoral process remained free from corruption and manipulation. The Egyptian government made concerted efforts to improve transparency, and elections were closely scrutinized by global and regional organizations.

This commitment to transparency not only enhanced the credibility of the election but also fostered confidence in the electoral system. It signaled to both the Egyptian populace and the international community that Egypt was committed to fostering democratic processes that were both fair and accountable.

The elections were observed by NGOs, regional and international missions from the African Union, Arab League, Arab Parliament, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

4 – National Dialogue: Political Parties and Independent Candidates in the Spotlight

The 2024 election process was marked by the active participation of political parties and independent candidates. The result was a more vibrant and diverse political debate.

The participation of independent candidates further enriched the political dialogue, allowing voters to hear different perspectives and make informed choices. This competition between candidates reflected the growing diversity of ideas and solutions for Egypt's challenges.

5. The Media's Role in the 2024 Election: Informing Voters

The media played an indispensable role in the 2024 elections by providing crucial information to voters. Newspapers, television programs, and online platforms were used to discuss key issues, present candidate platforms, and educate the electorate on the voting process. The media provided a vital channel for information and debate, enabling voters to make informed decisions at the polls.

The international media also followed up on the presidential elections, and a media consensus was formed that the elections were held in a climate of freedom and integrity. No electoral violations were observed,

whether by State agencies, supporters of candidates, or attempts to influence voting trends.

In a report issued in December 2023 during the course of the electoral process, the State Information Service announced that 528 correspondents representing 110 media outlets from 33 countries conducted extensive field follow-up. They visited hundreds of committees, and none faced obstacles in performing their duties freely. These correspondents did not observe any tangible electoral violations, which is an international testimony to the integrity and honesty of the electoral process. In addition, the international media referred to the political significance of this successful electoral process as it combines the requirements of democracy and stability.

The report issued by the Central Operations Room of the State Information Service indicated that the presidential elections (Egypt 2024), which were held internally for three days on December 10-12, 2023, received extensive and intensive coverage from international media outlets.

The following were noted in the international media coverage of the presidential elections during its three days within Egypt:

First: The electoral process received extensive coverage from international media outlets, major news agencies, news websites, and television and radio stations.

Second: In terms of geographical scope, media materials published in media outlets in the Americas, Europe, the Arab world, Asia, Africa, and various news websites were monitored.

Third: Regarding the diversity of media outlets, interest in this event extended to all types of global media outlets, from news agencies to television stations, websites, newspapers, and news websites.

Fourth: The media covered the event using a variety of journalistic and media forms, starting with news in regular news bulletins, television reports, press reports, and others.

Fifth: Thousands of reports and various media materials were monitored and published in media outlets in several countries, including the United States - Cuba - Canada - Russia - Italy - France - Britain - Spain - Germany - Switzerland - Saudi Arabia - United Arab Emirates - Kuwait - Bahrain - Qatar - Sultanate of Oman - Lebanon - Jordan - Morocco - Algeria - Tunisia - Libya - Syria - Sudan - Turkey - Iran - Israel - China - India - Pakistan - Malaysia - South Korea - Japan - Taiwan - Vietnam - Hong Kong - Australia - Nigeria - Ethiopia - Senegal, in addition to various news sites.

Sixth: It was also published in several international languages, including Arabic - English - Italian - Spanish - French - Russian - German - Turkish - Chinese

- Hindi - Persian - Hebrew - Korean - and Japanese. It was certainly published in more languages in less important media outlets.

Seventh: Regarding the general trend of media coverage, the publication was characterized by objectivity through the broadcast of comprehensive reports on the electoral process, the circumstances of its conduct, and its course from the morning until the closing of the polling stations at nine in the evening. Meanwhile, the negative aspects of the coverage were limited to indicating that the elections are being held in economic conditions that many Egyptians suffer from due to high inflation rates. Most of the reports that exaggerated this aspect were some European and American media.

The most prominent observations on international media coverage during the three election days were as follows:

- The electoral process proceeded in various parts of Egypt in an orderly manner, and large crowds were observed in front of polling stations from early morning during the three election days.

- All sub-polling stations opened their doors to voters without exception, totaling 11,631 stations within 9,376 polling stations.

- The extensive publication of reports on the start of voting in the elections with some information about the competition

and the competitors. The number of published materials doubled, especially in the American, European, Asian, and Arab media, and one media outlet published several successive reports over the three days of the elections, as did the American Alhurra channel, the Chinese Xinhua Agency, the Turkish Anadolu Agency, the Gulf Arab news agencies, and others.

- The continued flow of international media throughout the three days of the elections in the form of news and reports from various international media sources, including news agencies, newspapers, websites, and television channels, especially through reports and interviews prepared by international media correspondents who follow the elections from Egypt.

The objective and positive coverage of the electoral scene and the events of the three electoral days as a whole continued, and there were no negative comments on the regularity and integrity of the electoral process and the position of all State agencies. In addition, media professionals, correspondents, observers, and candidates enjoyed freedom of movement without referring to any single incident that marred the electoral process in which millions of people participated nationwide.

- Highlighting the full security of the committees and the regularity of the entry and exit process for voters from the polling stations.

- Pointing out that there is full awareness and understanding among the Egyptian citizens of the importance of this constitutional entitlement, especially with the regional and security challenges surrounding the country.

6. Conclusion: The Election as a Catalyst for Future Political Reforms

The 2024 presidential elections represented a crucial moment for Egypt's political stability. The successful execution of the election process demonstrated the country's commitment to democratic governance and set the stage for continued political development.

The 2024 elections set the stage for future political reforms in Egypt. The electoral process's success underscored the need for continued progress in political openness, judicial independence, and citizen participation.

As Egypt moves forward, the lessons learned from the elections will likely serve as a foundation for further strengthening the country's democratic institutions and political processes.





Chapter 2:

New Egypt: Legislative Changes for Bright Future

Egypt has undertaken significant and sustained efforts to modernize and enhance its legislative framework, institutions, policies, and practices. These initiatives align with constitutional obligations and reflect Egypt's dedication to fulfilling its commitments under international and regional human rights agreements. Egypt's political, economic, and social reforms are fundamentally driven by the need to implement the constitution and serve the interests of its citizens. Accordingly, this section will focus on the most significant legislative reforms undertaken by the Egyptian government in 2024 across various sectors.

The most important laws and draft laws proposed during 2024, according to the main sectors, are as follows:

1 – Health:

The Egyptian State places significant **importance** on the **health sector**, which was crystallized in the Egyptian Senate's approval of a draft **law on medical liability and patient protection** in December 2024. The law addresses several objectives, including affirming the fundamental rights of medical service recipients regardless of their nature and improving the organization of these rights. It also seeks to establish a unified framework governing medical practitioners' civil and criminal responsibilities across all fields.

In addition, the law proposes creating the **Supreme Committee for Medical Liability and Patient Protection** to oversee system management through defined mechanisms. It also introduces a mandatory insurance system for medical facilities and health-care providers. Establishing a government insurance fund to contribute to compensation for medical errors will facilitate this.

2 – Social Solidarity:

In April 2024, Egypt has made significant progress in promoting inclusivity and enhancing the quality of life for its elderly population by issuing **Law No. 19 of 2024, the Elderly Rights Care Law**. It aims at safeguarding and upholding the rights of elderly people, ensuring they fully enjoy their entitlements. The law seeks to raise public awareness about the rights of the elderly, provide them with accessible services, and empower them to participate in public affairs. Additionally, it mandates the establishment of dedicated service windows at governmental and non-governmental institutions, allowing the elderly to access services easily.

Also, in December 2024, the House of Representatives (the lower house of Parliament) approved, in principle, the government-drafted **Social Solidarity Bill**. The proposed law seeks to unify various financial support programs, regulate government grants, and empower the most vulnerable groups to ensure a decent standard of living for all. It defines the eligibility criteria for conditional cash support under the «Takaful» program and unconditional support under the «Karama» program while expanding social security coverage. Additionally, the bill prioritizes the rights of senior citizens, orphans, and other priority groups, providing them maximum protection and support.

3 – Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:

The Egyptian State has taken many important steps to promote human rights during 2024, the most important of which are:

a. The New Criminal Procedures law:

In December 2024, the Parliament agreed in principle on the draft of the **new Criminal Procedures Law**. It stipulates that homes are inviolable and must not be entered, searched, monitored, or eavesdropped on except by a reasoned judicial order specifying the place, time, and purpose thereof. It also adds restrictions on the powers of judicial control officers in cases of arrest

and search of citizens and entering and searching homes.

b. Legislative Reforms in the Field of Asylum and Migration:

The House of Representatives approved a draft **law on the asylum of foreigners** in November 2024. It aims at providing a comprehensive legal framework for refugees while ensuring a delicate balance between refugee rights and national obligations. It stipulates that a permanent committee for refugee affairs would be established with legal personality.

This law was issued in accordance with international standards. It ensures clear rights for migrants and asylum seekers and prevents their forced deportation or refoulement to countries where they might face danger. The law also guarantees their rights to education, property ownership, healthcare, religious practices, etc.

c. A Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each UN member state to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4.5 years. In this regard, Egypt submitted its national report for the fourth round of the UPR in October 2024. This report highlighted the country's key developments in civil and

political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights, focusing on the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly.

4 – Trade and Investment:

Trade and investment are a top priority for the Egyptian government. To increase investments and enhance confidence between the tax administration and taxpayers; In November 2024 the House of Representatives approved the draft law submitted by the government to **renew Law No. 79 of 2016 regarding the settlement of tax disputes**. In addition, the Senate discussed the draft law submitted by the government to amend certain provisions of **Law No. 121 of 1982 regarding the importers Register** to improve the investment climate.

In December 2024, to promote maritime investment, the House of Representatives approved a draft law amending certain provisions of the **Maritime Trade Law promulgated by Law No. 8 of 1990** and submitted by the government. In addition, the House of Representatives approved the draft law submitted by the government to amend certain provisions of **Law No. 232 of 1989 concerning ships safety**.

Also, to enhance the national maritime transport fleet, support foreign trade activities, and increase the country's export capabilities, the House of Representatives approved the draft law submitted by the government to amend certain provisions of **Law No. 156 of 1980 regarding marine inspection fees**. Additionally, the House of Representatives approved the draft law submitted by the government **to** amend certain provisions of **Law No. 84 of 1949 on the registration of merchant ships**.

5 – Education:

Education is considered a solid base for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, the Egyptian government was keen in 2024 to issue legislation that enhances the quality of education. In December 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi ratified **Law No. 163 of 2024**, which established the **National Council for Education, Research, and Innovation**. Its primary mission is to develop comprehensive education policies across all sectors and stages, monitor implementation, and align education outputs with the local and international job market. This move is part of efforts to unify education policies in Egypt.

6 – Employment and Labor Market:

In November 2024, the Cabinet approved the final draft of the **new Labor Law**, and the Senate reviewed its final draft. The Labor Law draft represents a vital piece of legislation that balances the interests of the three parties involved in labor relations: the government, employers, and workers.

7 – Financial and Monetary Sector:

In November 2024, the Cabinet approved the activation of the **Unified Public Finance Law** to set an annual ceiling for general government debt, including the 59 economic entities, by establishing dedicated units in the Ministry of Finance and dedicated accounting units in all economic entities.

Conclusion:

2024 was a transformative year for Egypt's legislative landscape, with comprehensive reforms spanning health, social solidarity, human rights, trade, education, and labor sectors. These efforts reflect the nation's commitment to fostering economic growth, enhancing social equity, and aligning with international standards. By addressing critical issues and adopting forward-thinking policies, Egypt continues to lay the groundwork for sustainable development, a more inclusive society, and a dynamic investment climate. These reforms underscore the country's dedication to serving its citizens while positioning itself as a legislative innovation and governance leader.





Chapter 3:

The New Government Program
(2024/ 2025– 2026/ 2027): A National
Vision for a Sustainable Future

The program of the newly formed Government of Egypt for the period (2024/2025–2026/2027) prioritizes comprehensive strategies designed to maximize the nation's economic potential and fortify its resilience in the face of evolving global challenges. Focused on institutional reforms, the Government aims to ensure sound governance, optimize public spending, and boost revenue generation. A key aspect of the Government's agenda is investing in human capital by enhancing the quality of education, advancing public health, and strengthening social protection programs to support vulnerable groups.

The program, encapsulated by the slogan **"Together, We Build a Better Future"**, underscores a collective effort to achieve sustainable development for all Egyptians. In response to global and regional crises, the Government has initiated transformative reforms to curb inflation, reduce public debt, and diversify the production structure. By fostering a dynamic private sector and creating an attractive environment for foreign direct investment, the Government seeks to create a foundation for inclusive growth and prosperity.

This article highlights the critical structural changes within the New Government and presents an overview of its strategic program for (2024/ 2025- 2026/ 2027).

1 – Strategic Structural Reforms for Enhanced Government Performance

The newly formed Government has undergone structural changes to improve performance and ensure the efficient attainment of its objectives. These changes are designed to streamline operations and enhance the Government's ability to respond to national priorities.

The Government, now comprising 31 ministries, has restructured several key ministries for better integration and operational efficiency. **Among the most notable adjustments are:**

- ▶ Merging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs
- ▶ Merging the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development with the Ministry of International Cooperation
- ▶ Establishing a new ministry that combines investment and foreign trade portfolios

These structural adjustments reflect a strategic approach to streamline governmental operations and align ministerial functions with Egypt's national priorities. By consolidating ministries, the Government aims to improve coordination, reduce redundancies, and better position itself to address pressing economic and developmental challenges.

2 – A Comprehensive Vision: The New Government Program (2024/ 2025– 2026/ 2027)

The new Government's program is built on four primary strategic objectives designed to achieve comprehensive development and strengthen the nation's resilience:

- **Protecting National Security and Promoting Egypt's Foreign Policy:** It comprises one strategic goal, supported by nine main programs and 55 sub-programs.
- **Enhancing the Welfare of the Egyptian Citizen:** It is focused on seven strategic goals aimed at investing in human capital.
- **Creating a Competitive Economy Attractive to Investments:** It encompasses four strategic goals aimed at improving the economic environment and supporting the private sector.
- **Achieving Political Stability and National Cohesion:** It consists of one strategic goal implemented through two main programs and eight sub-programs.

The program is grounded in a set of core principles aimed at ensuring sustainable

development. These principles include **Citizenship and the Rule of Law**. This principle guarantees justice, equality, and equal opportunities for all citizens. It emphasizes upholding the rule of law and ensuring legislative stability to safeguard societal rights and create a promising future rooted in justice and equality.

Additionally, the **Security and Stability** principle is a cornerstone of the program, which emphasizes preserving internal security, safeguarding the State and its infrastructure, and ensuring national security. It also highlights the importance of fostering balanced international relations while addressing critical issues such as food, water, cybersecurity, and energy security to maintain peace, stability, and development.

The program also prioritizes **Democracy and Inclusivity** to promote democratic values and transparency. It seeks to reinforce political and societal engagement to address challenges and obstacles collectively. This approach involves active participation from all stakeholders to ensure the country's governance system remains inclusive and responsive to citizens' needs.

Another crucial principle is the **Provision of Basic Services**, ensuring the delivery of essential services tailored to citizens' needs. This endeavor involves supporting social safety nets for vulnerable groups, empowering women, and integrating individuals with special needs into society. The Government is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all Egyptians through comprehensive public services.

Regarding **Development and Sustainability**, the program focuses on fostering a competitive, diversified, and sustainable economy. It aims for sustainable growth that aligns with structural reforms, environmental standards, and spatial development while prioritizing employment generation and long-term economic prosperity.

Integration with the Private Sector and Ensuring Competitive Neutrality is another important principle. The program seeks to guarantee equality in investment opportunities, foster a competitive economic climate, and ensure market neutrality while preventing monopolistic practices. Collaboration with the private sector is essential to driving growth and development.

The principle of **Efficiency and Effectiveness** is vital for ensuring strong State governance. The program includes comprehensive institutional reforms and the modernization of administrative

structures. Adhering to governance principles and providing integrated digital Government services are key components in enhancing State effectiveness.

Lastly, the **Resilience and Adaptability** principle emphasizes proactive crisis management to strengthen Egypt's economy in response to global and external shocks. It ensures that the Government is prepared to adapt and respond swiftly to crises, thereby fortifying the country's long-term stability.

3 - Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Ensuring Progress Toward Achieving Government Goals

The Government's program goes beyond setting and executing goals. It incorporates precise mechanisms for continuous evaluation and regular review to ensure that targets and objectives are achieved in practice.

A key aspect of this process is **monitoring ministerial performance**, where each minister must meet clearly defined targets within the framework of the Government program. The Cabinet plays a crucial role in overseeing ministerial performance through well-established mechanisms that ensure regular monitoring and accountability.

Additionally, the Government ensures **that periodic reports** are submitted to the Parliament and the Office of the President every three or six months. These reports provide an update on progress, detailing accomplishments and outlining the steps taken toward achieving the program's strategic goals.

Monthly execution monitoring is conducted to complement these efforts. The Government relies on continuous monthly reviews to track progress and ensure that actions are implemented effectively. This approach aims to achieve tangible results that citizens can experience firsthand, particularly in areas directly impacting their daily lives.

The Government has emphasized the necessity for swift and efficient action, recognizing that time is of the essence. With a clear focus on meeting citizens' aspirations, the Government strives to deliver achievements that make a noticeable difference in the lives of the Egyptian people.



Conclusion

Egypt's New Government (2024/ 2025-2026/ 2027) marks a pivotal moment in the nation's path toward achieving sustainable development and economic resilience. With significant reforms in governance, public spending, and human capital investment, the Government is addressing both immediate and long-term challenges. Key initiatives such as restructuring ministries, promoting economic diversification, and prioritizing social protection programs provide a solid foundation for inclusive and comprehensive development.

Underpinned by principles of justice, equality, and security, the Government's approach is designed to build a competitive, resilient, and sustainable economy for all Egyptians. By focusing on national security, welfare, economic competitiveness, and political stability, Egypt is positioning itself to navigate global and regional challenges effectively, paving the way for sustainable growth.

Ongoing evaluation mechanisms, including performance monitoring and regular reporting, ensure that the Government remains accountable and responsive to its citizens. As the Government adapts to emerging crises and accelerates its efforts to achieve national goals, Egypt's vision of «Together, We Build a Better Future» promises to lay the groundwork for long-term stability and prosperity for all.



Chapter 4:

National Security First: Protecting Egypt's Stability

Egypt's national security is a fundamental pillar for the nation's stability, growth, and sovereignty. It encompasses the protection of the country's borders, resources, and social unity from internal and external threats. As a crucial player in the Middle East and Africa, Egypt's stability directly impacts regional and global peace.

The Egyptian State is fully committed to continuously enhancing its security measures. This commitment aims to protect the country's territorial integrity from external threats and plays a significant role in fighting terrorism and safeguarding the country's infrastructure. Egypt shall remain resilient against evolving challenges by adopting a comprehensive security strategy.

Based on the abovementioned, this article highlights the most significant efforts the Egyptian military undertook in 2024 to bolster and enhance its capabilities. These efforts have primarily focused on intensive training programs and international collaborations with various countries. For instance, the Egyptian military has engaged in a series of rigorous training exercises to improve operational readiness and tactical proficiency.



1 – Egyptian – American Military Cooperation

The Egyptian-American joint naval exercise, Eagle Defender, was conducted in September 2024. This exercise took place over several days in the Southern Fleet area of the Red Sea, involving personnel from both the Egyptian and American naval forces.

The training activities included a variety of theoretical and practical lectures aimed at achieving cohesion and standardizing operational concepts among the naval forces of both countries. Participants organized an exhibition showcasing the weapons and equipment utilized during the exercise. Additionally, surface artillery live-fire drills were conducted to effectively repel and neutralize enemy targets, as well as to defend against unconventional threats.

The exercise further encompassed securing a vessel carrying valuable cargo and conducting fire-fighting operations aboard naval units. Various sailing formations were implemented, demonstrating the high level of coordination and teamwork among the participating personnel. This joint effort not only enhances operational readiness but also solidifies the strategic partnership between Egypt and the United States in promoting regional security.

Moreover, the Egyptian and American Air Forces conducted a joint air training in November 2024, over several days at an Egyptian air base. The training involved multi-role combat aircraft of different types from both sides. A series of lectures was conducted aimed at standardizing combat concepts and exchanging training experiences. Additionally, several sorties were carried out to practice attacking enemy targets and defending vital assets, as well as training on aerial refueling. Those trainings were part of the military cooperation between the Egyptian and American Armed Forces.



2 – Egyptian – French Military Cooperation

In December 2024, the Egyptian and French Naval Forces conducted the joint naval exercise «Cleopatra – 2024», which spanned several days in the Northern Fleet area of the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise

featured a series of lectures designed to harmonize the concepts of joint operations among all participating forces. Training activities included training on the right of visit and inspection for non-compliant vessels, air defense tactics against hostile aerial targets, and refueling at sea exercises. Additionally, live-fire surface gunnery drills were conducted to intercept and neutralize enemy targets alongside various sailing formations that showcased the cohesion between the participating units.

In August 2024, the Egyptian and French forces carried out a joint air training exercise named «Amoun-24», which involved deploying a range of fighter aircraft from both countries. The initial phase of this exercise concentrated on theoretical and practical sessions aimed at standardizing combat strategies and tactics between the two forces.

Air combat operations were conducted, facilitating the exchange of expertise and refining the operational skills of the participating units to enhance their readiness and effectiveness. These exercises reflect the friendly relationship between the Egyptian and French Armed Forces, with the goal of maximizing bilateral capabilities and sharing expertise.



3 – Egyptian–British Military Cooperation

In May 2024, the Egyptian and British Military Police engaged in a series of joint training activities focused on military police and criminal security. This training was conducted over several days at the Military Police Department in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The training phases included both theoretical lectures and practical exercises aimed at facilitating the transfer and exchange of specialized expertise. Participants were trained to effectively manage various scenarios tailored to their specific responsibilities.

In addition, The Egyptian and British naval forces conducted the joint maritime exercise «Alexandria Defender» over several days at the Alexandria Naval Base in May 2024. The training encompassed a range of maritime operations, including practicing the right of visit and inspection for suspected vessels, countering unconventional

threats, live-fire drills, and first aid training. This collaborative effort is part of ongoing efforts by the Egyptian army to enhance cooperation and share knowledge with the armed forces of friendly nations.



4 – Egyptian– Serbian Military Cooperation

In September 2024, the Egyptian and Serbian Special Forces conducted a joint exercise at the combat training fields of the Egyptian Special Forces, lasting several days in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The exercise featured a variety of training activities, including an operation to storm a terrorist stronghold located within a residential area using helicopters, resulting in the successful rescue of hostages and the apprehension of terrorists. Additionally, both standard and unconventional firing exercises were conducted, demonstrating the precision and skill of the participating units and their ability to efficiently execute all assigned joint tasks in accordance with their operational roles.



5 - Egyptian – Saudi Military Cooperation

In November, the Egyptian-Saudi joint military exercise «Al-Sahm El-thaqib 2024» took place within the Southern Military Region and the operational area of the Southern Fleet in the Red Sea, attended by observers from several brotherly and friendly nations.

The final phase of the exercise featured a joint parachute jump by Egyptian and Saudi forces as a symbol of their camaraderie. Ground forces and special forces, supported by air force elements, conducted an operation to storm and seize a terrorist stronghold. The exercise also included standard and unconventional shooting drills, showcasing precision and skill targeting from stationary and mobile positions.

Additionally, naval forces coordinated with the air force to storm the coastal islands. Paratroopers conducted an airborne jump to secure the beachhead while naval special forces carried out a raid along the island's coastline. The activities also encompassed training on visit and search operations, anti-submarine search procedures, and artillery firing at surface targets, highlighting exceptional accuracy in neutralizing potential threats.



6 - Egyptian–Pakistani Military Cooperation

In March 2024, the joint Egyptian-Pakistani exercise «Raad-1» was conducted. It involved elements from the Egyptian Paratrooper, Commandos Forces, and Pakistani Special Forces and took place over several days at the combat training fields of the Paratroopers Forces in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The final phase included a live demonstration of storming and clearing a border village of armed terrorist elements. This was achieved through free-fall jumps and on-land navigation of special forces from both sides, showcasing their exceptional field skills, high combat capabilities, and abilities to execute unconventional missions under various conditions.



7 – Egyptian – Indian Military Cooperation

In February 2024, the joint Egyptian-Indian exercise «Cyclone-2» was conducted, involving the Egyptian Special Forces “Rangers and Airborne Corps” alongside Indian Special Forces. The training took place over several days at the combat training fields of the Rangers Forces in Egypt.

The final phase of the exercise featured a helicopter-assisted mission to raid a terrorist stronghold within a residential area. This operation included the successful

rescue of hostages and the apprehension of terrorist elements. Additionally, non-standard shootings were conducted, enhancing the operational readiness and coordination between the participating forces.

8 – Military Cooperation with Various Countries

In October, various countries participated in the «Medusa-13» exercise, which was held in Greece and lasted several days in the Mediterranean theater of operations. This exercise involved the Air Forces, Navy, Air Defense, and special forces units from Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, France, and Saudi Arabia, while Italy, Bahrain, Rwanda, Bulgaria, and Morocco attended as observers.

The training included joint naval and air combat operations planning against diverse threats. Additionally, the exercise featured unconventional combat maneuvers and live-fire drills to enhance the operational capabilities of the participating forces.

On the sidelines of «Medusa-13,» special forces from the participating countries conducted joint exercises named “MENA-3” and “Hercules-3.” These exercises aimed to facilitate the exchange of expertise and unify operational concepts among the forces.

Moreover, in May 2024, the joint naval exercise «Red Wave-7» took place in the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Naval Forces from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen, and Djibouti participated. The exercise lasted several days.

The training involved a series of lectures aimed at standardizing joint operational concepts among participating units. It also included practical exercises that focused on countering Zodiac boat attacks, practicing the right of visit and inspection, and executing various sailing formations, highlighting the high level of coordination among the forces.

The final phase of the exercise showcased a live demonstration of storming a coastal island, supported by preparatory aerial bombardment from Air Force personnel. This phase included providing air

support for reconnaissance missions along the island's coast and securing the area in preparation for a successful advance by ground forces.

In conclusion, these joint exercises serve as a vital platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise among participating nations, allowing for the development of standardized operational procedures. Moreover, these collaborative efforts contribute to building stronger defense relationships with brotherly and friendly countries, fostering mutual trust and understanding.

As the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve, the Egyptian military's proactive approach to engaging with regional partners ensures that it remains well-equipped to address emerging security dynamics and safeguard national and regional stability.





Chapter 5:

Egypt on the Global Stage: Strengthening Diplomatic Ties

Diplomacy has played a pivotal role in making and implementing Egypt's foreign policy, whether in its general orientations or drawing its lines across continents and international groups. Diplomatic activities took various forms, most notable being summit diplomacy led by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. Additionally, efforts were made to resolve disputes through diplomatic channels, alongside initiatives in economic diplomacy and the expansion of strategic partnerships.

Similarly, diplomacy is closely tied to soft power, a key foreign policy tool. According to Brand Finance, a leading independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy, Egypt ranked 39th out of 193 United Nations member states, achieving a soft power score of 44.9 in 2024.

This chapter examines Egypt's foreign policy achievements 2024, emphasizing its strengthened relations with global powers, active engagement in international organizations and diplomacy, and its leadership role in the Arab world and Africa.

1 – Presidential Diplomacy/ Summit Diplomacy:

Presidential diplomacy runs parallel to summit-level diplomatic activities, often reflected in the number of official visits made by the President, who plays a key role in shaping the country's foreign policy.

Recently, there has been a notable increase in presidential diplomatic engagements in regional and international forums and numerous visits to various countries.

► BRICS Summit in Russia:

In October 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi participated in the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. The summit marked Egypt's first participation as a member of the BRICS bloc following its accession in 2024.

► G20 Summit in Brazil:

In November 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi Participated in the (G20) Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During the summit, «Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty» was launched, aiming at promoting social inclusion and eliminating poverty and hunger. It seeks to mobilize financial and knowledge resources to accelerate global efforts to address these critical issues, which remain top priorities among sustainable development goals.

► The Arab Summit in Bahrain:

In May 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi participated in the 33rd session of the Arab League Council at the summit level in Manama, Bahrain. The summit addressed the situations in several Arab countries and how to restore regional stability amidst major crises.

► **The Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh:**

In November 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi participated in the Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh. The summit focused on efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza, West Bank and Lebanon. It issued a joint statement supporting a unified Arab-Islamic position to confront the ongoing repercussions of the Israeli escalation in the region.

► **European Tour (Denmark, Norway and Ireland):**

In December 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi conducted a European tour that included Denmark, Norway, and Ireland. The tour aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination between Egypt and the European countries.

► **President's visit to the People's Republic of China:**

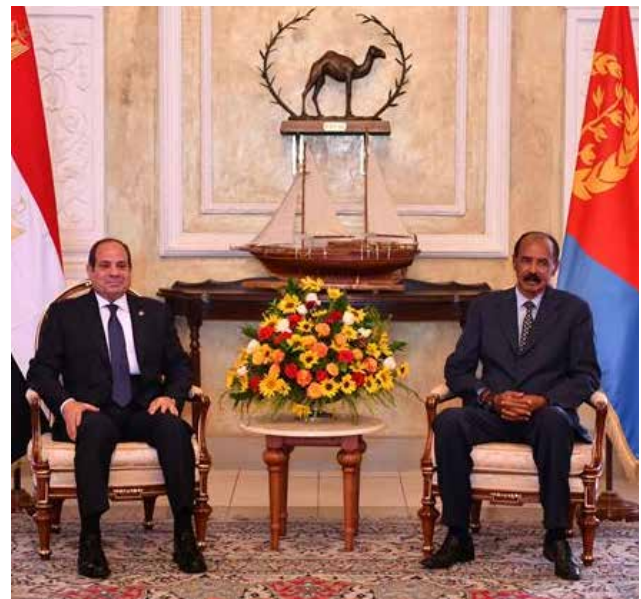
In May 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi visited China, in response to an invitation from President Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. The visit included discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and opening broader horizons for cooperation in various fields.

► **President's visit to the Republic of Turkey:**

In September 2024, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi visited Ankara, Turkey, in response to an invitation from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. This historic visit marked a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations, building upon President Erdoğan's landmark visit to Egypt in February 2024. It paved the way for a new phase of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

► **President's visit to Eritrea:**

In October 2024, Mr. President visited the Eritrean capital, Asmara, in response to an invitation from Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki. The visit discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields, in addition to regional conditions and efforts to consolidate stability and security in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.



2 – Diplomatic efforts to settle disputes:

► War on Gaza:

Since the outbreak of the war in Gaza, Egypt has played a major role in restoring stability to the region. It has been actively engaged in diplomatic initiatives to end the conflict, facilitating successive negotiations, many of which took place in Cairo. As diplomatic efforts intensified across various levels, Egypt worked to mobilize international support for the Palestinian cause, leading several countries to officially recognize the State of Palestine. These efforts ultimately resulted in Gaza Ceasefire, prisoners swap deal on January 15, 2025.

The ceasefire agreement was achieved after over a year of intensive efforts through Egyptian, Qatari, and American mediation to stop the war in Gaza and release Israeli hostages in the Strip and Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. In addition, Egypt exerted diplomatic pressure on Israel in 2024, such as supporting South Africa's genocide case against Israel at ICJ.

In December 2024, Egypt hosted **the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance Humanitarian Response in Gaza**, which was attended by 103 delegations representing countries, international organizations, and financial institutions. Furthermore,

Egypt played a crucial role in evacuating nationals of many countries from the Gaza Strip and facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi played a key role in overseeing the negotiations with the relevant authorities. The President actively engaged at various international levels to support peace initiatives. Notably, he presided over the **Cairo Summit for Peace** on October 21, 2023, just two weeks after the war began, with representatives from 34 countries in attendance.

President El-Sisi emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza to confront the current catastrophic situation. He stressed that aid must reach those in need without obstacles until a sustainable peace is achieved through the two-state solution. He also underscored the importance of ensuring long-term stability, security, and development in the region, highlighting that the world is vast enough for everyone.

President Sisi also stressed that Egypt will always remain faithful to its pledge, support peace and loyal partners, and defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

► **Sudan's Civil War:**

In July 2024, Egypt hosted a conference under the slogan: **“Together to Stop the War”**, in order to bridge the gaps between various Sudanese civilian and political groups, and resolve the ongoing crisis. The conference brought together a delegation of Sudanese political and civil forces, as well as representatives of regional and international parties. Moreover, it was attended by representatives from the African Union, the Arab League, and the United Nations.

In April 2024, Egypt presented humanitarian proposals and initiatives to deal with the Sudanese crisis during its participation in **the Paris International Conference on Supporting Sudan and Neighboring Countries**, with the view to mitigate the war's impacts on the Sudanese people.

► **Strengthening Ties with the Gulf States**

Egypt has long-standing historical, political, and economic ties with the Gulf States, but it has made significant efforts to strengthen these relationships even further in recent years. Egypt's strategic importance in the region and geopolitical position make it a key player in the Middle East. Strengthening ties with Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the Sultanate of Oman is vital for Egypt's political, economic, and security interests.

During 2024, there were many meetings and mutual visits between leaders in Egypt and the Gulf States. The joint ministerial meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Egypt was held on March 3, 2024, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Riyadh. The meeting confirms the distinction of Gulf-Egyptian relations and supports their distinguished strategic relations. It also aimed at enhancing work, continuing consultation and coordination on regional and international issues of common interest, and strengthening strategic relations to support and enhance security and stability in the region.

► **Egypt Leadership of (AUDA-NEPAD)**

Egypt is committed to promoting development across African countries and achieving African interests, reflecting its shared vision for a strong and prosperous continent. It emphasizes the integration of African nations as a fundamental pillar for fostering security, stability, and peace. As the chair of the Steering Committee Session of Heads of State and Government of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), Egypt is actively working to accelerate continental and regional infrastructure projects to drive economic growth and achieve Africa's broader developmental goals.

Egyptian contracting companies are important in supporting infrastructure projects and launching large-scale developments with advanced technological capabilities across several African countries. Notable projects include the **Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant and Dam** project in Tanzania and the expansion project of **Moheli Port** in the **Comoros Islands** and others. Egypt remains fully committed to supporting its African partners in achieving sustainable development and economic prosperity and advancing African interests and priorities in international forums.

The most prominent Egyptian effort within the activities of (AUDA-NEPAD) was the Charing of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the summit of the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government on 13/2/2024 via video conference during the 41st session of the Steering Committee of the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD), with the participation of the heads of African states and governments that are members of the committee.

3 – Economic Diplomacy:

Egypt's economic diplomacy efforts have played a key role in securing soft development financing and providing technical support to the public and private sectors. These efforts have facilitated the

implementation of projects in critical areas such as renewable energy, water, agriculture, and food security. Additionally, they have supported other priority sectors essential to the country's development agenda.

Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) is one of Egypt's soft power tools in foreign policy. It focuses on strengthening and expanding **South-South cooperation**, serving as a platform for communication, knowledge sharing, and the transfer of expertise. (EAPD) is particularly aimed at supporting friendly nations, with a special emphasis on African countries.

In May 2024, **(EAPD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation**, to establish cooperation to provide development support to African countries through capacity building and training programs and transferring expertise in many fields.

In January 2024, **(EAPD) have signed with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) a Memorandum of Understanding** aimed at strengthening efforts in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) to boost the transformation of agrifood systems, improve food security, and support the global efforts towards the 2030 Sustainable Agenda.

In October 2024, the Egyptian Cabinet approved an action plan to establish a funding mechanism for studies and implementing developmental and infrastructure projects in Nile Basin countries. This initiative aims to foster economic and developmental integration with these nations and enhance multilateral partnerships to support regional growth and cooperation.

In this context, Egypt continues its efforts related to development aid in various countries. A recent example is Egypt's contribution to funding the “MBANKANA 1 Dam” on one of the Congo River tributaries as part of its dedication to supporting the DRC's developmental needs.





4 – Expanding strategic partnerships:

As for strategic partnerships, the year 2024 has witnessed fruitful cooperation between Egypt and many countries and blocs.

► **BRICS:**

Egypt officially joined BRICS, a development welcomed by Russia, the group's current chair. Additionally, trade between Egypt and BRICS countries saw a significant rise, reaching USD 30.2 billion in the first eight months of 2024, marking a 15% increase from USD 26.2 billion during the same period in 2023, according to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

► **Brazil:**

In November 2024, Egypt and Brazil signed a statement announcing the formalization of a strategic partnership between them. This partnership aims at deepening bilateral relations and fostering mutual understanding. The framework focuses on collaboration to address socio-economic challenges, promote sustainable development, and support global peace.

► **South Africa:**

During the first round of political consultations between Egypt and South Africa, the two Countries signed a joint statement in November 2024, stressing the need to upgrade the relations to the level of strategic partnership. The statement

also reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing consultations on enhancing the Joint Cooperation Committee. As part of this effort, they agreed to raise the level of the committee's meetings, starting with its eleventh session, scheduled to be held in Cairo in 2026.

► **European Union:**

Egypt and the EU signed an inclusive document on the comprehensive and strategic partnership during the first quarter of 2024. The Strategic Partnership Document identified specific areas of cooperation, namely: political relations, macroeconomic stability, sustainable investment and trade, including energy, water, food security and climate change, migration, security, and human capital development. Implementing these areas unleashes the full potential of the Egypt-EU relationship, based on the values of equity, mutual respect, and trust.

The **Egypt-European Union Investment Conference**, themed «**Unleashing Egyptian Potential in a Rapidly Changing World**,» was held in Cairo in June 2024. During the conference, Egypt signed 29 agreements and memorandums of understanding worth EUR 49 billion with EU-affiliated companies. Six agreements and memorandums of understanding worth EUR 18.7 billion were signed with consortiums and companies, including European (non-EU) or non-European entities.

► **Denmark:**

In December 2024, Egypt and Denmark signed a declaration to elevate their relations to strategic partnership. Additionally, the declaration of the launch of the Egyptian-Danish Business Council. The joint declaration aims at advancing cooperation between Egypt and Denmark in a wide range of sectors, such as maritime transport, energy and green transition, health and scientific research, and investment.

Conclusion

In 2024, Egyptian diplomacy achieved significant successes across multiple arenas, including strengthening regional ties, peacebuilding, and economic cooperation. Egypt's active role in fostering regional stability and its strategic international relationships reinforced its central position in the Middle East and Africa. These diplomatic achievements showcased Egypt's efforts to balance national interests with broader regional and global commitments, solidifying its reputation as a key player in international diplomacy.



Part 2:

Social Renaissance: Building a Better Egypt for All





Chapter 6:

Driving Egypt's Human Development: The Transformative Impact of the Bedaya Initiative

Human development serves as a cornerstone of achieving sustainable development in Egypt by enhancing individuals' capabilities and developing their skills in alignment with contemporary demands. It fosters progress in education, healthcare, and vocational training. This investment in people drives productivity and contributes to national economic growth.

Moreover, human development contributes to reducing unemployment and poverty rates. It also fosters social participation by empowering youth and women, strengthening social cohesion and stability. Given Egypt's substantial human resources, promoting human development represents a vital pathway to achieving economic growth and elevating the nation's regional and global standing.

The Egyptian government's commitment to human development has been solidified by establishing a dedicated task force to enhance and improve this critical file for the sake of the Egyptian citizens. Chaired by Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Deputy Prime Minister for Human Development and Minister of Health and Population, under Prime Ministerial Decision No. 3499 of 2024. The task force comprises ministers representing the sectors of Finance, Justice, Social Solidarity, Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, and Political Communication alongside representatives from relevant authorities.

Furthermore, these efforts have been reinforced by the state's allocation of approximately 118.3 billion Egyptian pounds toward human and social development for the fiscal year 2024/2025. Additionally, 27 human development centers are anticipated to be established nationwide, offering various services and activities across various domains, including health, education, sports, social protection, agriculture, environmental sustainability, technology laboratories, and support for individuals with disabilities.

Accordingly, the state's commitment to elevate and improve the quality of the Egyptian population's life has been widely crystalized by launching the initiative entitled "Bedaya" (A New Beginning for Building Human). The initiative aims at achieving numerous objectives directly impact citizens' lives over 100 days since its launch by Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly on September 17, 2024.



“Bedaya” (A New Beginning) initiative is built upon strategic pillars emphasizing transformative development across multiple sectors. These pillars include establishing a comprehensive healthcare system for all citizens, improving education to align with future job market demands, providing decent employment opportunities, fostering integrated and sustainable

urban development, ensuring a dignified life for all Egyptians, and preparing youth to become today’s partners and tomorrow’s leaders. The initiative also empowers women and promotes equal opportunities across all fields. The initiative has delivered remarkable outcomes, providing approximately 288 million services within its first 100 days.

“Bedaya” (A New Beginning) has achieved extraordinary results in advancing human development, delivering over 288 million services within its first 100 days. These outcomes reflect the initiative’s wide-ranging impact across key sectors:



224.8 million diverse healthcare services were provided across all governorates.



Approximately **2.3 million** women benefited from the initiative’s services in family development and women’s empowerment.



Around **14.2 million** citizens benefited from **1.7 million** services provided in education and awareness.



2,000 citizens with disabilities benefited from the issuance of the integrated services card as part of one million services provided.



Around **11.2 million** citizens benefited from **24,502 youth** and sports programs and activities organized.



Around **1.2 million** beneficiaries received cards for the Takaful and Karama cash support program.



Approximately 5.3 million citizens benefited from implementing around **13,000 activities** related to providing drinking water and sanitation services.



93,507 projects in medium, small, and micro-enterprises were funded.



1 – Healthcare Milestones Within the Initiative

The initiative has achieved significant progress in the healthcare sector, including providing approximately 224.8 million diverse healthcare services across all governorates, notably completing 148,819 surgical procedures to address patient waiting lists. Furthermore, 1,525 comprehensive medical convoys were deployed, providing 1,587,403 services to citizens.

The initiative also focused on strengthening the infrastructure of university hospitals nationwide, supported by approximately EGP 1.2 billion in funding from the Central Bank, which is planned to continue through 2025. This funding facilitated the provision of various medical equipment to enhance the capabilities of government and university hospitals, including dialysis machines, artificial heart devices, and specialized and standard wheelchairs for individuals with disabilities.

2 – The most important Educational and Training Efforts Within the Initiative

Several remarkable milestones have been undertaken in the education sector within the initiative. Five technical schools were renovated, and two became operational during the 2024/2025 academic year. The preparation of three additional schools has been completed, and they are set to open in the 2025/2026 academic year. Furthermore, the initiative funded the development of ten schools, with the construction nearing completion to enable their operation by the 2025/2026 academic year. These efforts aim to launch 100 technical schools.

The initiative has also carried out 5,293,198 activities to develop the skills of school students and teachers. These activities include seminars, training programs, interactive workshops, and diverse competitions, equipping participants with essential competencies across various fields.

Moreover, the initiative provided essential vocational training for young men and women through mobile training centers under the “Your Profession, Your Future» program. The mobile centers, serving in underprivileged villages and hamlets across various governorates, focused on skill development, capacity building, vocational training, and economic empowerment through 34 mobile training centers. Additionally, vocational training programs were offered in 48 fixed training centers across 25 governorates, covering 49 professions through 192 training courses, benefiting 3,721 participants.

3 – Social Protection as a Cornerstone to the Success of the Initiative

The Bedaya presidential initiative has significantly enhanced social protection for Egyptian citizens. The initiative offered a range of essential goods, including oil, sugar, ghee, and meat and poultry products, at competitive prices to meet the needs of Egyptian citizens, particularly vulnerable families. This was achieved through the organization of commodity exhibitions and one-day markets in various governorates in collaboration with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) and the Holding Company for Food Industries (HCFI).

Moreover, 1,190,833 beneficiaries received cards under the Takaful and Karama cash support program. The Hayat Karima Foundation and the Holding Company for Food Industries also signed a cooperation protocol. The first phase of this protocol allocated 20 outlets under consumer complexes, alongside collaboration with the National Alliance for Civil Action, to distribute essential goods to those in need. The initiative also distributed a total of 54,830 food cartons, reaching and benefiting 97,000 vulnerable families.

The initiative also distributed 4,825 tons of meat and poultry, supporting 297,195 vulnerable families. Moreover, it provided school supplies through the «Ahlan Madaris» exhibitions, with 53 such exhibitions held across all governorates. Fifteen clothing exhibitions were also organized for university students and vulnerable families, distributing 375,000 clothing and bedding items, benefiting 165,000 individuals. To further aid the neediest families, the initiative provided additional support and assistance to 470,308 citizens.



4 – Economic Empowerment of Youth and Families in Greatest Need

The initiative has made significant strides in fostering economic empowerment for youth and families in greatest need by promoting the development of medium, small, and micro-enterprises. 93,507 projects in these sectors were successfully financed, providing critical support to aspiring entrepreneurs and vulnerable families. Additionally, it facilitated the creation of 51,127 job opportunities, issued 678 temporary licenses for new projects, and granted 385 licenses for regularizing informal businesses.

5 – Women's Empowerment as a Core Component of the Initiative

The initiative provided services to 2,284,436 women through 4,369 targeted services and activities. In the field of Egyptian family development and women's empowerment, these services included financial inclusion, productive workshops and training units, financial literacy programs, digital savings and lending groups, door-to-door outreach efforts, community sessions, ID card issuance, awareness activities conducted through council committees and branches, family counseling, and balanced upbringing programs.

Additionally, 6,230,167 women benefited from awareness campaigns led by rural women leaders, focusing on the critical importance of the first 1,000 days in a child's life. A total of 648,846 women received the «1,000 Days Grant.» In comparison, 512,953 women participated in the «Kammel al-Zaghroota» initiative to educate about the risks of consanguinity marriage and its associated genetic diseases that pose challenges to future family development. Furthermore, 314,524 rural women's training projects were implemented, and 87,606 individuals benefited from the «Mawadda» national marriage program. The initiative also supported 185,572 working women through women's service centers.

6 – Enhancing the Work Environment of Irregular Workers

The «Bedaya» initiative focused on improving the work environment for irregular workers by providing healthcare and social support, training, employment, and ensuring the availability of occupational safety and health requirements across all categories. A campaign was launched to extend social protection to irregular workers involved in national projects. This initiative issued certificates for skill level assessment and professional practice licenses, along with national ID cards specifying the workers' professions. This effort targeted six work sites, benefiting a total of 11,437 workers.

7 – Placing Disabilities at the Core of the Initiative’s Agenda

The initiative prioritized support for individuals with disabilities and severe impairments, including issuing integrated services cards for those in need. A total of 2,000 individuals with disabilities benefited from this service. Additionally, 4,782,373 citizens benefited from the «Ahsan Sahib» initiative, implemented across youth centers, universities, and schools. The initiative also distributed compensatory devices to 104,747 citizens with special needs.

8 – Youth and sports programs are one of the cornerstones of the initiative

The “Bedaya” initiative implemented diverse youth and sports programs and activities, totaling 24,502 initiatives. These programs encompassed a wide range of focus areas, including sports and health development, trips, camps, recreational programs, capacity building for youth, talent and creativity discovery, technological advancements, artificial intelligence, youth, and women empowerment, and the inclusion and development of individuals with disabilities. These activities spanned local and central levels, benefiting 11,195,623 individuals, including youth, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

9 – Awareness Campaigns as an Important Pillar of the Initiative

The initiative has organized various events, including seminars, lectures, interactive workshops, theatrical performances, international festivals, cultural caravans, and conferences. These events targeted all segments of society, totaling 13,737 cultural activities, benefiting 1,280,886 participants.

Furthermore, the initiative’s services include interactive seminars and workshops across various fields of human development. These efforts encompassed organizing 3,492 awareness, scientific, and educational seminars for diverse audiences, benefiting 1,262,853 participants. Topics covered included addiction risks, cyber-crimes and cyberattacks, the dangers of female genital mutilation, the role of the Ministries of Justice and Communications in achieving smart justice, comprehensive legal awareness, the health impacts of environmental pollution, and education and awareness in the workplace.

The initiative also conducted occupational safety and health seminars and forums to foster safe work environments, engaging employers and employees. In occupational safety and health, Bedaya launched the «Your Safety Matters» initiative to raise awareness about safety and health

procedures, aiming to reduce workplace injuries and accidents by identifying risks, assessing them, and proposing protective measures, through conducting 191 seminars, benefiting 12243 participants.

10 – Provision of drinking water and sanitation services

«Bedaya» carried out numerous activities to provide drinking water and sanitation services. These included 13,010 diverse initiatives, such as implementing household connections for drinking water and sanitation for impoverished families in the neediest villages, awareness campaigns, interactive workshops to promote water conservation and climate change awareness, and light plumbing workshops for women. These efforts benefited 5,291,911 individuals.

11 – Environmental services within the initiative

«Bedaya» achieved significant accomplishments in environmental services, including removing 9,976,941 tons of waste from various governorates. The initiative also contributed to environmental enhancement by planting trees, improving environmental quality, and reducing emissions through the «100 Million Trees» initiative, which resulted in 38,846 trees.

Furthermore, the initiative conducted 1,079 seminars and interactive workshops to raise environmental awareness and educate participants on climate-related issues. These efforts also included increasing students' awareness of the importance of water conservation, engaging 37,101 participants.

In conclusion, the Bedaya initiative is pivotal in advancing Egypt's development by promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment opportunities, and improving community welfare. This initiative stimulates economic growth and empowers youth and vulnerable families, driving social progress. Its alignment with Egypt's broader objectives of sustainable development and economic inclusion underscores its importance as a vital asset for the nation's future.





Chapter 7:

Healthcare Revolution: Expanding Access and Improving Quality

In the past decade, Egypt has achieved remarkable progress in transforming its healthcare system, demonstrating a strong commitment to enhancing the quality and accessibility of medical services. Guided by a comprehensive vision, the country has prioritized universal health coverage and social justice, aligning its efforts with the highest international standards. The year 2024, in particular, marked a turning point with the implementation of large-scale projects, the expansion of national health initiatives, substantial infrastructure upgrades, and advancements in digital healthcare solutions. These achievements have firmly positioned Egypt as a leader in the regional healthcare landscape.

This article delves into Egypt's most notable advancements in the health sector, focusing on the transformative impact of the Universal Health Insurance System (UHS), extensive infrastructure development, the integration of digital healthcare technologies, the launch of key national health initiatives, and Egypt's unwavering commitment to aligning with international standards and frameworks.

1 - The Universal Health Insurance System: A Transformative Leap in Healthcare Services

Over the last ten years, Egypt has significantly increased government spending on healthcare, with the sector's budget for 2024/2025 rising to approximately EGP 319.6 billion, compared to EGP 42.4 billion in 2014/2015. A total of 1219 healthcare infrastructure projects have been implemented, with a total cost of EGP 177 billion. The Universal Health Insurance System (UHS) is central to these efforts, a landmark initiative that has revolutionized healthcare services nationwide. With EGP 240.5 billion allocated over the past decade to health insurance, the system underscores the state's dedication to expanding access and ensuring comprehensive healthcare for all citizens.

Since its gradual implementation, the UHS has expanded its coverage up to 2024 to include six governorates, namely Port Said, Luxor, Ismailia, South Sinai, Aswan, and Suez, registering over six million citizens. The system adopts a family-centered approach, ensuring comprehensive coverage for entire households rather than individuals. As a result, more than 35 million family medicine services have been delivered through family healthcare units operated by the Health Care Authority, which provides 80% of citizens' healthcare needs.



Significant investment has been made in human resources to support the system's success. Over 30,000 training programs have been conducted to enhance healthcare personnel's professional, technological, and research skills. This focus on capacity building has enabled the UHIS to deliver more than 60.5 million medical services, including more than 660,000 surgical operations. Notably, 35% of these surgeries required advanced expertise and cutting-edge technologies.

Quality assurance has also been prioritized, with the General Authority for Healthcare Accreditation and Regulation conducting over 3569 supervisory visits to evaluate clinical and administrative performance. These efforts included patient and provider surveys, with more than 90% of beneficiaries reporting satisfaction with the services offered. In addition, more than three million citizens received free and periodic medical examinations in 2024, facilitating early detection of chronic diseases and improving prevention strategies.



2 - Digital Transformation: A Cornerstone of Development

In 2024, Egypt achieved remarkable progress in the digital transformation of its healthcare sector. Primary care units were fully digitized, and 90% of hospitals in the governorates included in the first phase of the Universal Health Insurance System (UHIS) completed their digitization processes. Additionally, 22 crisis and emergency management centers were established as part of the Unified National Network for Emergency Services and Public Safety. These centers ensure immediate, globally standardized responses to crises and emergencies, significantly enhancing healthcare service efficiency, reducing medical errors, and accelerating patient care.

Key technological advancements include issuing over 54 million electronic prescriptions and creating 5 million unified medical records, providing accurate and up-to-date patient health information. Additionally, specialized platforms were developed to streamline healthcare operations, including the dialysis management platform and the radiology archiving system integrated with unified medical records. Performance monitoring dashboards were introduced to enhance healthcare efficiency while improving the patient experience to further improve healthcare delivery.

A noteworthy achievement in Egypt's digital transformation journey was launching a mobile application for registering pilgrim data integrated with the Ministry of Interior's system. This initiative aimed to streamline Hajj-related procedures and enhance services provided to pilgrims. By offering a seamless digital registration process, this application highlights a significant step forward in advancing digital transformation across government services.

3 – Infrastructure Development: Investing in the Future of Healthcare

Egypt made significant strides in advancing its healthcare infrastructure in 2024, marking a pivotal year for the sector. A total of 422 new healthcare facilities were accredited across 21 governorates, meeting the highest international standards. These facilities include private sector establishments, university hospitals, and those affiliated with the Ministries of Interior and Defense. In tandem with this physical expansion, 59,418 healthcare professionals were registered, underscoring a comprehensive strategy to enhance both infrastructure and human resources.

Among the most notable achievements was the inauguration of the largest liver transplant center in the Middle East and Africa at Mansoura University, with a total cost of EGP 1 billion. Another milestone was

opening a state-of-the-art neonatal unit at Karnak International Hospital in Luxor. Staffed by a specialized team of physicians and nurses, the unit sets a new benchmark for neonatal care, offering a safe and technologically advanced environment for newborns.

Moreover, the state is also committed to transforming healthcare facilities into environmentally friendly establishments by adopting sustainability standards and transitioning to green practices. Furthermore, efforts are underway to promote medical tourism by developing standards for international patients and therapeutic centers. By prioritizing service quality and sustainability, Egypt continues to position itself as a regional leader in healthcare innovation and adopting sustainable practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

4 – Health National Plans and Initiatives: Prevention and Treatment for All

The **National Health Strategy (2024–2030)**, unveiled at the Global Conference on Population, Health, and Development, marks a pivotal milestone in Egypt's healthcare journey. Aligned with **Egypt's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, it reflects a collaborative approach involving governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors alongside regional and international partners.

This strategy underscores a shift toward inclusive healthcare planning for sustainable and equitable health outcomes.

Building on this foundation, Egypt has further demonstrated its commitment to strengthening its healthcare system by launching several transformative plans. Among these are the **National Executive Plan for One Health (2024–2027)** and the **Strategic Framework for Health Adaptation to Climate Change (2024–2030)**. These initiatives adopt an integrated public health approach, addressing human, animal, and environmental health to tackle shared challenges comprehensively and effectively.

14 presidential initiatives were also launched to enhance citizen access to healthcare services. These programs delivered approximately 218 million services to 94 million individuals across more than 3527 healthcare units. Among the most impactful is the **Egyptian Women's Health Initiative**, which provided 55.5 million consultations, combining screening and awareness efforts for women nationwide. Similarly, the initiative to eliminate **Hepatitis C** and detect noncommunicable diseases successfully screened 63 million citizens and treated 4.6 million cases. Other initiatives addressed chronic diseases, early detection of kidney disease, and reducing waiting lists, benefiting millions of citizens.

The **“100 Days of Health” initiative** further exemplified Egypt's dedication to healthcare improvements, providing over 60 million medical services during its first phase and 157.5 million services in its second. Specialized programs, including cancer detection and treatment, were also introduced, reflecting a comprehensive effort to improve healthcare standards. These initiatives underscore the state's commitment to delivering impactful and wide-reaching programs, ensuring quality care for the largest possible number of citizens.



Conclusion

Egypt's healthcare sector has undergone a profound transformation, with 2024 marking a milestone in its progress. Landmark initiatives such as the Universal Health Insurance System, advancements in digital healthcare, extensive infrastructure upgrades, and impactful national programs have solidified Egypt's position as a regional leader in healthcare reform. These achievements reflect strategic investments, partnerships with national and international stakeholders, and a firm commitment to innovation and inclusivity.

Aligned with **Egypt's Vision 2030**, these efforts represent a sustainable model for improving healthcare systems and enhancing social justice. Priorities such as expanding digital integration, embracing environmentally sustainable practices, and ensuring equitable access to medical services will be key to sustaining this momentum and addressing the population's evolving needs.

The achievements in 2024 underscore Egypt's dedication to improving the quality of life for its citizens. By combining forward-thinking strategies with collaboration and inclusivity, Egypt lays the groundwork for a healthier future and sets a global standard for transformative healthcare reform.





Chapter 8:

Breaking Barriers: Education Reforms for the Future

Education is considered a solid base for achieving sustainable development, which necessitates a greater understanding of its role as a means to achieve the pillars of sustainable development. As these have become global goals pursued by many countries, their realization requires joint efforts from governments, civil society, the private sector, and individuals.

According to the Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan (2024–2029), announced by Dr. Reda Hegazy, the former Minister of Education and Technical Education, the Ministry focuses on three key pillars: **comprehensive and equitable access to education for all groups, quality and excellence in education according to global standards, and sustainability and lifelong learning**. The plan emphasizes that the student is the core of the educational process.

This Chapter explores the major educational efforts and achievements introduced by the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 2024, including curriculum updates, investments in infrastructure, digital education, and initiatives to improve access to education for all Egyptians. This section highlights the steps taken to create a more inclusive and modern educational system. It also discusses the creation of new universities and vocational training programs to equip the next generation with essential skills.

1 – Efforts of the Ministry of Education and Technical Education:

The Ministry of Education and Technical Education strives to exert all efforts to achieve Egypt's Vision 2030, which aims at enhancing the educational system in Egypt and strengthening students' skills and abilities in line with labour market requirements. These strategic goals are part of building the Egyptian citizen by developing various aspects of the educational system, investing in our students, and overcoming the challenges that hinder its advancement.

In 2024, we witnessed intensive efforts by the Ministry to achieve several objectives simultaneously. Among the most significant were **overcoming chronic challenges that impeded the development of the educational system**, alongside **developing curricula according to global standards**. The aim is to improve the quality of education, provide an innovative learning environment, train teachers, enhance partnerships with the private sector in technical education, and integrate technology into the educational process to maximize its benefits for students. Below, we will give an overview of the Ministry's key efforts in both sectors of general education and technical education:

1.1. Efforts and Achievements of the General Education Sector:

The General Education Sector's work during 2024 focused on, inter alia, **addressing classroom overcrowding, bridging the shortage of teachers, and improving curricula and teaching strategies**. These aspects will be clarified in detail below.

Regarding classroom overcrowding, the Ministry has made great efforts during 2024 to address this challenge. More than 98,000 classrooms have been created to reduce the number of students per classroom to fewer than 50. Also, the Ministry applied various mechanisms tailored to the specific needs of each governorate, and these measures included shifting high schools to operate in the evening, allowing their schools to be used by preparatory schools in the morning, and at the same time utilizing preparatory schools' buildings for primary stage students. Additionally, the Ministry implemented the extended school day system, significantly reducing classroom density by over 99%.

Regarding bridging the shortage of teachers' number, the Ministry successfully addressed over 90% of the teachers' shortage, ensuring that all schools nationwide have teachers for core subjects. The strategies adopted to resolve this issue included advancing the presidential initiative to appoint 30,000 teachers

annually, regularizing the status of teaching specialists with advanced educational qualifications, employing approximately 50,000 teachers on a part-time basis for core subjects, increasing the part-time payment rate to EGP 50 per session, and utilizing graduates performing public service to teach at schools.

Regarding developing curricula to meet global standards and integrating digital content with textbooks, we can see that:

(1) **To develop curricula that meet global standards**, the Ministry has developed the preparatory stage's curricula in line with the new educational system and continued collaborating with UNICEF Egypt. It worked on providing explanations and exercises as alternatives to external study resources, aligning with the new assessment methods, updating community education curricula, and proceeding with the "Teacher Excellence Initiative" (TEI) that seeks to enhance the quality of faculties of education students. It also sought to sustain collaboration with the British Council to equip teachers with the required contemporary teaching methodologies, strengthen basic literacy skills, and foster a sense of national belonging and loyalty by combating harmful ideologies through seminars, trips, competitions, and events for both students and teachers. In addition,

the Ministry prepared classroom assessments and restructured the secondary stage educational system to align with different educational frameworks.

(2) **For integrating digital content with textbooks**, the Ministry worked on recording English listening texts to enhance students' listening skills as a fundamental part of language learning. Additionally, science and mathematics textbooks were translated into French to maximize benefits for students whose first foreign language is French.

Also, the Ministry achieved further accomplishments across various fields in 2024, including training 37,649 kindergarten teachers and supervisors, providing 700,000 tablets to secondary-stage students, and launching diverse awareness activities and initiatives in schools nationwide under the “Bedaya” (A New Beginning for Building Human) initiative. Additionally, the Central Administration for Student Activities organized numerous competitions and events in sports, arts, culture, social activities, and library contests, with the participation of approximately 21 million students nationwide. Also, we can see that, screening 8,875,289 students in 23 governorates as part of the Early Detection of Obesity, Anemia, and Stunting for School Children initiative. The Ministry also continued to prioritize inclusive

education for disabled and special needs students and developed assessment mechanisms and Capstone Projects for STEM school students.

1.2. Efforts and Achievements of the Technical Education Sector:

The key focus areas of the Technical Education Sector during 2024 revolved around two main pillars: **developing the applied technology schools** and **updating the curricula and study programs for the technical education sector in line with the professional competencies approach**.

Regarding the first pillar of developing the applied technology schools, the number of applied technology schools has reached 79 schools in 2024, including 25 schools specializing in information technology and artificial intelligence, aligning with the State's focus on IT and digital transformation. Also, protocols have been signed for 81 new applied technology schools. During the 2024/2025 academic year, around 40,000 students enrolled in these schools. Moreover, about 100 program frameworks for applied technology school specialties have been approved, and the technological infrastructure of about 700 schools has been upgraded.

Regarding developing educational programs and curricula based on the professional competency methodology, we can see that approximately 19,140 teachers have been trained in competency-based approaches and assessments. Around 85% of curricula and educational programs have been updated to align with the competency-based approach. This approach was implemented during the 2024/2025 academic year in approximately 2,128 schools.

Moreover, the efforts in the technical education sector extended beyond the achievements mentioned above. The Ministry of Education and Technical Education accomplished several other milestones in this area, including training 122 teachers through the «Training of Trainers» program and providing training for nearly 886 teachers in the educational curriculum program, 11,386 teachers in the internal auditor program, and 5,601 teachers in the external auditor program. The milestones also include establishing and developing around 131 programs and specializations in technical education schools, forming approximately 77 partnerships with the private sector in training and education-related fields, and collaborating with the private sector to organize employment forums and provide decent job opportunities for graduates.

2 – Efforts and Achievements of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research:

The Egyptian government has continued its steadfast journey toward enhancing higher education, building upon the significant progress made over the past decade. In 2024, the government revealed an ambitious roadmap for transforming the country's higher education and research landscape, focusing on technological education as a cornerstone of the system. This vision aligns with Egypt's broader strategy to modernize education, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the increasingly competitive and technology-driven global market.

A key priority for the government is fostering international collaboration to attract globally ranked foreign universities to establish branches in Egypt. Coupled with efforts to enhance academic programs, update curricula, and introduce new study tracks across public universities, these initiatives ensure that higher education meets both societal needs and global trends.

Further reflecting the government's vision, key priorities include strengthening regional alliances, advancing university hospitals, driving digital transformation, and implementing legal reforms to encourage investment in education and research.

Collectively, these strategies aim at positioning Egypt for sustained growth and innovation in higher education.

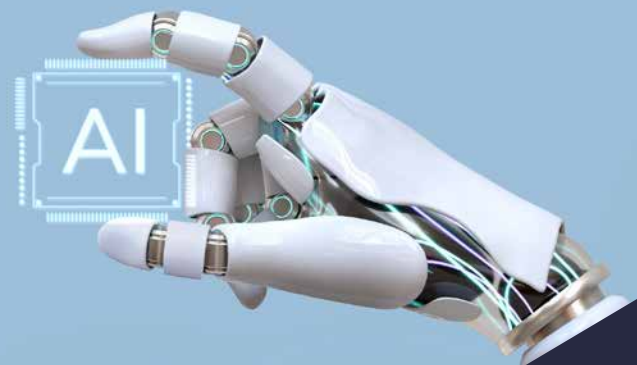
2.1. Technological Education and Non-Profit Universities Enhancement

The Egyptian government has made significant strides in transforming the educational landscape by establishing nine branches of prestigious foreign universities, offering distinguished academic programs, and encouraging international universities to set up branches in the country. These efforts aim at enhancing collaboration between Egyptian and international universities, ultimately advancing the national education system.

Egypt boasts 92 colleges and institutes dedicated to computer science, information technology, and artificial intelligence. These institutions are strategically distributed across the nation's seven geographical regions, ensuring equitable access to quality education. The progress includes 27 computer science and artificial intelligence faculties at governmental universities, 20 at private universities, and another 20 at national universities. Additionally, there are 15 specialized institutes within private higher education and 10 faculties established through international partnerships and branches of foreign universities.

In 2024, the government focused on strengthening Egypt's technological education and enhancing non-profit universities, making strides in diversifying the education landscape. The government issued a presidential decree establishing Obour University for Science and Technology in Al-Sharkia Governorate. The university focuses on innovative programs in fields such as Engineering and Technology, Pharmacy, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, and Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. This move reflects Egypt's dedication to expanding its technological education sector and offering cutting-edge, career-relevant degrees.

Additionally, Egypt has made significant strides in advancing artificial intelligence (AI) education, reflecting its commitment to fostering innovation and technology-driven development. This progress is evident in the remarkable growth of faculties and institutes specializing in AI and related fields nationwide.



2.2. Global Integration and Advancing University Rankings

A cornerstone of the Egyptian government's strategy to elevate education quality is fostering partnerships with internationally renowned institutions. This year, agreements were signed with prominent British organizations, including the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. These collaborations aim at establishing branches in Egypt and offering accredited training programs, which equip graduates with globally competitive skills. Additionally, these partnerships are set to modernize university curricula, provide professional development opportunities for educators, and offer consultancy to further enhance the quality of higher education.

To ensure seamless integration of technical education and workforce readiness, the government formed a high-level committee, comprised of the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, to harmonize the work of industrial and technological schools, technological universities, and vocational training centers and create clear pathways from education to employment.

The government has also achieved notable milestones in positioning Egypt's higher education system on the global stage. For example, 69 Egyptian universities and research institutions were included in the prestigious SCImago Institutions Rankings, encompassing 53 universities, 14 research institutions, and two academic health institutions. Furthermore, 15 universities ranked in the 2025 QS World University Rankings, and an additional 15 were featured in the Dutch Leiden Ranking, reinforcing Egypt's growing reputation for academic and research excellence.

Internationalization remains a key priority, with nine branches of globally recognized universities now operating in Egypt, including **The Knowledge Hub Universities**, hosting Coventry University (UK) and Nova University (Portugal); **Global Academic Foundation**, hosting Hertfordshire University (UK) and other renowned universities. These initiatives provide Egyptian students with access to globally accredited degrees while establishing Egypt as a regional hub for international higher education.



In addition, the government has fostered academic cooperation through agreements such as the memorandum of understanding between Mansoura University's Faculty of Agriculture and Hungary's Debrecen University's Nyíregyháza Research Institute and Educational Farm. Such collaborations promote knowledge sharing, scientific research, and global academic exchange, further enriching Egypt's higher education landscape.

2.3. Youth Development and Inclusion

In 2024, the Egyptian government prioritized cultural affairs and scholarship programs as key elements of its higher education strategy. Efforts included enhancing cultural representation abroad, launching scholarship initiatives, supporting Egyptian students overseas, and fostering ties with international academic institutions through agreements and joint research projects. The government also focused on improving services for international students in Egypt and modernizing cultural offices abroad to strengthen connections with expatriate Egyptians and promote engagement with their homeland.

Additionally, the Egyptian government remains committed to empowering its youth by fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for their personal and professional growth. Universities

nationwide have implemented comprehensive plans for student activities, emphasizing the importance of holistic development. A key focus has been discovering, nurturing, and supporting talented, exceptional, and innovative students, providing them with the resources needed to thrive. These initiatives are designed to cultivate a generation of informed, skilled, and proactive individuals who can contribute to Egypt's social and economic development.

2.4. Driving Academic Research and Societal Impact

The Egyptian government emphasized advancing academic research and enhancing its societal relevance. Key priorities included fostering innovation through joint research projects, strengthening collaborations with globally renowned academic institutions, and aligning research efforts with national development goals. By promoting impactful studies and encouraging the application of research findings to address societal challenges, the government has sought to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world needs.

The government has focused on leveraging scientific research outcomes to create products with significant societal and economic impact. Research efforts have been directed toward addressing the needs of society and developing solutions that contribute to achieving sustainable

development goals. In addition, there has been strong support for innovation, entrepreneurship, and scientific research. These initiatives aim at guiding scientific studies in ways that benefit the community, tackling challenges faced by the economy, and driving sustainable growth.

Additionally, depending on Innovators Support Fund, the government launched the «Gen-Z 2024» program, the largest innovation competition, with funding of EGP 100 million in collaboration with the United Media Services. The program attracted significant participation, with 976 teams competing in the Startup Olympics. Additionally, the government supported graduation projects through eGP, iGP, and Bio-iChallenge. Furthermore, 300 teams competed in the National Competition for Young Innovators, receiving technical and financial support. The government also held five courses of the Researchers to Entrepreneurs Program (R2E) to transform research into startups. A total of 9,734 students received training from the fund across various disciplines, reinforcing the government's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among youth.

Conclusion:

Finally, we can say that the efforts made by the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research during 2024 reflect the State's commitment to achieving Egypt's Vision 2030. Tangible progress has been realized in curriculum development, teacher training, educational infrastructure enhancement, and expanding partnerships with the private sector. However, the journey to improving education is ongoing, with the need to address remaining challenges and ensure the sustainability of these achievements. Investing in education remains a cornerstone for comprehensive and sustainable development, paving the way for generations capable of contributing to Egypt's promising future.





Chapter 9:

Social Protection in Egypt: A Year of Impactful Initiatives in 2024

Egypt's unwavering commitment to social protection has remained a cornerstone of its development strategy, particularly amidst global economic challenges such as inflationary pressures and rising living costs. Recognizing the importance of fostering resilience and promoting inclusive development, the Egyptian government has launched a comprehensive suite of initiatives to protect vulnerable groups, reduce poverty, and foster economic inclusion.

These efforts reflect a broader strategy to uplift underserved communities and bridge socio-economic gaps, ensuring no citizen is left behind. Accordingly, for the fiscal year 2024/2025, the government allocated an unprecedented EGP 635.9 billion to subsidies, grants, and social benefits, marking a 20.1% increase from the previous fiscal year 2023/2024. This expansion underscores Egypt's determination to sustain and enhance its safety nets, providing critical support to millions of citizens nationwide.

This article delves into the key pillars of Egypt's social protection framework 2024, spotlighting notable initiatives in cash transfers, subsidies, slum development, economic empowerment, and more. Together, these efforts represent a holistic approach to addressing immediate needs while building a more inclusive and resilient society for future generations.

1 – Expanding the Reach of Cash Transfer Programs

The flagship cash transfer program, Takaful and Karama (Solidarity and Dignity), lies at the heart of Egypt's social protection framework. This initiative continued to evolve and expand in 2023/2024, with allocations increasing to EGP 41 billion, marking a substantial rise from its initial funding of EGP 3.4 billion in 2014/2015. Over 4.7 million families, encompassing nearly 22 million individuals, benefited from the initiative, making it one of the largest social safety nets in the region.

Takaful targets families with children, linking financial support to health and education outcomes, while Karama provides unconditional aid to elderly citizens and individuals with disabilities. Notably, the beneficiaries of Takaful and Karama gained access to a suite of complementary social services, creating a multidimensional safety net aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty. These services included health insurance coverage, fee exemptions for public education, and food subsidy cards, with 93% of beneficiaries owning ration cards.

Moreover, the program was pivotal in eradicating illiteracy among its beneficiaries through the «No Illiteracy with Takaful» initiative, implemented in collaboration with the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education. This initiative successfully

reduced the illiteracy rate among Takaful and Karama recipients from 62% to 45%, with 220,000 individuals completing literacy courses at a total cost of EGP 16 million.

By integrating education, healthcare, and food support, the Takaful & Karama initiative exemplifies a holistic approach to poverty alleviation, ensuring long-term socio-economic empowerment for millions of vulnerable Egyptians.

2 – Subsidies: A Safety Net Amidst Inflationary Pressures

Subsidies have long been a cornerstone of Egypt's social protection framework, which is vital in alleviating the financial burdens on vulnerable citizens amidst global economic challenges. This commitment is reflected in the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget, designed to be comprehensive and ensure the sustainability of Egypt's social safety net, effectively addressing the essential needs of millions of citizens.

Subsidy allocation highlights:

(1) Bread subsidies:

- ▶ In 2024, approximately 250 to 270 million loaves of subsidized bread are distributed daily to 69.5 million citizens at a fixed price of 20 piasters per loaf.
- ▶ The annual cost of bread subsidies is EGP 98 billion, providing access to 94.9 billion loaves throughout the year.

(2) Food Subsidies:

- ▶ Over 30 essential items are available to 61.5 million beneficiaries through ration cards.
- ▶ The annual budget for food subsidies stands at EGP 36 billion in 2024, ensuring access to staples like cooking oil, sugar, and rice.

(3) Total Support for Bread and Food Subsidies:

- ▶ Combined support for bread and food subsidies in 2024/2025 amounts to EGP 134.2 billion, reflecting the government's commitment to food security.

(4) Other subsidies and support in the budget of 2024/2025:

- ▶ EGP 154.5 billion for petroleum subsidies, cushioning households from rising energy costs.
- ▶ EGP 5 billion was allocated for medicines and baby formula, reflecting the state's commitment to health equity.
- ▶ EGP 231.6 billion for social services.
- ▶ EGP 12.5 billion for development areas.
- ▶ EGP 47.2 billion for economic activities.
- ▶ EGP 46.7 billion for various appropriations and reserves.

The Egyptian government has also intensified its in-kind and direct financial assistance efforts by distributing food baskets to 18 thousand families at a total cost of EGP 2.16 million and meat to 308 thousand families at a cost of EGP 69.6 million.

Furthermore, Egypt has adopted a multi-pronged approach to stabilize market prices and ensure access to essential goods by providing:

- ▶ 40,000 outlets (including ration card vendors, consumer complexes, mobile units, and the outlets of “My Association” project) provide subsidized and free-market goods to citizens nationwide.
- ▶ Competitive meat pricing is maintained throughout the year, particularly during holidays and seasons, via consumer complexes.
- ▶ Seasonal exhibitions such as Welcome Ramadan, Back to School, and Eid markets offer discounted goods, alleviating household financial burdens. For example, the government launched the «Welcome Ramadan” initiative, with over 3,000 fixed and mobile outlets providing goods at 15-30% discounts. This initiative aimed at combating inflation while ensuring that low-income households had access to essential commodities. Additionally, the “Sanad Al-Kheir” initiative played a vital role, with sales exceeding EGP 431.4 million,

benefiting underserved areas with mobile units providing high-quality goods at affordable prices.

- ▶ Regular seasonal sales (winter and summer clearance) allow merchants to sell items at reduced prices, with strict adherence to price transparency regulations.

Egypt's 2024/2025 budget exemplifies its commitment to social justice and economic equity, providing a robust safety net that supports millions. From bread and food subsidies to targeted financial aid and strategic market interventions, the government continues to adapt its subsidy framework to meet the evolving needs of its citizens. These initiatives reflect Egypt's dedication to building a resilient and inclusive society by ensuring access to essential goods and stabilizing market conditions.

3 - Housing for Dignity: Transforming Slums into Sustainable Communities

Egypt's housing initiatives in 2024 showcased a well-coordinated effort among multiple government entities, private sector partners, and civil society organizations to ensure access to safe, affordable, and sustainable housing for all citizens. These initiatives reflect a comprehensive strategy to achieve urban development, social justice, and a dignified living environment for every Egyptian.

A major pillar of these efforts has been the rehabilitation of informal settlements, spearheaded by the Ministry of Local Development. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and other entities, the government successfully relocated thousands of families from unsafe dwellings to secure, well-constructed housing. As part of the Takaful program, over 25,000 units were developed and furnished at a cost of EGP 810 million. These homes not only provided physical safety but also offered access to essential services like healthcare and education, fostering a more stable and supportive environment.

Complementing these efforts, the Ministry of Local Development announced the completion of 74,370 housing units under projects for alternative housing in informal settlements. These units, located in 51 informal areas across 19 governorates, were offered at affordable rental rates ranging from EGP 150 to EGP 300. This initiative, aimed at providing safe and high-quality housing, witnessed remarkable success in improving rent collection rates—from 10% in 2022 to 60% in 2024. This increase reflects enhanced project management and growing commitment from residents, ensuring the long-term sustainability of this initiative.

In addition to addressing informal settlements, Egypt has launched ambitious housing projects targeting low- and

middle-income citizens under the presidential initiative “**Housing for All Egyptians**”. This initiative exemplifies the state’s commitment to social justice by providing affordable housing within integrated communities equipped with essential facilities.

Since the program’s inception, 18 housing announcements have benefited nearly 3 million citizens. Over 1 million units have been completed; some are under development for low-income families, while 27,900 units cater specifically to middle-income groups. The government has introduced flexible financing options to support beneficiaries, with funding from banks and financial institutions reaching EGP 78.6 billion. Direct subsidies deducted from the unit costs amounted to EGP 10.1 billion. At the same time, EGP 15.5 billion was allocated by the Ministry of Finance to subsidize interest rates, ensuring affordable mortgage payments for families.

To simplify the application process, the government increased the number of automated post offices offering application booklets to 590, up from 350. Partnerships with the National Authority for Social Insurance allowed centralized access to applicant data, expediting approvals. The income threshold for low-income applicants eligible for mortgage financing was adjusted to EGP 3,500 per month, ensuring wider inclusion.

The latest housing announcement, Housing for All Egyptians 5, introduced 78,700 units with areas ranging from 75 to 90 square meters, split between under-construction homes and ready-to-move units in new cities and governorates. Applicants were offered reduced down payments starting at EGP 20,000, with installment plans stretching up to 20 years at interest rates of 8% for low-income families and 12% for middle-income families.

The program's effectiveness has garnered international praise, with the World Bank highlighting its goal of enabling 1 million low-income families to access affordable housing and achieve greater stability.

Through collaborative efforts, innovative financing, and a steadfast commitment to inclusivity, the initiative of "Housing for All Egyptians" has laid the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future. By addressing the needs of the most vulnerable while supporting middle-income groups, and reaching about 3 million beneficiaries through this initiative, the government ensures that every citizen can live with dignity and stability.

4 – Hayah Karima Initiative: Transforming Rural Egypt Through Comprehensive Development

The Hayah Karima (Decent Life) initiative stands as a flagship project for Egypt's commitment to rural transformation and comprehensive development. This presidential initiative, the largest of its kind globally in terms of beneficiaries, seeks to bridge developmental gaps, reduce multidimensional poverty, and elevate living standards in underserved areas. With its focus on integrated development, Hayah Karima has revolutionized rural communities by addressing infrastructure needs, human development, and economic empowerment.

By the end of November 2024, the initiative's first phase projects reached an impressive 85.5% completion rate, with 16,812 projects finalized at a financial allocation of EGP 295.5 billion, representing 84.4% of the total budget. The initiative impacted 18 million citizens across 1,500 villages, firmly establishing itself as one of the most ambitious development programs globally. Among its achievements, 100 villages were fully developed for EGP 21 billion, benefiting 1.2 million citizens. This achievement has significantly improved the access to basic services indicator with about 69 percentage points.

In addition, education has been a key focus of the initiative, with significant efforts to address classroom overcrowding and combat illiteracy. Hence, over 15,000 classrooms were refurbished and constructed, and 1,300 schools were renovated. In addition, literacy programs targeted rural communities, benefiting 510,000 citizens and reducing illiteracy rates by 7% between 2021 and 2024. The initiative also emphasized digital skills, training 73,000 citizens in digital literacy and equipping them for a growing digital economy.

The initiative also made substantial progress in addressing water and sanitation challenges, allocating 50% of its first-phase budget to these critical needs. It completed 21 wastewater treatment plants, established 937 sanitation projects, and installed 1.4 million household sanitation connections, which led to an increase of 45% in the number of beneficiaries of sanitation services in the villages of the first phase between 2021 and 2024. Looking ahead, the initiative aims to further expand coverage, with a target of reaching 90% sanitation service accessibility in these villages. In the realm of drinking water, 248 water stations were developed, along with 1,380 network improvement projects and 455,000 household water connections, ensuring universal access to clean drinking water in villages covered by the first phase.

Economic empowerment and financial inclusion have also been integral components of Hayah Karima. More than EGP 65.6 billion was disbursed to support 2.9 million beneficiaries in establishing micro, small and medium enterprises, fueling local economic growth. Financial services were expanded with the establishment of 137 new bank branches and the installation of 1,254 ATMs, alongside modern financial tools such as 78,000 mobile wallets and 160,000 internet banking accounts. These efforts resulted in an 11% improvement in financial inclusion indicators, further integrating rural populations into the national economy.

Ultimately, Hayah Karima embodies the Egyptian government's vision for a more equitable and inclusive society. Its transformative impact on rural communities has not only elevated the quality of life for millions but also set a global benchmark for sustainable development. Hayah Karima is reshaping Egypt's countryside while creating a brighter, more sustainable future for all through its focus on infrastructure, human capital, and green investments.

5 – Supporting Irregular Workers: Economic Empowerment and Social Security

Egypt has taken significant steps to support and empower its irregular workforce, recognizing their critical role in its economy. Through targeted initiatives, financial support, and long-term structural reforms, the government has sought to improve the livelihoods of irregular workers while integrating them into the broader social and economic framework.

Accordingly, in 2024, the Ministry of Social Solidarity finalized a draft law establishing an emergency relief fund for irregular workers. This fund aims at providing financial relief during crises, ensuring a safety net for one of the most vulnerable segments of the workforce.

In this context, Minister of Labor Mohamed Gobran announced an increase in periodic grants for registered irregular workers in December 2024 to further alleviate economic pressures. Starting with the Coptic Christmas Grant on January 7, 2025, the grant amount will double from EGP 500 to EGP 1,000 per worker. With six grants distributed annually, this increase is expected to cost EGP 1.5 billion annually, providing crucial financial relief to irregular workers and their families.

Economic empowerment has been another cornerstone of the government's strategy. Hence, 1.3 million families benefited from economic empowerment projects initiated by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, with a revolving capital of around EGP 5 billion. These projects offered low-interest loans ranging from 5% to 14%. Specific support programs included funding up to EGP 800 million for artisans, small-scale producers, and delivery workers and professional and vocational training for 20,000 workers to enhance their skills and job opportunities.

The government provided targeted assistance to small-scale fishermen to improve their livelihoods. Over 42,000 small-scale fishermen and fisherwomen received fishing equipment and tools at a total cost of EGP 110 million. In comparison, 4,000 fishermen were compensated with EGP 50 million for periods when fishing activities were halted. These initiatives highlight the government's commitment to ensuring equitable support across various informal sectors.

These efforts reflect Egypt's dedication to creating a more inclusive economy by addressing the unique challenges irregular workers face. Through economic empowerment, enhanced social protections, and a commitment to their well-being, the government ensures that irregular workers are not left behind in the nation's development journey.

6 – Strengthening Pension Systems: Ensuring Security for Egypt's Elderly

Recognizing the critical role of pensions in social protection, Egypt has significantly expanded its pension system to provide financial security for retirees and their families. In 2023, pension-related initiatives received heightened attention, with annual allocations for pensions reaching an impressive EGP 340 billion, a remarkable rise from EGP 86.5 billion in 2014.

Notable reforms in 2024 included:

- ▶ **Increased pension payments:** Over 11.5 million beneficiaries experienced enhanced pension benefits, with a 15% annual increment added in 2024. The cost of these increases amounted to EGP 74 billion, reflecting the government's dedication to ensuring retirees' financial stability amidst rising living costs.
- ▶ **Higher contribution thresholds:** The minimum insured wage increased from EGP 400 in 2014 to EGP 2,000 in 2024, while the maximum insured wage rose to EGP 12,600, ensuring broader coverage and enhanced benefits for contributors.

In addition, Egypt continues to prioritize efficiency and accessibility within its pension system. The government has streamlined electronic payment systems

and expanded pension distribution networks, ensuring timely disbursements even in remote areas.

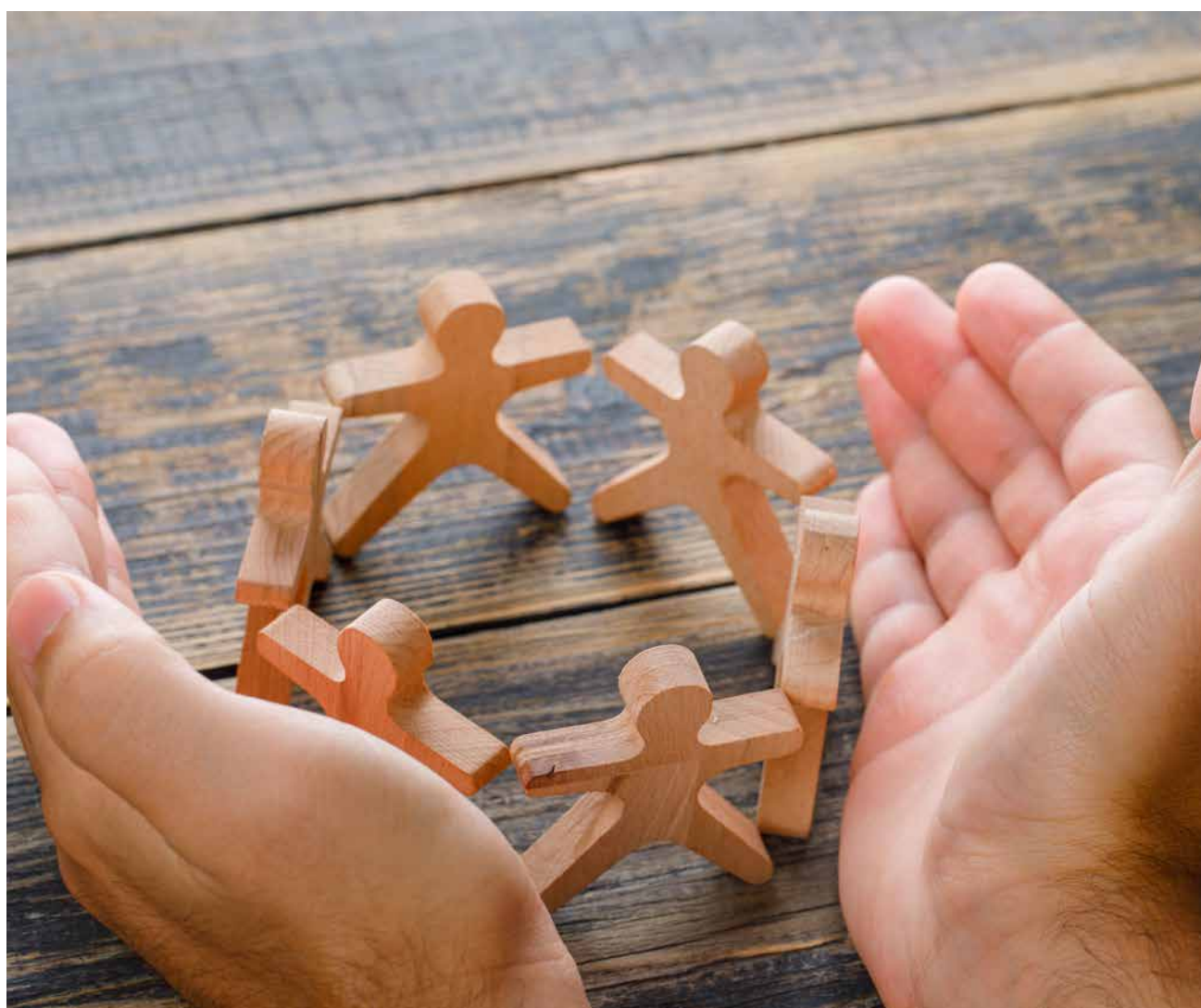
These efforts reflect Egypt's broader commitment to upholding the dignity and welfare of its elderly population. By fortifying its pension infrastructure, the government ensures that retirees not only receive financial support but also enjoy peace of mind, underscoring the principle of societal solidarity in its social protection framework.



Conclusion

Egypt's social protection efforts in 2024 exemplify a robust response to contemporary challenges, blending immediate relief with long-term development. From cash transfers and subsidies to slum rehabilitation and community empowerment, the government's initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to societal welfare. These strides underline Egypt's commitment to fostering an equitable society, paving the way for a more resilient and inclusive future.

In a year marked by global economic turbulence, Egypt's social protection strategy has served as a vital buffer, safeguarding millions and laying the groundwork for sustainable development. The nation is poised to expand its social safety net through continued innovation and collaboration, ensuring that no Egyptian is left behind.





Chapter 10:

Empowering Women and Youth

In 2024, Egypt continued its steadfast commitment to empowering women and youth, recognizing them as key social and economic progress drivers. Recognizing their critical role in shaping the nation's future, the Egyptian Government launched a comprehensive suite of initiatives aimed at enhancing their capabilities, fostering their participation in the workforce, and ensuring their equal access to opportunities. This section explores the Government's efforts and achievements in empowering women and youth in 2024, highlighting notable initiatives in education, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and more.

Women's empowerment in 2024

1 – Supporting Women's Health

The Egyptian Government is working on localizing the production of the latest family planning and reproductive health solutions to support the Egyptian Family Development Project.

In 2024, the percentage of women benefiting from the comprehensive health insurance system in the six governorates of the first phase, including Port Said, Luxor, Ismailia, South Sinai, Suez, and Aswan, reached 49.5% of the total beneficiaries, amounting to 2.25 million women covered under the comprehensive health insurance umbrella.

By December of 2024, the number of Safe Women Clinics will reach 48 clinics established to: 20 of which in different university hospitals around Egypt established in partnership with the National Council for Women, and 28 under the Ministry of Health and Population at the Primary Health Care.

2 – The role of the National Council for Women

The year 2024 witnessed successive progress in the representation of women in leadership roles within Egypt. A notable milestone was the issuance of a presidential decree appointing Counselor Amal Ammar as Head of the National Council for Women (NCW). She became the first female judge to head the council, succeeding Dr. Maya Morsi, who was appointed Minister of Social Solidarity, which reflects the political leadership's confidence in her ability to achieve success in all the files entrusted to her.

NCW includes 29 branches, 18 permanent committees, and 78 associations under the «Civil Society Forum for Women.» It also manages 28 complaints offices and 70 units dedicated to «Skills Development Centers, Business Services, and Productive Training Units,» along with 17 financial inclusion units. Additionally, the council operates 21 offices across governorates, with work underway to allocate 8 additional branches.

During 2023/2024, the NCW adopted several initiatives and programs to support women in leadership positions, including the « Women Lead in the Egyptian Governorates» program in collaboration with the National Training Academy and the National Program for Women in Leadership, aimed at enhancing women's capabilities in Government.

3 – political Empowerment of Women

The formation of the new Government and the 2024 governors' movement marked significant progress in women's representation in leadership roles. Four women were appointed as ministers, while women deputy ministers represented 27% of the total deputies. Additionally, one woman was appointed as a governor, and nine women took on the role of deputy governor, constituting 31% of these key positions. These advancements underscore women's growing access to decision-making roles, ensuring their active participation across various sectors and serving as a strong incentive for them to continue contributing to their families and the nation.

In the legislative field, women's representation in the House of Representatives reached 165 seats in 2024, compared to 9 seats in 2012. Similarly, their representation in the Senate reached 41 seats in 2024, compared to 12 seats in 2012. Within the

judiciary, the presence of women has been steadily increasing. There are currently 130 female members in the regular judiciary and 17 women serving in the Public Prosecution. Furthermore, the State Council includes 137 female judges, while the Administrative Prosecution Authority boasts 2,363 female members. Additionally, the State Lawsuits Authority comprises 1,290 women, highlighting the significant role of women across various judicial bodies.

4 – Economic Empowerment of Women

Egypt advanced 50 points in the World Bank's Business Environment Index, scoring 75 points in 2024, compared to 25 points in 2014. The index evaluates how easily women can access employment opportunities and assesses the safety of their work environment.

There has been an improvement in indicators related to the proportion of small projects directed at women, financial inclusion, and microfinance lending for women, as well as an increase in the percentage of women in administrative roles.

The NCW has launched numerous initiatives under the economic empowerment framework, including programs focused on financial inclusion, workshops, productive units, financial literacy, and

entrepreneurship. During 2023/2024, the council succeeded in creating thousands of job opportunities, such as the launch of the «Tahweesha» app in partnership with the Central Bank, as part of the digital transformation of savings processes.

Between 2022 and 2024, over 315,000 women received training in financial literacy programs, while more than 219,000 women participated in entrepreneurship training programs. Additionally, women benefited from over 57,000 productive training opportunities.

In November 2024, The Joint Regional Project between the European Union and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was launched to enhance women entrepreneurs' access to financing. The project aims at improving women's financial inclusion and empowering female entrepreneurs to secure funding

in eight countries across the region, including Egypt.

In March 2024, the «Aziza» initiative has been launched to support women's projects across all governorates of Egypt. It aims to promote medium, small, and micro-enterprises led by women by offering accessible financing options. This support targets women who own existing projects and seek to develop them, as well as those who aspire to establish new projects. In addition to financial support, the initiative offers comprehensive technical, training, and marketing assistance to ensure the sustainability and success of these projects. It also covers various sectors, with a particular focus on industrial, productive, and agricultural projects that demonstrate strong potential for competitiveness both domestically and internationally.



5 – Social Empowerment of Women

The percentage of females enrolled in higher education increased to 49.8% in 2023/2024, compared to 45.4% in 2013/2014. Similarly, the percentage of females enrolled in postgraduate studies reached 58% in 2023/2024, compared to 47.9% in 2013/2014. Additionally, the drop-out rate among females at the primary stage decreased to 0.23% in the 2022/2023 academic year, down from 0.45% in 2013/2014.

Indicators have shown improvement across several areas, including the literacy rate among females, the average number of healthy years women live, and the adoption of family planning methods. The total fertility rate (children per woman) has also improved. Furthermore, there has been significant progress in the percentage of women receiving regular prenatal care, along with a decline in the maternal mortality rate.

In this context, the NCW has facilitated the issuance of 1,326,516 national ID cards for women, including 158,698 cards issued in the past year (2023/2024). The council has also contributed to medical caravans across the Country and participated in awareness seminars on public health, reproductive health, and the prevention of infectious diseases.

The «**Dawwie**» Initiative was launched in 2019, led by the NCW and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, in collaboration with UNICEF. By 2024. The initiative had reached approximately **270,000 girls**, with **140,000 girls** earning digital education certificates and **300 trainers** targeted for capacity-building.

The initiative aims to address the root causes of gender inequality through three main pillars:

- ▶ **Improving access to services**, such as healthcare, education, and protection.
- ▶ **Providing opportunities** for life skills development.
- ▶ **Facilitating platforms** that empower girls to express their opinions and activate their rights.

Internationally, Egypt retained its perfect score of 100% in the Women's Pension Laws Effectiveness Index, as reported by the World Bank. Additionally, in 2017, the first team of Egyptian policewomen joined the United Nations peacekeeping forces. By 2024, Egyptian women constituted **6.79 %** of all Egyptian peacekeeping missions.



6 – State Efforts to Protect Women Against Violence

Egypt remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting women's rights and combating all forms of violence and discrimination against them, recognizing this as a fundamental pillar for building a sustainable society based on justice and equality. The Country has prioritized implementing comprehensive policies and programs to ensure women's safety and provide a secure environment that upholds their rights. These efforts include enacting and updating laws to criminalize all forms of violence, alongside promoting societal awareness through educational and media campaigns aimed at changing negative behaviors and fostering a culture of respect and equality toward women. Additionally, Egypt has strengthened its cooperation with international

organizations and civil society institutions to address women's issues and exchange expertise in this field.

In November 2024, the NCW organized the coordination meeting activities entitled «The 7th Annual Meeting of University Units Combating Violence against Women in Egyptian Universities» within the framework of the 16-day campaign of activities to eliminate violence against women, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The percentage of FGM cases among girls aged 0-19 decreased to 14.2% in 2021, down from 21.4% in 2014. Additionally, Egypt's standing in the Women, Peace & Security Index issued by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security improved to 80% in the 2023/2024 report, compared to 71.8% in 2017/2018.

As part of its efforts to combat violence against women, the State established the **“Assembled Unit for the Protection of Women Against Violence”**, affiliated to the Cabinet to handle complaints and reports, alongside the creation of 42 units to combat violence against women in universities.

The Government allocated 33 safe spaces for women in university hospitals and primary healthcare centers to provide medical

services, psychological support, and counseling. Additionally, 28 women's complaints offices have been set up across all governorates, receiving over 255,000 complaints, 80% of which were resolved as of June 2024.

Moreover, **“Waai”** (Awareness) Program for Community Development includes some other initiatives:

- ▶ **“16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women”** Campaign, which addressed various forms of violence against women and children, benefiting a total of 11 million people by June 2024.
- ▶ The **“Awareness Campaign to Combat Harmful Practices”** (including FGM, child marriage, and violence in child-rearing) reached 876,000 beneficiaries by June 2024.
- ▶ The **“Her Marriage before 18 Abolishes Her Rights”** Campaign, which highlights the risks of child marriage before the legal age of 18, reached 30 million beneficiaries by June 2024.



Empowering youth in 2024

1 – Encouraging Creative Skills Among Youth

In March 2024, a cooperation protocol was signed between the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Dubai-based **Research Science Institute** to launch a project focused on creative skills and youth education. The goal is to expand cultural activities, support talented youth in various cultural fields, and enhance cultural awareness while fostering creative skills in youth centers and cultural clubs' libraries.

In addition, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a memorandum of understanding with the company «Techni» In 2024, to support innovative, technological projects, and entrepreneurship at the Sports Olympic Center in Maadi. Moreover, a protocol was signed with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation to enhance innovation and knowledge, and develop youth skills.

The Ministry launched the «Transformation Journey» program through the youth entity «Future Builders Youth Entity» in July 2024, designed to prevent post-graduation depression. This program, attended by over 400 members in Giza, is backed by various sponsoring companies. Furthermore, the Ministry launched talent discovery programs, including the 10th edition of (Egyptian Treasures) and the 2nd edition of «My Talent,» in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. These programs aim to discover and support talent in fields like expressive arts, brass music, string music, choral, theater arts, and improvisation.

Additionally, the Ministry launched the first international sports school in collaboration with the private sector in August 2024, designed with global standards to nurture sports talent from a young age. This initiative is part of the Ministry's strategy to enhance sports infrastructure and develop students' skills in multiple disciplines.

In the same month, the Ministry of Youth and Sports actively supports numerous youth projects and initiatives that prepare young Egyptians to meet the demands of both local and international job markets. These initiatives and programs, including «Meshwary» «Tawar w Ghayar» «Tawzeef Masr» and «Business for Youth,» also work in partnership with the United Nations and UNICEF through the «Generation Unlimited» initiative.

Furthermore, in October 2024, the Ministry launched the Presidential Initiative «Bedaya» (A New Beginning for Building Human) aimed at empowering Egyptian youth by enhancing their participation in national development and raising awareness to prepare them as future leaders. The initiative encourages active youth participation in decision-making and state-building efforts.

The first edition of the Arab Youth Media Creativity Summit, has been launched in 2024. This initiative is part of the State's efforts to enhance the role of media in educating youth by developing their skills. It aims to equip young people with the practical and academic skills needed to address contemporary challenges, such as misinformation and academic struggles. Additionally, the initiative focuses on strengthening the abilities of media professionals and showcasing key developments in the Arab media industry.

Under the slogan «Combating Illegal Migration and Preparing Egyptian Youth for the Global Job Market,» the Ministry of Youth and Sports witnessed the closing conference of the «Egyptians Abroad» in 2024. During this event, a cooperation protocol was signed between the Egyptian Youth Union Abroad and the Egyptian Youth Hostel Association. This collaboration aims to economically empower women and youth as part of the Ministry's

strategy to combat illegal migration. The initiative includes establishing youth centers and organizing youth camps in villages that may help mitigate the spread of this phenomenon.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports announced that Egypt has advanced 22 places in the 2024 Global Youth Development Index. This progress is largely attributed to the unwavering support and strategic guidance of the political leadership in advancing Egypt's youth sector. This includes enhancing youth and sports infrastructure, spreading it across villages and cities nationwide according to the highest global standards. The Ministry has also implemented several initiatives focused on youth training, employment, and empowerment in various fields, including sports, economy, society, culture, and arts. Furthermore, these efforts have facilitated continuous interaction between Egyptian youth and their peers worldwide across various fields, events, and international forums.

2 – Raising Awareness and Cultural Understanding Among Youth

In March 2024, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a cooperation protocol with the National Bank of Egypt as part of Egypt's national vision to enhance financial culture and its role in the national economy. This initiative aims to increase awareness about financial and digital inclusion, particularly focusing on youth. Alongside the Digital Egypt Youth (DEY) initiative, a national campaign has been launched to educate young people about financial inclusion and digital literacy.

Besides, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has launched the fourth version of the BRICS Model Simulation, which will take place on February 19. The program, organized by the Ministry through its Parliament Central Administration and Civic Education, in collaboration with the Egypt Youth Voice Association, provides a hands-on experience for participants to understand the political, economic, and social challenges and opportunities facing BRICS countries. It involves a series of scenarios and tasks aimed at fostering critical thinking and negotiation strategies.

In February 2024, the Ministry also launched a nationwide “National Project for Rehabilitation, Training, and Awareness-raising for Student Leaders” to train and raise awareness among student leaders at 27 public universities. The initiative is designed to develop their leadership and communication skills, emphasize the importance of social and political engagement and civic responsibility, and foster the values of good citizenship.

In April 2024, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Environment to build youth capacity in environmental work. This partnership seeks to enhance youth participation in local and international climate-related initiatives and discussions, fostering a generation capable of leading sustainable environmental solutions.

In collaboration with the Arab League, the Ministry of Youth and Sports launched the Arab Youth Parliament Simulation Model in July 2024 under the theme «Towards Sustainable Community Participation». This program aims to boost awareness, instill values of loyalty and belonging, and develop young leaders capable of shaping the region's future.

In September 2024, as a part of the Government's continued efforts to empower youth, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Financial

Regulatory Authority and the Egyptian Exchange, launched the second edition of the Youth Financial and Digital Inclusion Summit. This summit focuses on preparing and training youth to make sound investment decisions. It ensures youth can effectively engage in investment activities, contributing to building a robust and sustainable economy.

3 – Youth Sports Development

Building on this momentum, the Ministry of Youth and Sports opened the second edition of the «Sports Expo 2024” in March 2024, the Minister of Trade and Industry attended. This expo is a key milestone in Egypt's ongoing sports renaissance, reflecting the Government's strong commitment to sports development across various fields. The event highlights the Country's dedication to enhancing the health and cultural awareness of its youth, identifying and nurturing talent, and preparing young people across all areas.

Moreover, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a sponsorship contract with Palm Hills in January 2024 to support and sponsor Egypt's individual sports athletes. This initiative aims to prepare athletes for the Paris 2024 Olympics and ensure continued support for Egypt's sports talents up to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, with a financial contribution of 30 million EGP for this year.

Under the presidential initiative «Haya Karim» (Decent Life), the Ministry of Youth and Sports has also announced the commencement of the development and establishment of 1056 youth centers in July 2024, marking the second phase of this initiative. This step is part of a broader, comprehensive effort to enhance Egypt's youth and sports infrastructure.

In August 2024, as part of its regional leadership in aquatic sports, Egypt has established its first regional center for the development of water sports. This move further strengthens the Country's standing in the field, offering advanced infrastructure and training programs to nurture future champions.

Ultimately, the Ministries of Youth and Sports and Social Solidarity have signed a cooperation protocol aimed at enhancing youth development in September 2024. This agreement seeks to improve the quality of services and activities offered at youth centers nationwide, while also expanding cooperation in research, awareness, and training, contributing to overall youth development and addressing relevant challenges facing young people.

Conclusion

In 2024, Egypt has shown a strong commitment to advancing both women and youth empowerment through various governmental efforts. The Country has actively worked to reduce gender disparities and foster women's participation in the economic, political, and social spheres. This progress has been achieved through legislative changes, economic support for women entrepreneurs, and targeted programs aimed at combating gender-based violence. Simultaneously, the Government has focused on empowering youth, particularly by providing opportunities for skill development, education, and leadership.

These initiatives are designed to harness the potential of Egypt's young population, which forms a significant part of the workforce. By promoting gender equality and fostering youth in leadership roles, Egypt is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and dynamic society. These efforts not only contribute to sustainable economic growth but also enhance social cohesion and innovation. By investing in both women and youth, Egypt is ensuring a more equitable future, where all citizens have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development and global competitiveness.



Chapter 11:

Inclusive Society: Disability Rights and Accessibility

Egypt made remarkable progress in 2024 toward fostering an inclusive society for persons with disabilities. Guided by a commitment to equality and empowerment, the country focused on enhancing accessibility, providing comprehensive social services, and reducing stigma through awareness campaigns.

Building on its leadership as one of the first countries to sign the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007, Egypt has enshrined disability rights in its 2014 Constitution and declared 2018 the **«Year of Persons with Disabilities»**, enacting a landmark Disability Rights Law.

Egypt has also made significant strides in promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, as reflected in establishing the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in 2019 and key initiatives such as the **«Differently-Abled»** Fund in 2020. Proposed amendments to the Persons with Disabilities Law seek to increase vehicle import capacity for severe disabilities from 1,200cc to 1,600cc.

These amendments are part of broader efforts to finalize a national disability strategy and complete a comprehensive database of persons with disabilities categorized by type and geographic area. They also aim to expedite the issuance of service cards and develop innovative solutions for accessibility, transportation, and full-service delivery. Such efforts were

highlighted by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), showcasing Egypt's dedication to rehabilitating, protecting, and fully integrating persons with disabilities into all aspects of life. These initiatives underscore Egypt's commitment to ensuring all citizens' rights, dignity, and well-being.

In light of this, this article will feature several key sections addressing the multifaceted approach to disability inclusion. It will examine social services for disabled citizens, focusing on the accessibility and quality of healthcare, education, and community support systems. Awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and discrimination will also be discussed, highlighting the importance of changing societal attitudes and fostering inclusion. The leveraging of technology to enhance accessibility will be explored, showcasing innovative solutions that improve daily living for persons with disabilities. Finally, the article will showcase the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities during 2024, detailing initiatives that promote employment opportunities, vocational training, and financial independence for disabled individuals. These sections will highlight Egypt's comprehensive efforts to create an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can fully participate and thrive.

1 – Social and Educational Services for Disabled Citizens

The Ministry of Social Solidarity led a multifaceted approach to enhance social services, prioritizing the issuance of Integrated Services Cards. Over 1.5 million cards were distributed to streamline access to essential services and benefits. Additionally, the “Karama” program, a conditional cash transfer initiative, supported 1.2 million individuals with disabilities, allocating over EGP 8.6 billion annually. The program also ensured access to health-care and education by covering the costs of assistive devices and medical treatments.

Significant strides were made in education, including 2,000 laptops provided to visually impaired university students. In addition, scholarships worth EGP 900,000 per year were provided as well to visually impaired students across 19 public universities. Furthermore, 587 deaf and hard-of-hearing students were integrated into 13 universities with the support of 83 sign-language interpreters at an annual cost of EGP 2.9 million.

Another notable initiative, «**Accessible Curriculum**», aims to make educational curricula accessible and tailored to the needs of persons with sight and learning disabilities. This initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ensures inclusivity in learning.

Additionally, the government implemented rigorous accessibility codes in public infrastructure. In partnership with the Ministry of Transport, the government upgraded 16 railway stations and 35 metro stations to comply with Code 601, significantly increasing travel accessibility for persons with disabilities and eliminating barriers to mobility.

Rehabilitation centers nationwide have supported over 600,000 disabled citizens, providing assistive devices and therapy services at an estimated cost of EGP 550 million.

Other initiatives focus on supporting mental health for children and adolescents with disabilities and reproductive health for women and girls with disabilities. They also include participation in early detection and intervention programs with the Ministry of Health and Population, aligning with the presidential initiative «**Bedaya**» (A New Beginning for Building Human).

Collectively, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive effort to support persons with disabilities in education, health, and societal integration.

Seeking global cooperation, the Ministry of Social Solidarity signed a protocol with Malta’s Ministry of Inclusion to exchange expertise on autism support and rehabilitation programs. This partnership encompasses joint seminars, exhibitions, and sharing of best practices in technology and vocational training.

The Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation has also established a successful partnership with the Government of Italy, where Italy will provide EUR 1.8 million through a ratified international agreement to safeguard the human rights of persons with disabilities. This funding will strengthen the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, foster institutional collaboration, and implement tangible measures to promote their inclusion in society. The partnership aims to develop strategic action plans, policies, and programs with practical implementation, following a rights-based approach that empowers persons with disabilities.

2 – Awareness Campaigns to Reduce Stigma and Discrimination

Awareness campaigns in 2024 played a pivotal role in transforming societal attitudes toward persons with disabilities. The «**We Will Reach You**» initiative, a collaboration between the Ministry of Social Solidarity and local NGOs, organized over 1,700 awareness drives across 23 governorates. These campaigns emphasized the importance of inclusivity and assisted with Integrated Services Card registration.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities also conducted sign language initiatives to raise awareness of how to interact with individuals with hearing impairments and other disabilities. Over 5,000 individuals, including 410 administrative prosecutors, judges, and faculty members, benefited from these initiatives. Notably, for 13 consecutive years, the Council has provided volunteer interpreters to translate events into sign language during Cairo International Book Fair.

Moreover, the government launched training programs to educate families and communities on the capabilities and rights of individuals with disabilities, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding. This includes The Ministry of Social Solidarity launching the «Ahsan Saheb» initiative to integrate individuals with disabilities into society in collaboration with other public and private actors.

Another significant initiative, “**My Family, My Strength**”, launched by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, provided resources and counseling to families to enhance their ability to support and integrate their disabled children. In its second phase in 2024, the initiative expanded to eight additional governorates, aiming to support 800 more families.

Furthermore, the “**Ektashefny**” (Discover Me) initiative, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers and families through 64 workshops benefiting 3,200 individuals.

Efforts to raise awareness extended to the cultural sphere. The Ministry of Social Solidarity partnered with the Alexandria Short Film Festival to make cinema accessible for visually impaired audiences, ensuring that cultural experiences are inclusive. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture organized over 150 cultural and artistic events across Egypt to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. These events showcased the talents and contributions of disabled individuals, promoting their inclusion in cultural and artistic activities. Additionally, efforts have been made to integrate sign language into televised programming and boost the representation of persons with disabilities in media to challenge societal stereotypes.

A transformative step in preparing individuals, including persons with disabilities, for marriage was taken through the “**Mawada**” initiative by launching an inclusive training guide in collaboration with GIZ Egypt.

Egypt’s leadership demonstrated its commitment to disability rights through the continued celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the annual “**Differently- Abled**” event. This event highlighted success stories and celebrated the achievements of individuals with disabilities.

3 – Leveraging Technology for Inclusion: Enhancing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Egypt is advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities through innovative technological initiatives. Collaborations with various institutions are focusing on improving accessibility in banking, social services, and everyday life using cutting-edge assistive technologies. These efforts are aimed at enhancing social participation and independence for disabled individuals.

This is shown through the current partnership between the National Council for Persons with Disabilities with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity to develop a comprehensive technological strategy. This initiative focuses on accessibility, social inclusion, and fostering innovation in assistive technology, with several applications, such as smart homes and AI-driven tools, showcased during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council is also currently working on initiatives that emphasize the integration of artificial intelligence and financial inclusion for economic empowerment. Collaborating with the Central Bank of Egypt, the Ministry of Finance, and Banque Misr, the Council facilitated accessible banking services, including ATMs adapted for various disabilities and one-stop-shop services, targeting students with hearing and visual impairments, and educating participants on financial rights and provided practical tools like Meeza Bank cards. These efforts align with “Bedaya” (A New Beginning for Building Human) initiative under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

Moreover, the groundbreaking “Touch Card” by the National Bank of Egypt provided visually impaired citizens with accessible banking options, demonstrating the seamless integration of technology into daily life.

Also, to ensure inclusivity in the workplace, the Vodafone Hackathon for Artificial Intelligence, in collaboration with the “Ataa” Charity Investment Fund, showcased innovative solutions, including assistive technologies and digital tools designed to empower individuals with disabilities in various fields.

4 – Empowering Persons with Disabilities: Initiatives for Inclusion, Economic and Social Integration in Egypt

Egypt has made significant progress in advancing the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, implementing various initiatives that address employment, economic empowerment, political participation, and societal integration. These efforts underscore Egypt’s unwavering commitment to enhancing the rights, opportunities, and well-being of persons with disabilities across multiple sectors, including the workforce, sports, and political engagement.

The Ministry of Labor has played a pivotal role in promoting an inclusive society by facilitating the employment of over 57,000 individuals with disabilities in private sector companies since 2014. Moreover, a “Central Unit” dedicated to fostering inclusive work environments has been established, working in collaboration with international organizations to enhance vocational training and job placement services. Efforts to ensure fair wages, including the enforcement of minimum wage policies for disabled employees, have further strengthened social inclusion.

In the field of economic empowerment for persons with disabilities, more than 13,000 individuals with disabilities benefited from the “Ataa” Charity Investment

Fund in areas like educational opportunities and economic empowerment. Moreover, 134 small and micro projects have been supported, and 341 individuals have been trained and empowered to establish small businesses with the assistance of their families. These efforts are designed to integrate individuals with disabilities into society, improve their living conditions, and contribute to creating an inclusive and supportive community. Expansion efforts are underway to increase the number of beneficiaries across various governorates.

Furthermore, the «Soutak Haqqak» (**Your Vote Is Your Right**) initiative was released by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the National Elections Authority, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. This initiative, executed across all governorates and Egyptian universities, aims to enhance political participation in presidential elections and provide voting methods accessible for individuals with disabilities, including Braille ballots.

Additionally, the «**Sports for Our Health**» initiative was released by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Egyptian Paralympic Committee to encourage individuals with disabilities to engage in sports and physical activities to promote their health and overall well-being.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities has also prioritized empowering young girls with disabilities by providing them with the tools and resources necessary to enhance their independence and societal participation. Through initiatives such as «Dawwie» focuses on empowering girls and providing them with information through sign language and digital learning tools in their local communities. «**Girls in Leadership Roles**» initiative also aims to empower girls, including those with disabilities, in leading roles. This initiative works closely with the civil society and Ministry of Social Solidarity.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities marketed products from micro-projects in collaboration with the People's Military Defense Forces, as well as through participation in exhibitions such as «**Diarna**», «**Torathna**», and the Book Fair, and initiatives with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Local Development, Rotary clubs, and other social clubs, organizing approximately 200 exhibitions in total.

Conclusion

Egypt's efforts in 2024 reflect a holistic approach to fostering an inclusive society. Through robust laws, enhanced social services, impactful awareness campaigns, and innovative technological solutions, the country has made significant strides in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. These initiatives not only uphold the principles of equity and justice but also pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future for all Egyptians. The continued collaboration among government entities, private sectors, civil society, and international organizations highlights Egypt's commitment to ensuring a supportive and empowering environment for persons with disabilities, aligning with the nation's vision for sustainable development and equality.





Chapter 12:

Protecting Children: A Nation's Promise to Its Future

Investing in child development is an urgent necessity, as it forms the foundation of human capital. Investing in the early years of a child's life specifically is vital for their physical and mental growth. Children are a cornerstone of a cohesive family and a balanced society capable of progress. Egypt prioritizes this vital group, comprising in addition to youth 65% of its population, in its vision for comprehensive and sustainable development. The State leverages legislation, including the 2014 Constitution and Child Law No. 12 of 1996, to safeguard children's rights to health, education, care, nutrition, and protection in line with international conventions. The development of children and youth is central to Egypt's updated Vision 2030, which focuses on human development, access to basic services, and improved quality of life, with special attention to the protection and empowerment of children and youth.

In this context, 2024 witnessed intensive governmental efforts in Egypt to achieve a significant shift in child development. Through comprehensive initiatives and programs covering health, education, and social protection, the Government has demonstrated its commitment to building a generation capable of facing future challenges. This section focuses on Egypt's efforts in child empowerment and protection against exploitation, abuse, and neglect, focusing on recent initiatives.

Key Governmental Efforts in Child Development during 2024:

The Egyptian Government's efforts in child development during 2024 focused on several key areas, including combating child labor, promoting early childhood development, protecting children from violence and abuse, supporting families, providing social care, and raising awareness.

1 - Combating Child Labor:

The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) has launched the **Standard Operating Procedures for Child Labor**. It was designed to serve as a unified reference for case management, coordinate efforts among all relevant entities, and identify and address risks promptly. Additionally, the council launched an awareness campaign in partnership with the International Labour Organization to raise awareness about the dangers of child labor in jasmine fields in villages of Gharbia Governorate.

2 - Early Childhood Development:

NCCM has taken significant strides to develop and empower children, focusing on enhancing their skills, fostering creativity, and encouraging active participation. Among these efforts was the «Bokra Bina» (We Are the Future) initiative, which aimed to instill positive behaviors and skills in

children, fostering societal change and promoting values of belonging, citizenship, and acceptance of others. By the end of 2024, this initiative gained significant momentum as the Minister of Education and Technical Education decided to expand its implementation across schools nationwide.

In addition to skill development, NCCM prioritized supporting children's right to participate by expanding the Children's Forum and Parliament across numerous governorates. This platform provided children with a safe space to express their needs and concerns while teaching them the fundamentals of leadership and responsibility through hands-on experiences.

NCCM further demonstrated its commitment to children's welfare through the "Youngsters Care and Integration Program", which included activities to raise awareness about children's rights and support their mental health. Special attention was given to children with disabilities, with initiatives designed to protect and care for them, raise awareness among their families and caregivers, and equip them with essential information to address their needs effectively. These comprehensive efforts reflect a unified approach to nurturing future generations and promoting an inclusive, supportive environment for all children in Egypt.

NCCM's most prominent achievement in 2024 was launching **The National Strategy for Early Childhood Development in Egypt (2024 – 2029)**. This strategy aligns with Egypt's vision for comprehensive development, which focuses on fair and sustainable growth, starting with children.

The strategy focuses mainly on five main areas: creating a supportive political environment for nurturing early childhood development, adopting effective and dynamic governance based on knowledge and evidence, raising community awareness to foster positive habits and develop caregivers' skills, providing high-quality services in health, nutrition, early learning, and more for children and their families, and ensuring sustainability through the development of sustainable funding sources.

3 – Protecting Children from Violence and Abuse:

In line with safeguarding children's rights, the Egyptian Parliament issued Law No. 182 of 2023, reorganizing NCCM as the national body responsible for protecting children's rights and developing relevant policies. In 2024, NCCM handled 453,082 reports through the Child Helpline 16000, with 88% addressing child protection issues. The response rate increased by 2.8% compared to 2023.

Moreover, NCCM launched the «Internet Safety» campaign to protect children from online risks and ensure a safe digital environment. It also implemented the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Program in collaboration with the National Council for Women to raise awareness about the dangers of FGM. A conference titled «White Coat Against FGM» was held to educate doctors on the issue's legal, medical, and religious aspects. These efforts reflect NCCM's commitment to protecting and supporting children's rights on all fronts.

4 – Supporting Families and Providing Social Care:

The Government has emphasized the importance of child well-being and social protection through comprehensive initiatives aligned with national development goals. These efforts include significant advancements in child welfare programs, alternative care policies, and family-oriented social protection measures, as outlined below:

4.1 National Programs and Initiatives for Family and Child Welfare

The Government, represented in Ministry of Social Solidarity, launched the National Early Childhood Development Program, under which 1,170 nurseries were upgraded

in “Hayah Karima” (Decent Life) villages, serving 24,000 children, particularly in border governorates. Low-interest loans provided through Nasser Social Bank facilitated the development of private and community childcare facilities, thereby enhancing access to quality childcare and supporting women's economic participation. Efforts to ensure comprehensive care include training 5,800 facilitators and 1,200 administrators through capacity-building programs.

4.2 Alternative Care and Child Protection Policies

The Egyptian Government prioritizes child well-being by strengthening child protection mechanisms and fostering partnerships with key organizations, including NCCM and various civil society groups. Efforts include care services and financial support for 400,000 orphans, representing 30% of the nation's total, at an annual cost of EGP 1.7 billion. Early childhood programs are expanding, and kindergarten enrolment is targeted to increase.

To promote family-oriented care, new regulations for licensing small group homes have been introduced, providing alternatives to institutional care in line with the Alternative Care project. This initiative emphasizes deinstitutionalization and reflects a comprehensive vision for child protection policies. The Ministry of Social

Solidarity oversees 40 care institutions, housing 9,019 children, including adults requiring social reintegration.

For orphaned youth, the Government supported the purchase of 1,023 housing units in 2023, aiding their transition to independence. In 2024, Marriage grants were provided to 74 care home residents from July to September, and 801 housing units were handed over across 12 governorates until October.

Collaboration with «Save the Children» led to the Child Protection Policy Handbook, standardizing safety practices in social care institutions. Additionally, the dedicated hotline 19828 offers specialized support for orphans; it is operated by trained graduates with personal experience in alternative care. These efforts underscore a commitment to ensuring the best interests of the child while enhancing safety and quality standards.

4.3 Social Protection for Families

Food baskets were distributed to 18,000 families at a total cost of EGP 2,160,000, and meat was distributed to 308,000 families at a total cost of EGP 69,600,000. Additionally, cash and in-kind assistance was provided to 14,254,799 beneficiaries at a total cost of EGP 9,768,427.50, funded through the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Social Takaful Foundation.

The government is collaborating with the private sector to improve workplace environments and support childcare facilities in workplaces through the Early Childhood Development Program. These efforts aim to enhance workplace nurseries to better meet the needs of female employees, including training caregivers in positive parenting methods and addressing challenges such as bullying and harassment in nurseries. These initiatives are designed to create safer and more supportive environments for children and their families, helping working women achieve a better work-life balance.





5 – Awareness and Education:

In 2024, NCCM launched several initiatives to support children's rights and empower families. An initiative was launched calling upon parents to befriend their children; it raised awareness about promoting positive behaviors and addressing negative ones, helping families raise children in a healthy environment. In collaboration with UNICEF, NCCM launched the **“Diverse, But United”** campaign to eliminate discrimination, promote inclusion,

and foster self-confidence and acceptance among children. Additionally, the national **“Dawwie”** initiative, Under the patronage of Egypt's First Lady Entissar El-Sisi, expanded to empower children and parents through intergenerational understanding and safe communication spaces. To further support these efforts, NCCM developed a community awareness guide on children's and mothers' rights, ensuring a comprehensive approach to nurturing future generations.

Conclusion:

The Egyptian Government's efforts in 2024 underscore a comprehensive approach to childhood development, focusing on creating a supportive environment for children and families. Through legislative reforms, strategic initiatives, and active campaigns, Egypt is laying the groundwork for a brighter, more inclusive future for its youth. By focusing on early childhood development, child protection, and family empowerment, Egypt is investing in the next generation, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities necessary to contribute to the country's sustainable growth and prosperity. These initiatives, aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030, not only aim to address immediate challenges but also pave the way for long-term social change.



Chapter 13:

Egypt's Cultural Milestones in 2024: A Year of Innovation and Heritage

The Egyptian Government has undertaken a remarkable journey to redefine Egypt's cultural landscape, weaving its rich heritage with forward-thinking strategies to promote inclusivity, accessibility, and innovation. This vision reflects Egypt's unwavering commitment to preserving its identity while embracing new avenues to engage with its citizens and the global community. By prioritizing protecting its historical legacy and expanding cultural opportunities for all, the State has created a dynamic framework that celebrates the past and looks boldly toward the future.

The government's efforts span a broad spectrum, from bringing arts and literature to underserved communities to preserving architectural treasures and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Key initiatives have included the launch of virtual cultural platforms, a reinvigoration of the performing arts, and the organization of landmark book fairs that connect readers with knowledge and creativity. At the same time, these projects emphasize cultural equity, reaching border regions and marginalized groups while leveraging cutting-edge technology to bridge generational gaps.

This article delves into the highlights of Egypt's cultural renaissance, exploring the milestones achieved in enhancing access to culture, expanding international engagement, promoting literary endeavors, and embracing technological advancements.

Together, these initiatives reinforce Egypt's cultural identity and position the country as a global leader in arts, heritage, and innovation.

1 – Enhancing Access to Culture Nationwide

Egypt has prioritized making cultural activities accessible to diverse audiences nationwide, ensuring cultural development reaches every corner of the nation. With 120,000 cultural and artistic activities organized throughout 2024, more than 11 million citizens benefited from these events. Additionally, 30,000 events were tailored to serve border regions and underserved communities, reflecting the country's dedication to cultural inclusivity and national cohesion.

The presidential initiative «Bedaya» (A New Beginning for Building Human) was launched in line with the Egyptian efforts to enhance access to culture nationwide. It aims to promote cultural and artistic development across Egypt; therefore, the Ministry of Culture intensified its efforts to make cultural activities accessible to diverse audiences. Between September and December 2024, the Ministry organized 13,737 cultural and artistic events, benefiting over 1.28 million citizens nationwide. Several entities supported this initiative, including the General Authority of Cultural Palaces, the General Egyptian Book

Organization, and the National Center for Child Culture. They collaborated to deliver diverse activities that enriched cultural experiences across the country, intending to extend the reach of cultural initiatives to all segments of society.

Additionally, underserved communities were a focal part of the Government's efforts to ensure equitable access to cultural resources, even in the most remote regions. Under the Alternative Housing program for slum residents, 5,000 events were organized in 8 governorates, and 600 activities were held under the Mobile Theaters program, which brought performances to five governorates.

Furthermore, various activities were designed to deliver cultural services to remote and disadvantaged areas under the Cultural Justice program. Within this framework, 336 events were organized as part of the presidential initiative "Hayah Karima" (Decent Life), benefiting over 25,000 citizens in villages and rural communities. A major highlight of this initiative in 2024 was the Confrontation and Roaming Theater project. This program delivered 200 performances to 170 villages across 15 governorates, reaching over 500,000 citizens. Designed to make art performances more accessible, the project brought high-quality theatrical productions to underserved communities. Complementing these efforts, the "You Are Life" initiative

reached 70,000 citizens across 17 governorates through 352 events, fostering cultural awareness and engagement.

In addition, the State has focused on knowledge dissemination. Through partnerships between the Ministry of Culture, represented by the National Center for Translation, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 35,000 translated books were distributed to schools in "Hayah Karima" villages, 15,000 books were provided to universities, and 36,000 titles reached youth centers across governorates. These efforts aimed to provide young people with access to educational resources and promote a learning culture in underserved areas.

To further enhance access to culture, the Government inaugurated four new cultural venues in 2024, expanding its infrastructure to foster creative expression and community engagement. These venues included the Egypt Public Library in Aswan, the Fawzy Fawzy Theater, the Summer Theater in South Sinai's El-Tor City, and the Palace of Artistic Creativity in the 6th of October City. These venues are essential platforms for local talent to showcase their work while fostering creativity in their communities.

Through its comprehensive efforts and commitment to inclusivity, the State has made remarkable progress in bringing arts and literature closer to millions of Egyptians. By fostering collaboration across various sectors and ensuring cultural activities reach all segments of society, the Ministry of Culture has not only enriched lives but also strengthened the country's cultural fabric. These initiatives have cultivated a profound sense of unity and pride, reinforcing Egypt's cultural identity and its enduring legacy.

2 – Heritage Preservation and Cultural Diplomacy: A Global Responsibility

Egypt demonstrated its unwavering commitment to solidifying its global leadership in heritage preservation in 2024, marking a year of significant achievements that reinforced its cultural influence on both local and international stages. By showcasing Egypt's rich heritage and fostering cultural exchanges, the Ministry of Culture has not only preserved Egypt's legacy but also elevated its global standing as a cultural hub.

Egypt's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage was underscored by the addition of two elements to UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage: Henna

and the Semsemiah Musical Instrument. These additions brought the total number of Egypt's UNESCO-registered intangible heritage elements to ten, reflecting the diversity and richness of Egyptian culture. This recognition was achieved through collaborative efforts with Arab countries, emphasizing Egypt's leadership in safeguarding shared cultural heritage. On the domestic front, the State advanced its efforts to preserve architectural and historical heritage through initiatives led by the National Organization for Urban Harmony, which documented over 7,000 architecturally significant buildings and installed 1,000 commemorative plaques as part of its "Lived Here" initiative. By honoring historical landmarks and the figures associated with them, this initiative plays a vital role in linking modern Egypt with its historical and cultural roots, fostering a sense of pride and continuity.

Moreover, cultural diplomacy took center stage in 2024, with Egypt making significant strides in strengthening its cultural presence worldwide. As the first Arab country to be the Guest of Honor at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, Egypt showcased its cultural richness through a beautifully designed pavilion celebrating the life and works of Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz. Various Governmental

sectors participated, including the General Egyptian Book Organization, the National Library and Archives, and the National Center for Translation, presenting a wide array of publications, artistic reproductions, and cultural artifacts that highlighted Egypt's literary and artistic excellence.

Egypt's participation in other global events further underscored its cultural leadership. At the 60th Venice Biennale, Egypt's pavilion featuring the Drama 1882 film by acclaimed artist Wael Shawky received widespread acclaim. In addition, Egyptian artists and performers participated in prestigious festivals such as the Jerash Festival in Jordan, the International Festival of Children of Peace in Morocco, and animation workshops in Serbia. These international appearances reflected the Ministry's strategic efforts to position Egypt as a global cultural leader while strengthening ties with other countries through cultural exchange.

Moreover, the Egyptian Academy of Arts in Rome has played a pivotal role in promoting Egypt's cultural influence in Europe. In 2024, the Academy celebrated its 95th anniversary with a series of events that underscored Egypt's artistic and historical contributions. These events included folkloric dance performances, lectures on Egyptology, and an exhibition of Egyptian artifacts. The Academy also commemorated the 155th anniversary of Giuseppe

Verdi's Opera Aida, reflecting the enduring cultural ties between Egypt and Italy. It also engaged younger audiences by hosting screenings of Shadi Abdel Salam's iconic film The Mummy and organizing workshops to educate schoolchildren about ancient Egyptian civilization.

Beyond showcasing its culture abroad, Egypt successfully hosted several major international cultural events in 2024. For example, it organized the Cairo International Film Festival, the Ismailia International Folklore Festival, and the Aswan International Festival of Art and Culture. Events like the Samaa International Festival Spiritual Music & Chanting as well as the International Festival for Drums and Traditional Arts further demonstrated Egypt's capacity to bring together cultures from around the world.

Through these concerted efforts, Egypt has not only preserved its cultural heritage but also expanded its international influence. By actively participating in global cultural dialogues and fostering collaborations, Egypt has positioned itself as a bridge between civilizations. The State's initiatives in 2024 demonstrated how heritage and diplomacy can intertwine to create a dynamic cultural identity that resonates across borders, ensuring that Egypt's legacy continues to inspire and connect the world.

3 – Promoting Literature and Expanding Publishing Initiatives

Egypt's contributions to literature and publishing flourished in 2024, reflecting the Government's commitment to fostering knowledge and promoting cultural awareness through diverse initiatives in publishing, book fairs, and innovative projects. For instance, the General Egyptian Book Organization published 500 titles across various disciplines. Notable releases included **The Geographic Divisions of Egypt in the Pharaonic Era, A Guide to Cinematic Terminology in Arabic, The Songs Book, and Egyptian Sculpture in the Middle Kingdom**. Additionally, the organization highlighted modern literary contributions through titles such as **Readings in the Works of Yusuf Idris and For the Love of Yaqub El-Sharouni**.

The General Authority of Cultural Palaces complemented these efforts by publishing 106 works across cultural series and critical studies, as well as 68 periodicals and cultural magazines, further enriching the intellectual landscape. Meanwhile, the National Library and Archives released a range of titles covering Egyptian heritage,

literature, and science, including **The Explanation of the Shazhur al-Dhahab Collection in Chemistry and Secrets of Composition in Pharmacy**. These publications emphasized Egypt's historical contributions to science and culture.

Additionally, the 55th Cairo International Book Fair, held in January 2024, stood out as a landmark event, attracting over 5 million visitors. Under the theme “We Create Knowledge, We Preserve the Word”, the fair reflected the vibrancy of Egypt's literary scene and its global stature. Norway was the guest of honor, and the fair celebrated two key figures: Egyptologist Dr. Selim Hassan and the pioneer of children's literature, Yaqoub Al-Sharouni. Spanning seven halls, the fair offered a robust cultural program, including discussions featuring prominent intellectuals, a dedicated hall for children's books and activities, and two stages for artistic performances.

The 2024 fair emphasized inclusivity and innovation, showcasing a pavilion for emerging publishers who did not meet the standard participation requirements. The initiative allowed smaller publishers to present their works, expanding

opportunities for creative voices. The fair also launched the One-Day Conference program, which featured five conferences addressing pressing cultural topics. The Arab Publishers' Association introduced the "Everyone Reads" initiative, offering discounts of up to 50% to readers and cultural institutions, ensuring greater access to literature. To elevate the experience for participants and visitors, the fair adopted digital payment systems through a partnership with "Easy Cash", enabling secure and efficient transactions using QR codes and prepaid cards.

The Cairo International Book Fair's contributions went beyond literature. It aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030 by forging partnerships with institutions such as the National Council for Women and the

Ministry of Social Solidarity. Initiatives like "Dawwie" and "Waai" (Awareness) promoted cultural and social development, while the "Roa'ya" (Vision) Project released 200 titles for youth in collaboration with the Ministry of Awqaf (Endowments), with the participation of 94 Egyptian and Arab ministries and entities.

These comprehensive efforts in publishing and exhibitions underscore that Egypt continues to cement its reputation as a cultural and literary powerhouse, which was illustrated in the Governmental initiatives in 2024. They targeted ensuring that literature and knowledge remain accessible to all and fostering a vibrant intellectual and creative ecosystem that inspires both local and international audiences.



4 – Enriching Egypt's Performing Arts Scene

Egypt has made significant strides to bring world-class cultural experiences to diverse audiences while preserving and celebrating Egypt's artistic heritage. Therefore, the performing arts were at the heart of Egypt's cultural agenda in 2024, with 8,000 remarkable arrays of theatrical, musical, and artistic performances staged nationwide.

In this context, the Egyptian Opera House was a focal point of these activities, hosting over 1,000 events across its theaters in Cairo, Alexandria, and Damanhour. More than 1 million attendees enjoyed performances spanning a wide spectrum of art forms. The Opera's Main Hall alone saw over 140 concerts, while other notable venues, such as the Fountain Theater and the Damanhour Opera House, staged 13 and 58 performances, respectively.

These events included symphonies by the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, productions by the Cairo Opera Ballet Company, and performances by the National Arab Music Ensemble. The Opera House also revitalized Arabic music traditions through 120 concerts, including collaborations with artists like Medhat Saleh and Ali El-Haggar. Projects such as **100 Years of Singing** celebrated the evolution of Arabic music and orchestras that preserved its

unique essence. Complementing these efforts, the theater sector delivered an exceptional year, presenting over 500 theatrical performances to approximately 600,000 audiences.

In addition to traditional performing arts, the Government supported the visual arts sector, which hosted 1,200 events. They included individual and group exhibitions, workshops, and lectures that highlighted the dynamic role of fine arts in Egypt's cultural fabric. The events drew audiences from diverse age groups and backgrounds, further cementing the sector's impact on the country's cultural and artistic identity.

Cultural development also extended to the Cultural Development Fund, which organized 260 artistic performances in its centers nationwide. These events, featuring prominent artists and musical groups, attracted approximately 25,000 participants and demonstrated the fund's ability to foster artistic innovation and engagement.

Egypt's performing arts sector throughout the year 2024 not only thrived but also contributed to the nation's broader cultural goals of inclusivity, accessibility, and artistic excellence. By integrating heritage with innovation and expanding cultural outreach, the State has ensured that the performing arts remain a vibrant and essential part of Egypt's cultural landscape.

5 – Leveraging Technology for Cultural Growth

Embracing the transformative power of technology, the Government has undertaken significant initiatives in 2024 to preserve Egypt's cultural heritage, expand accessibility, and foster cultural awareness in the digital age. In collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, a landmark protocol was signed to harness information technology to sustain Egypt's cultural leadership and promote its heritage globally.

Central to this collaboration is the development of an interactive platform for Virtual Cultural Palaces. Using advanced technologies such as 3D modeling, virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI), the platform creates immersive environments where users can explore Egypt's cultural treasures and participate in events from anywhere in the world. This initiative aims to enhance cultural awareness, provide opportunities for talent discovery, and cultivate a new generation of culturally engaged citizens in a dynamic digital ecosystem.

The Ministry of Culture also introduced innovative mobile applications to engage younger audiences and nurture a lifelong connection with Egypt's heritage. The TUT App, the first application dedicated to children's books and magazines, offers an

engaging platform for digital reading and educational games. Alongside, the Thoth App, developed by the National Center for Child Culture in partnership with Cairo University's Faculty of Computers and Artificial Intelligence, was launched to promote Egypt's identity and rich history. Named after the ancient Egyptian deity of wisdom and knowledge, Thoth allows children to interact directly with AI-powered avatars of historical figures and symbols, answering their questions about Egypt's cultural legacy and inspiring a deeper appreciation for their heritage.

These groundbreaking digital projects have demonstrated the Egyptian Government's forward-thinking approach to cultural development, ensuring that Egypt's heritage is preserved and celebrated while embracing the opportunities of the digital age. By integrating cutting-edge technology, the Government has not only made cultural content more accessible but has also positioned Egypt as a leader in digital cultural innovation on a global scale.



Conclusion

The Egyptian Government achieved remarkable milestones in 2024, seamlessly blending the preservation of its rich heritage with innovative approaches that emphasize inclusivity and accessibility. By safeguarding Egypt's historical and intangible treasures while fostering creativity and participation, the Government has redefined culture as a unifying force that transcends borders, connects generations, and uplifts marginalized communities. From enhancing access to arts and literature in remote villages to expanding global engagement through international events, these initiatives highlight the country's dedication to ensuring that culture is accessible to all.

At the heart of these efforts lies a forward-looking vision that not only honors Egypt's past but also embraces the opportunities of the future. The State's integration of cutting-edge technologies, such as virtual cultural platforms and AI-driven educational tools, ensures that Egypt's cultural legacy continues to inspire new audiences at home and abroad. By fostering inclusivity and collaboration across sectors, the Government has cultivated a deeper sense of unity and pride among Egyptians while positioning the country as a global leader in creativity, heritage, and innovation.

These achievements underscore the transformative power of culture to educate, inspire, and unite. As Egypt looks to the future, its Government remains a beacon of progress and resilience, demonstrating how a nation's cultural identity can be preserved and celebrated while embracing change and innovation on the world stage.





Eyes on the Future: What Lies Ahead for Egypt in 2025

A forward-looking analysis of Egypt's political trajectory in 2025, especially the parliamentary election, discusses the potential challenges and opportunities in governance, strengthening democratic institutions, and the State's future role in global politics.

As Egypt looks ahead to 2025, its political trajectory is poised to be shaped by a mix of challenges and opportunities that will influence its governance, the strengthening of democratic institutions, and its future role on the global stage. The upcoming **parliamentary elections** in 2025 will be a critical moment in this ongoing journey, presenting both a test of Egypt's democratic development and an opportunity to advance its aspirations of political stability, economic growth, and international cooperation.

1 – Parliamentary Elections

Egypt begins a new phase of constitutional entitlements that will be completed in 2025 by voting on parliamentary councils and choosing people's representatives for the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Political parties with different orientations, ideas, and political, economic, and social plans are competing for seats in both councils. Each seeks to win the largest number of parliamentary seats to expand its bloc within the House of Representatives.

2 – A New Phase of the National Dialogue

The national dialogue continues to complete its important discussions on various political, economic, or societal issues of concern to the State, with the participation of various political forces and movements, experts, and representatives of the Egyptians.

On February 6, 2025, Prime Minister, Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, met with the members of the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue, stressing his keenness and aspiration to restore the pace of rich discussions taking place through the National Dialogue mechanism. He alluded to the directives of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi regarding activating this mechanism and expanding its spectrum of issues, with a focus on the external challenges facing the country.

Dr. Madbouly pointed out that a large part of the recommendations of the National Dialogue in the economic field was approved by the Government in its new program. In addition, many of the political recommendations were approved, while the rest of the recommendations are being studied and discussed.

According to the members of the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue, the National Dialogue now includes 65 parties, and all syndicates are represented in the National Dialogue. In other words, the National Dialogue represents various spectra.

A total of 256 recommendations were issued by the National Dialogue after 110 sessions attended by thousands of participants, aiming at presenting different visions on political, economic, and social files.

During the meeting, the members of the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue called for implementing the new social package before the month of Ramadan. They praised the regular meetings held by the Prime Minister with officials of the

National Dialogue, civil society organizations, and businessmen. He also indicated that the social package would be applied before Ramadan, and that there would be exceptional measures during Ramadan and Eid. He requested the submission of a report that clarifies the implementation status of all the recommendations of the National Dialogue.

The Prime Minister asked the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue to identify important priorities in the legislative and political agenda to implement them immediately during the next stage. At the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister confirmed that there were many ideas related to reconstructing Gaza and preventing the displacement of its residents.



Fitch Political Risk Index 2024

Egypt possesses several political and economic strengths that position it as a leading regional power. The political leadership enjoys strong popular support, which fosters political stability and flexibility in policymaking in the near term. Moreover, Egypt is officially a «major non-NATO ally» and maintains friendly relations with the United States, Russia, China, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. This significantly reduces the external security threats facing Egypt, making it a generally favorable destination for foreign investment in the Egyptian economy.

Finally, Egypt's strategic location at the crossroads of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Africa, along with the presence of the Suez Canal, ensures that global and regional powers have a strong interest in maintaining friendly relations with Cairo. This geopolitical importance will continue to motivate significant foreign support should the need arise. Egypt scored 41.35 out of 100 on Fitch's Political Risk Index in November 2024, indicating a moderate level of political risk. These risks mostly stem from the surrounding regional tensions, especially the repercussions of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Conclusion

In 2024, domestic and regional factors shaped Egypt's key political events, reflecting a dynamic intersection of progress and challenges. These events offer a glimpse into the future of Egypt's political framework, governance, and societal development.

Looking ahead to 2025, Egypt stands at a crossroads, facing significant challenges but also possessing ample opportunities for growth, reform, and international influence. The parliamentary elections will be a defining moment, offering Egyptians the chance to reshape the political environment and strengthen democratic institutions. At the same time, economic reforms, youth engagement, and geopolitical maneuvering will be key factors in determining the State's future trajectory. If Egypt can successfully navigate these challenges while leveraging its strengths, it has the potential to emerge as a more resilient, democratic, and globally influential nation in the years to come.



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