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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Egypt**

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## Introduction

1. The Arab Republic of Egypt is proud of its robust traditions related to the promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights, both at home and abroad. Human rights-related issues have always had a prominent place in Egypt and give rise to vigorous debate among the public and in the media. Egypt is happy to present its report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review and looks forward to discussions with the Human Rights Council, which is a way to promote mutual understanding and to bolster the country's efforts to advance human rights in Egypt and around the world.
2. During the second cycle, the Government received 300 recommendations of which it fully accepted 224 and partially accepted 23, while it rejected 23 recommendations as they were incompatible with the Constitution or with universally recognized human rights. A further 29 recommendations were noted as they were already being implemented, while one recommendation was considered to be inaccurate.
3. The present report reviews the implementation of the recommendations the Government accepted following the second cycle as well as the developments the country has witnessed since November 2014 across five areas of human rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. It also details the Government's efforts to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to disseminate a culture of human rights, on the basis of the belief that citizens have a right to live in dignity and security and to practice fundamental freedoms as long as they do not infringe the rights of others.

## Methodology for preparing the report

4. As a complement to the previous report, this report too is the outcome of a participative and inclusive methodology that involved close consultations with various national stakeholders, particularly human rights institutions, civil society groups and a number of public figures. Since the second cycle, a number of measures have been put in place to follow up on the recommendations the Government accepted:

(a) The recommendations were circulated among government departments and national human rights institutions;

(b) A series of meetings with government bodies and relevant national stakeholders was held to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations, make proposals for policies to achieve that implementation, discuss ways to overcome obstacles with a particular focus on the views of civil society organizations and consider challenges and how to meet them;

(c) The midterm voluntary report was submitted in March 2018 then work proceeded until the present report was complete.

5. The report provides information about the efforts the State has made on 14 fronts: (1) Obligations under international human rights treaties; (2) Civil and political rights; (3) Economic, social and cultural rights; (4) Empowerment of women; (5) Children's rights; (6) Rights of persons with disabilities; (7) Empowerment of young people; (8) Combating corruption; (9) Refugees and migrant affairs; (10) Combating irregular migration and migrant smuggling; (11) Combating human trafficking; (12) Respecting human rights while combating terrorism; (13) Disseminating a human rights culture; (14) Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

### I. Obligations under international human rights treaties<sup>1</sup>

6. Article 151 of the Constitution obligates the legislature, the judiciary and the executive to abide by the provisions of ratified international treaties in the same way as they abide by domestic law and, thus, parties injured by the non-application of the provisions of such treaties may have recourse to the courts. In fact, the Constitution of 2014 goes further than earlier constitutions and, under article 93, confers special status on ratified

international human rights treaties, giving them force of law. It thereby gives constitutional protection to the rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined therein. As a consequence, any interested party may appeal to the Supreme Constitutional Court to invoke the non-constitutionality of a piece of legislation. This has been upheld in two cases in which the Court reasoned that the implementation of article 93 entailed an obligation to amend domestic law to bring it into line with international human rights treaties. The rulings of the Court are considered final and applicable by all authorities.<sup>2</sup>

7. The Constitution surrounds human rights and fundamental freedoms with specific safeguards. Under article 92, the rights and freedoms of citizens may not be violated or downgraded, and no law regulating such rights and freedoms may restrict them in such a way as to encroach upon their essence or substance. Article 99 of the Constitution considers any infringement against citizens' personal freedom or the sanctity of their private lives, or against any other public rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, as an offence not subject to the statute of limitations. Under the same article, the National Council for Human Rights may inform the State Prosecution Office of any violations and may enter into a civil lawsuit on the side of the injured party, at the latter's request. For its part, article 121 gives laws regulating human rights and freedoms the status of laws complementing the Constitution. This means that the issuance of any such law requires a majority of two thirds of the House of Representatives.

8. The Supreme Constitutional Court has had occasion to refer to international human rights treaties in the context of rights-related disputes upon which it has ruled; for example, it exercised its constitutional oversight on the extent to which legislation conforms to the principle of non-imprisonment on grounds of inability to fulfil a contractual obligation, as enshrined in article 11 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>3</sup> The Court has also reconfirmed the principle that accused persons are innocent until proven guilty in a fair and legal trial in which their right to defend themselves is duly safeguarded, as per articles 2 to 14 of the Covenant.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the Court has issued two sentences enshrining the right to form civil associations, which cannot be dissolved merely by an administrative ruling, as per article 22 of the Covenant.<sup>5</sup>

9. In line with recommendations received during the second cycle, Egypt acceded to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in 2017 and to the Arab Charter on Human Rights in April 2019. As concerns its periodic review of reservations, in 2015 Egypt withdrew its reservation to article 21 (2) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which forbids the marriage of children under the age of 18. A number of laws have been enacted since 2015 to bring domestic legislation into line with international and regional treaties,<sup>6</sup> while the following steps have been taken to fortify the institutional structures underpinning human rights:

(a) The law establishing the National Council for Human Rights has been amended to strengthen that body's mandate and independence, in accordance with the Constitution and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);<sup>7</sup>

(b) A human rights department has been set up inside the State Prosecution Office to investigate complaints relating to human rights violations;<sup>8</sup>

(c) Two laws have been enacted regulating, respectively, the National Council for Women and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities;<sup>9</sup>

(d) A high-level standing committee on human rights has been created to monitor the implementation of obligations arising from international treaties, to propose the necessary legislation and to develop national human rights strategies in that connection.<sup>10</sup>

## II. Civil and political rights<sup>11</sup>

10. Since the previous report was issued, and with a view to consolidating the democratic system, elections for the House of Representatives were held at the end of 2015, with a turnout of 28.27 per cent. As a result of the vote, 90 women, 39 persons under the age of 35, 8 persons with disabilities and 8 Egyptians residing abroad were returned as

members of the House. A total of 92 political parties took part, 20 of which are represented in the current House of Representatives. In fact, article 74 of the Constitution enshrines the right to form political parties, merely by notification, and forbids the dissolution of parties except by judicial order.

11. Pursuant to the Constitution, a law has been enacted creating the independent National Electoral Authority. The Authority, which runs referendums as well as presidential, parliamentary and local elections, is responsible for setting up and administering a voter database, establishing rules governing electoral propaganda and funding, and overseeing their application, and announcing election results.<sup>12</sup> The law confers a juridical status that guarantees the independence and neutrality of Authority members and imposes the requirement for all official bodies to cooperate with the Authority in the performance of its duties. In March 2018, the Authority oversaw presidential elections in which 41.16 per cent of the electorate at home and overseas chose between two rival candidates, with the winner receiving 97 per cent of votes cast. In April 2019, the Authority administered a constitutional referendum with a 44.4 per cent turnout at home and overseas and 88.8 per cent of voters declaring themselves in favour of the proposed amendment.

12. Egypt accepted recommendations concerning media freedom that emerged from the second cycle of the universal periodic review on the basis of its conviction that the media represents a fundamental pillar of a healthy democratic system. The Association of Journalists Act enshrines the independence of the Association and protects the rights and freedom of journalists in the exercise of their profession, within the framework of a charter of media integrity drawn up by the Association's general assembly, thus guaranteeing society's right to be served by a professional and responsible media.<sup>13</sup> In addition, three laws have been enacted, which together constitute the body of legislation regulating the press and the media.<sup>14</sup> They guarantee freedom of the press, the media, printing and publication, whether on paper or through audiovisual or digital means. Under the Constitution, moreover, newspapers can be published merely by notification, while censorship, confiscation, suspension or closure of newspapers and media outlets is forbidden, save in time of war or general mobilization. The Constitution also states that opinions expressed by journalists may not be used as grounds for their prosecution and it guarantees their right to access and publish information and not to be compelled to reveal their sources. Moreover, penalties of deprivation of liberty may not be imposed for offences related to publication with the exception of incitement to violence, discrimination or impugment of the honour of citizens. The Supreme Media Regulatory Council is an independent body and any interference in its affairs is forbidden.

13. In order to give effect to recommendations concerning the right of peaceful assembly and of association, the Act regulating public meetings, processions and peaceful demonstrations was amended in 2017.<sup>15</sup> Under the amendment, the right to ban, postpone or alter the route of demonstrations passed from the Ministry of the Interior to the judiciary. This helps to ensure that citizens and the administrative authorities remain equal before the courts. A new government bill regulating civil society activities was approved by the House of Representatives in July 2019 following a series of debates within society. Under the bill, civil society associations can now be established and acquire legal personality merely by notification, and they enjoy certain economic privileges and fiscal exemptions as well as the right to receive money from abroad, once they have notified the administrative authorities. If the authorities file no objection within 60 working days, approval is taken to have been granted. The new law abrogates all penalties of deprivation of liberty and states that no association or its governing board may be dissolved save by judicial ruling. The fees for authorizing foreign associations to operate have been reduced while the proportion of foreign members able to sit on the governing boards of civil society organizations has been raised to 25 per cent. Provision has been made for a fund to provide technical, financial and administrative support to civil society associations and institutions in order to raise their overall level, within the framework of a comprehensive regulation of voluntary work.

14. In view of the important developmental role played by civil society organizations, which now number more than 57,000, in 2017 governors began inviting a representative of the Regional Federation of Civil Society Organizations in each governorate to attend the

meetings of governorate executive councils. The purpose of the initiative was to promote communication with the different components of civil society and to coordinate efforts to provide services to citizens. For its part, the Government has tabled an additional provision to the bill on local administration currently being debated in the House of Representatives. Under the new provision a representative of the Regional Federation of Civil Society Organizations would be included on the executive council of each governorate.

15. The Trade Union Organizations Act has rectified some of the shortcomings of the previous law and reflects international standards. Under the Act, trade union organizations – union committees, general unions or union federations – are granted legal personality,<sup>16</sup> workers have the right to form unions and to join more than one union if they practise multiple professions, while the dissolution of governing boards is forbidden save by judicial ruling. The Act allows unions to organize strikes and gives their general assemblies supreme authority to designate policy and administer affairs, in line with the statutes. Trade-union elections were held under the Act in 2018, following a suspension of 12 years. They led to the change of 80 per cent of union members on around 2,500 committees, 145 of which are not part of the General Federation. In July 2019, the House of Representatives approved action on a recommendation to amend the Act made by the International Labour Organization (ILO). As a result, all penalties involving deprivation of liberty were abolished while the quorum for establishing a union committee was lowered from 150 workers to 50. At the same time, the number of union committees required to form a general union went from 15 to 10 and the number of workers from 20,000 to 15,000, while the number of general unions required to form a union federation went from 10 to 7 and the number of workers from 200,000 to 150,000.

16. In order to give effect to recommendations to protect freedom of belief, the practice of religious rites and non-discrimination, in line with the relevant articles of the Constitution, a law on the building and renovation of churches has been enacted. It regulates the rules and procedures governing authorization and the ways to resolve outstanding administrative infractions and to regularize the status of places of worship. Any building that was standing at the date the law came into effect, and in which religious rites are practised, is considered to be an authorized church on condition that the property belongs to the party applying for regularization and that the building is structurally sound.<sup>17</sup> As of July 2019, the status of 1,021 churches and service buildings had been regularized.

17. In the same context, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that parts of article 71 of the Civil Servants Act<sup>18</sup> were unconstitutional inasmuch as they envisaged only the right of Muslim civil servants to visit the Islamic holy lands in order to perform the hajj.<sup>19</sup> The Court established the right of Christian civil servants to take an obligatory holiday of one month with full pay once in their working lives in order to visit Jerusalem.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, in an effort to disseminate the principles of acceptance, understanding and peaceful coexistence, certain practical steps have been taken to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief. They include the following:

(a) A forum on tolerance and moderation has been created within the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs while seminars and religious classes have been held to uphold freedom of opinion and respect for human rights, disseminate a culture of dialogue and eradicate violence, extremism, terrorism and religious hatred;

(b) Educational booklets have been produced about human rights and the principles of citizenship, peaceful coexistence and combating extremism. They include titles such as “Protection of churches in Islam”, “Concepts in need of correction” and “Internet preaching”. The booklets and a number of sermons have been translated into other languages;

(c) A teaching module has been rolled out for different levels of education in Al-Azhar in order to support Islamic values and their practical application, promote human rights guarantees and uphold religious, confessional and cultural pluralism;

(d) The “Al-Azhar unites us” initiative has been put into place at youth centres to promote the values of tolerance and acceptance of others;

(e) Al-Azhar and the Egyptian Orthodox Church continue to work together under the umbrella of the “Egyptian Family House” initiative to affirm the principle of citizenship, combat incitement to religious-based violence and discrimination and promote a culture of tolerance. The initiative also envisages training on moderate religious discourse for Muslim and Christian preachers;

(f) Al-Azhar has established a “world observatory”, which monitors the social media activities and publications of groups dedicated to takfirism and violence, corrects misguided opinions and provides replies and messages in several languages.

18. The Ministry of the Interior has put a number of measures in place in response to recommendations regarding security forces’ obligation to abide by international rules of engagement in the apprehension of suspected criminals and by international norms regulating the use of force. One of these has been to adopt a progressive approach to law enforcement. In fact, the length of time during which offenders are warned to desist, while being sprayed with water, has been lengthened, and more severe steps are not taken until all avenues of negotiation have been exhausted via a system of orders that goes to the highest levels of security command. In addition, different approaches are taken when dealing with children, women or older persons, and security forces receive training on how to protect public facilities. Means to disperse riots using smoke bombs and pepper sprays are being developed, while broadcasts, circulars and instructions are disseminated on human rights protection measures during security operations. Seminars are organized for security officials to imbue them with a legal culture on the legitimate use of force under international standards. In addition, training is provided to Police Academy students on how to address situations such as detention, arrest, search, transfer and treatment of prisoners. The training – which includes mechanisms to ensure peaceful demonstrations and to deal with riots, sit-ins and the sabotage or attack of public facilities while respecting human rights – has been expanded to cover modern investigative methods. Any allegations of excessive use of force are referred for investigation to the State Prosecution Office while oversight mechanisms within the Ministry of the Interior take the necessary disciplinary measures.

19. Recommendations were made that the death penalty be abolished or that a moratorium be placed on its use. The right to life is the most exalted of human rights, a right inherent to human beings upon which all other rights and freedoms depend. Under Egyptian law, that right enjoys full protection with safeguards to ensure that people are not arbitrarily deprived of life under any circumstances. As is the case in many other countries around the world, the law does admit the death penalty for the most serious crimes, in accordance with articles 2 to 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, the use of the death penalty is surrounded by safeguards that reconcile society’s right to a public deterrent with the individual’s right to life. All standards of a fair trial must be duly applied and the condemned person may not be subjected to any kind of abuse or cruel treatment. These safeguards are set forth in detail in the annex to the previous report.

20. With respect to recommendations concerning detention and fair trial guarantees, articles 54 and 55 of the Constitution state that, apart from cases of flagrante delicto, personal freedom may not be violated or restricted except pursuant to a reasoned judicial order, and that safeguards must exist to guarantee the human rights of persons whose freedom has been restricted.<sup>21</sup> Articles 55, 95, 96, 97, 186 and 189 state that the courts have jurisdiction to rule on all disputes and offences and that the State Prosecution Service, which is an integral part of the judiciary, is responsible for conducting investigations and launching and pursuing criminal cases. Its members enjoy full independence and neutrality when conducting investigations or referring cases for trial. The constitutional provisions also make it clear that punishment is personal and that there can be no offence and no penalty except as defined by law. Furthermore, penalties cannot be handed down except by a court ruling and only for actions committed after the date the law came into force. Persons are innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial in which they have had the right to defend themselves, and sentences are handed down by competent courts sitting in public session.

21. As concerns the trial of civilians before military courts, article 204 of the Constitution states that the military judiciary is an independent judicial body and that civilians may be tried before military courts only for offences that constitute a direct assault

on military personnel, military installations or other facilities falling under the authority of the armed forces. This is in line with articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and with the Human Rights Committee's general comments No. 13 of 1984 and No. 32 of 2007 on article 14 of the Covenant, both of which admit the trial of civilians before military court in exceptional circumstances. Judges in military courts have the same independence and immunities as the ordinary judiciary and accused persons enjoy the same safeguards as they would before the ordinary courts: the right to a defence, to examine the case file, to a public trial and to appeal against their sentence before a higher court.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the law concerning the circumstances and procedures for lodging appeals with the Court of Cassation are all applicable to appeals within the military justice system.

22. According to article 56 of the Constitution, prisons and places of detention are under the supervision of the judiciary, a fact reflected in article 42 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, article 85 of the Prisons Act<sup>23</sup> and article 27 of the Judicial Authority Act.<sup>24</sup> Under those provisions, judges and members of the State Prosecution Service – as an independent judicial body – oversee and inspect prisons and places of detention to check the law is being applied and take the necessary action in case of any violations. They also receive prisoners' complaints and examine documents and prison registers. Since 2017, judges and State prosecutors have conducted a total of 124 prison visits. The National Council for Human Rights also has a legal mandate to visit prisons and other places of detention, as well as curative and correctional institutions, to ensure that inmates are being well treated and are able to enjoy their rights. Following each visit, the Council writes a report with its observations and recommendations.<sup>25</sup> The human rights committee of the House of Representatives also routinely visits prison; since 2017, it and other national human rights institutions have conducted a total of 12 visits.

23. With a view to reducing prison overcrowding, the Government has developed a plan to construct, develop and enlarge prisons. The move is designed to protect the dignity and health of inmates in response to recommendations from the State Prosecution Service, the human rights committee of the House of Representatives and the National Council for Human Rights. Holding cells have been adapted to promote the health of detainees while medical care has been expanded by assigning each prison a local hospital with specialized clinics, radiography and dialysis units and emergency operating theatres, as well as a regional hospital with modern operating facilities and equipment and specialized clinics for each geographical prison region. In addition, kindergartens for the children of female inmates have been upgraded with modern equipment. National vaccination campaigns are conducted against epidemics in prisons and comprehensive testing for the hepatitis C virus takes place as part of a national plan to detect and treat diseases.

24. On a separate front, pensions and assistance are offered to the families and children of inmates, and 66,391 beneficiaries have received a total of 298,371,034 Egyptian pounds (LE) since 2015. Over the same period, 47,337 education grants were distributed to the children of inmates at a cost of LE 19,606,560. The rehabilitation programme for prisoners has been expanded to provide training in different trades and give them salaries, either to help support their families or to set up their own small businesses once they have been released. In addition, 95,947 books have been donated to prison libraries. In parallel with those initiatives, the Government has been working to reduce the prison population by releasing prisoners periodically through the following measures:

(a) The President of the Republic has been using the right enshrined in article 155 of the Constitution to remit certain sentences of deprivation of liberty on the occasion of national feast days and holidays; 56,000 prisoners have received a presidential pardon since 2015;

(b) The rules for release have been amended to allow inmates, if they have served at least 6 months, to be released after serving half – rather than three quarters – of their sentence. Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment may not be released until they have served at least 20 years.<sup>26</sup> Two months beforehand, the Ministry of Social Solidarity is given the names of the persons due to be released so as to facilitate their rehabilitation and prepare them for life outside prison;

(c) Prisoners can be released on health grounds if medical tests reveal that they are suffering a life-threatening or disabling condition; 60,876 inmates have been released for health reasons since 2015;<sup>27</sup>

(d) Alternatives to pretrial detention have been applied such as house arrest, obliging persons to present themselves at police stations at certain times or prohibiting them from frequenting certain locations;<sup>28</sup>

(e) The “prisons without debtors” initiative has been launched in cooperation with civil society in order to pay fines due by inmates in minor crimes and release them. A total of 15,820 prisoners have been released in this way since 2015.

25. With regard to recommendations concerning torture, articles 51 and 52 of the Constitution unequivocally state that torture of any kind is a crime that is not subject to the statute of limitations. This is reaffirmed in the Criminal Code, which envisages multiple descriptions and penalties for such offences,<sup>29</sup> commensurate with the gravity of the acts concerned, in accordance with the Human Rights Committee’s general comment No. 20 on article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, although criminal cases fall into prescription 10 years after an offence was committed, given the gravity of torture and ill-treatment, criminal cases resulting from such offences are not prescribed at the expiry of that period.<sup>30</sup>

26. Rulings by the Court of Cassation reaffirm that any statements shown to have been made by a detainee under torture, intimidation, coercion or physical or mental abuse, or the threat thereof, are null and void,<sup>31</sup> pursuant to article 55 of the Constitution.<sup>32</sup> As of April 2019, police officers have faced investigation and criminal prosecution in 30 cases of torture, 66 of use of force and 215 of ill-treatment. The investigations and trials resulted in 70 criminal convictions, 156 cases were archived while 85 are still being considered. In addition, 344 disciplinary hearings have been held against police officers, leading to 207 disciplinary convictions.

### III. Economic, social and cultural rights<sup>33</sup>

27. In response to the aspirations the Egyptian people expressed in the revolutions of 2011 and June 2013, the Government has launched a sustainable development strategy for 2030 with a view to ensuring that all citizens, without discrimination, can live a decent life. The strategy, which envisages widescale community participation and the involvement of international development partners, also takes account of the views of civil society and the private sector. The goal is to achieve sustainable economic, social and environmental development while preserving the rights of future generations and ensuring equality, equal opportunity and the optimal use of resources.

28. Acting upon recommendations that emerged from the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Government has adopted a comprehensive plan for economic reform. The decision to float the foreign currency exchange rate in 2016 was necessary because the existence of two exchange rates was having a negative impact on investments and on the availability of the foreign currency required for the provision of foodstuffs and petrochemical products. Between 2014 and 2019, the economic growth rate climbed from 4.4 per cent to 5.6 per cent while, between 2015 and 2019, foreign currency reserves went up from \$20.1 billion to \$44.4 billion.

29. The Government has been implementing a “financial inclusion in the Arab region 2017” initiative, which was launched in Cairo and aims to formalize the informal economy as a priority step towards economic development. The Central Bank has provided low-interest property financing for persons on limited and middle incomes and has launched funding initiatives aimed at medium-size, small and micro-businesses. In addition, a draft strategy on financial education has been drawn up, while a new investment law has been enacted with a view to attracting the cash flows needed for development, the creation of businesses and job opportunities and the reduction of unemployment. Investors have been encouraged to develop a sense of community responsibility by allowing them to allocate not more than 10 per cent of their net annual profits into community development.<sup>34</sup>



30. At the same time, the Government has launched several large-scale labour-intensive projects to promote people's right to adequate housing, work, development, food, etc. They include:

- (a) Creating a new administrative capital covering 170,000 feddan and with capacity for 6.5 million inhabitants;
- (b) Promoting integrated development in the Suez Canal region with the opening of the new Suez Canal in 2015; efforts are now being made to set up a global logistical centre;
- (c) Constructing a conduit under the Suez Canal to carry water to irrigate 400,000 feddan of cultivated land in Sinai, as well as six tunnels linking the two sides of the canal;
- (d) Cooperating with the private sector to build three power stations adding 14,400 megawatts to the national grid, an increase of 45 per cent, thereby moving from a situation of deficit in energy supply to one of surplus and meeting economic development needs;
- (e) Beginning work on a four-reactor nuclear power station with a total output of 4,800 megawatts. The reactors will come into operation between 2026 and 2028. This is in addition to numerous sun- and wind-powered clean energy projects;
- (f) Completing 65 projects to expand and develop the network of major roads and bridges; up to the end of 2018, 3,093.8 km have been built of a total 5,415.5 km planned;
- (g) Launching two projects covering 8,700 feddan to create 5,759 fish farming tanks with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in that sector and provide job opportunities; the project envisages setting up factories to produce fish food and to freeze and process the fish, as well as storage silos;
- (h) Building 7,500 greenhouses covering 34,000 feddan, in order to increase local production of vegetables, and launching a project to cultivate an additional 4 million feddan of agricultural land in order to alleviate food shortages, create new jobs and establish industries related to agriculture and livestock;
- (i) Launching the Golden Triangle mineral resources project in the south of the country with the creation of four industrial, mining and logistical zones, in order to create job opportunities and optimize the use of resources.

31. All these economic projects have had a direct effect on the standard of living of citizens. Between 2014 and 2019, average annual individual income went up from LE 28,000 to LE 53,721 while unemployment dropped from 12.8 per cent in 2014 to 8.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2019. Furthermore, 3,121,595 persons – 365,992 of them women – found employment between 2015 and 2018, and government and society are redoubling their efforts to establish a climate conducive to the exercise of the right to work. A public employment policy has been drafted and its implementation is being monitored by a high-level committee chaired by the Minister of Labour. The membership of the committee is made up of employers' and workers' representatives, thus consolidating the tripartite principle. Alongside that, an integrated system of employment has been rolled out, which includes information about unemployed persons and available job openings as well as about companies and factories that are looking for staff. The Government is aiming to provide 900,000 jobs per year over the next four years. In addition, since 2015, the National Council for Human Rights has been issuing annual decrees drawing attention to the various different aspects and dimensions of the right to work.

32. Also in response to recommendations emerging from the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Government is operating a number of projects and programmes aimed at achieving social justice and integration, ensuring a dignified life for citizens and reducing poverty. These initiatives include:

- (a) Raising pensions for government employees and private- and public-sector workers from LE 103.1 billion to LE 175 billion between 2014 and 2018, an increase of 41

per cent. This move has benefited around 10 million citizens and, as of July 2019, the minimum pension has been set at LE 900;

(b) Launching the “solidarity and dignity” programme which, in cooperation with civil society organizations, aims to provide a social protection network for poor families, older persons, orphans and persons with disabilities who are unable to work. The programme benefits some 10 million citizens;

(c) Launching the “social safeguard” programme under which 1.4 million families receive unconditional cash support; education grants are also provided to prevent the children of such families from dropping out of school;

(d) Launching programmes and initiatives in cooperation with the private sector and civil society; these include schemes to curb poverty, ensure people can live dignified lives and provide aftercare for the employment of children from institutions for persons deprived of family support;

(e) Providing funding amounting to \$929 million for development projects in the poorest regions, in addition to \$550 million from the World Bank for social housing programmes;

(f) In 2018, 68,069,032 individuals benefited from subsidized bread and foodstuffs and, between 2015 and 2018, the number of distribution points for subsidized foodstuffs went up from 29,153 to 33,226.

33. According to the 2017 census, the population growth is 2.56 per cent, and the Government has therefore been redoubling its efforts to meet the challenge of providing suitable, safe and healthy homes for its citizens, delivering housing units for various income levels and developing accommodation for families in greatest need. It has provided 333,000 new units for limited-income families since 2015 at a symbolic monthly rent, a move that has benefited around 3 million citizens, as well as 74,651 units for middle income families. The aim of the Government is to build an additional 395,000 units for limited-income families by 2020. Between 2014 and 2018, the social housing programme for persons on limited and middle incomes provided 210,806 soft loans to enable such persons – 19.11 per cent of them women – to own their own homes. As for more marginalized areas, Bedouin homes and residential units have been built in the governorates of Sinai, Red Sea and New Valley: a total of 19,700 units in addition to 2,024 units in the district of Nasr el-Nouba. A national committee has been set up to develop rules and mechanisms for the payment of compensation to persons not previously compensated for the building of the Aswan Dam and other subsequent projects in the south of the country.<sup>35</sup> The committee has, in fact, completed work on its rules and mechanisms and is taking measures to disburse the compensation.

34. Acting on recommendations received, and in line with article 78 of the Constitution, the Government has produced a comprehensive plan to tackle the problem of informal housing. This includes replanning, the provision of infrastructure and facilities, and improvements in the quality of life and public health. The Government has built 103,000 alternative units for inhabitants of zones at risk and is currently developing 90 areas of informal housing in various governorates, with a total of 92,355 units. People are given a choice between moving to alternative neighbourhoods or accepting monetary compensation, otherwise they are given a temporary alternative home or a sum of money to find one for themselves, until such time as their area – in which they have already been allocated a housing unit – has been developed.

35. With a view to providing citizens with clean and safe drinking water, the Government has rolled out 276 projects since the end of 2014 thanks to which 98.5 per cent of the population now has access to such water. At the same time, the Government has set up 155 sewerage projects in cities and 624 in villages so that around 60 per cent of the population now has access to sewerage.

36. With regard to recommendations about education, articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Constitution state that pre-university education is free and obligatory and that technical education and vocational training are to be encouraged and expanded in line with the needs of the labour market. In that connection, between 2015 and 2018, the Government

expanded 2,038 schools and 506 technical schools, while the budget of the Ministry of Education was increased by 17 per cent to LE 98,106,981,000. In order to encourage exceptional students and to provide atypical educational opportunities, 10 schools have been built since the end of 2014, accommodating 5,400 gifted youngsters. This brings the total of such schools, in 2016, to 12 in addition to 18 centres for gifted children across 10 governorates. On a separate front, the Egyptian Knowledge Bank has been set up, the largest Arab Internet library where thousands of periodicals, encyclopaedias and specialized academic journals are available free of charge. At the present time, there are 55,214 schools attended by 22,453,381 students, as compared with 49,435 schools and 18,555,232 students in 2014. Girls now represent 48.5 per cent in basic education and 55 per cent in secondary education. The dropout rate has fallen to below 7 per cent. This is the result of support provided to families of children at risk of dropping out, which is provided on condition that the child's attendance rate is at least 80 per cent.

37. In fulfilment of its obligations under article 25 of the Constitution, the Government has intensified its engagement with civil society to eradicate illiteracy among persons over the age of 15. The number of persons graduating as of the middle of the last academic year was 150,683, and 1,208 women-only classes have been set up, with 31,961 students. The latest statistics point to a drop in illiteracy rates, from 29.7 per cent to 25.8 per cent between 2006 and 2017; 30.8 per cent of women are illiterate and 21.1 per cent of men.

38. In accordance with article 22 of the Constitution, the higher education budget increased by 43 per cent, from LE 25 billion to LE 35.8 billion, between 2014 and 2018, while the number of universities – both State-run and private – went from 42 to 52 and the number of faculties from 524 to 627. The number of persons enrolled in university went up by 19 per cent, from 2.3 million to 2.9 million, with girls accounting for 54 per cent. Over the same period, the number of persons enrolled in higher education increased by 51 per cent, from 277,435 to 420,222, with women accounting for 46.5 per cent of persons with a Master's degree or doctorate. The number of non-Egyptians enrolled in university or higher education climbed by 197 per cent from 18,500 to 55,000.

39. Between 2014 and 2018, the budget for academic research went up by 31.8 per cent, from LE 22 billion to LE 29 billion. Moreover, a fund for inventors and innovators has been established to help them transpose their creations into products capable of competing on the market.<sup>36</sup> A support programme for young researchers and inventors has been launched at a cost of LE 100 million to encourage scientific enquiry. As of July 2019, 500 research projects by 5,000 students in science faculties had been supported at a cost of LE 25 million.

40. Between 2015 and 2018, in response to recommendations regarding enjoyment of the highest possible level of physical and mental health, and in line with article 18 of the Constitution, 20 new hospitals, medical centres and health units were constructed in 20 governorates, while 38 existing hospitals, medical centres and health units were expanded. A total of 22,334 beds were added to hospitals of the General Authority for Health Insurance and 401,082 patients received treatment. In order to provide care for the needy, 5,586,404 orders were issued for the treatment of 3,136,445 persons at State expense between 2016 and 2018. Measures were put in place to ensure the prompt delivery of medical services to persons receiving such treatment, thanks to which the period between making the application and the issuance of the treatment order has been reduced to 48 hours for urgent cases and 72 hours for other cases. Furthermore, the specialized medical councils are now linked to the 13 medical subcouncils in a videoconferencing network for the examination and confrontation of cases.

41. The Universal Health Insurance Act<sup>37</sup> has been passed, as mandated by the Constitution. The Act, which represents an important part of the strategic plan to develop the health-care system up to 2030, will be applied gradually to all citizens in parallel with gradual improvements in the quality and capacity of health institutions, before the new system begins to be implemented. This will favour the delivery of outstanding health care to needy persons and provide insurance cover for all maladies as well as ensuring sustainability of funding and respect for the freedom of insured persons to choose their health-care provider. The system will be rolled out across the governorates over six phases,

the first of which was launched in 2018, covering five governorates at a cost of LE 1.8 billion.

42. In September 2018, “100 million healths” initiative was launched with the aim of eradicating the hepatitis C virus and screening for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. A total of 56,837,857 individuals were tested as well as 67,498 refugees and resident foreigners, and 700,000 persons were treated free of charge. In February 2019, a campaign was launched to detect and treat obesity, dwarfism and acute anaemia in students under 12. In March 2019, the President of the Republic announced a campaign to treat a million Africans affected by the hepatitis C virus. In addition, the Government has taken steps to prevent certain diseases. These steps include:

- (a) Compulsory routine vaccinations of around 2.6 million children each year, with coverage of more than 96 per cent;
- (b) Providing vaccines and serums to target groups such as children, students, overseas travellers, etc.;
- (c) Providing 40 million vaccinations annually against polio, German measles and mumps;
- (d) Providing antiretroviral drugs and regular laboratory analyses free of charge for persons suffering from HIV/AIDS, via 13 specialized centres, in addition to voluntary consultations and laboratory tests in 23 fixed and mobile centres in 17 governorates;
- (e) Promoting a safe system of waste disposal in 17 incinerators, with regular sampling at drinking water treatment plants.

43. In response to recommendations regarding the promotion of cultural rights, a number of programmes have been rolled out, in particular on “cultural justice” and “the protection and promotion of cultural heritage”. The purpose is to stimulate interest and encourage universal involvement in cultural heritage, its protection and its accessibility. Thanks to cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization has been established containing 50,000 artefacts covering the various phases of the growth of civilization in Egypt. Work is currently under way to complete the Grand Egyptian Museum, which will house artefacts from the pharaonic period. In partnership with civil society, the “*Touf we shouf*” programme has been launched to increase public awareness with guided tours to cultural sites. In 2017, following the visit of Pope Francis, the Government launched the “Holy Family” programme, and Sinai was declared the capital of religious tourism at an international conference held at St. Catherine. A medical tourism programme has been rolled out for persons affected by the hepatitis C virus.

#### IV. Empowerment of women<sup>38</sup>

44. Equality of public rights and duties between men and women, and equality of opportunity without discrimination are enshrined in 22 articles of the Constitution, chief among them articles 11 and 53. Under constitutional amendments introduced in April 2019, a minimum of 25 per cent of seats in the House of Representatives are allocated to women, as well as 25 per cent of seats on local councils. Article 214 of the Constitution establishes the status of the National Council for Women as an independent body that has the right to report to the public authorities regarding any violations in its area of activities. For its part the Government – acting upon recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review and desirous to raise the status of women and to achieve equality and equal opportunity – has entered into a broad participatory process to implement the national strategy to empower Egyptian women 2030, in line with the Constitution and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy covers three main areas of empowerment: the political, the social and the economic. The year 2017 was declared as the Year of Egyptian Women.

45. As concerns the political empowerment of women, the parliamentary elections of 2015 resulted in 90 women being returned, 76 by election and 14 by appointment, and

brought female representation in the House to 15.5 per cent, as opposed to 1.2 per cent in 2012. Meetings have been held in governorates to encourage women to participate in local elections, and figures show that around 10,000 women wish to take part in the forthcoming polls. Eight female ministers have been in place since 2018, holding 25 per cent of ministerial portfolios and, for the first time, two women have been appointed as governors. In addition, women account for 27 per cent of deputy governors and hold leadership roles in neighbourhoods and on city councils, as well as the mayoralty of certain villages. Twenty-five per cent of management positions in the Central Bank are occupied by women and 12 per cent on the administrative boards of banks. There are women who work in the judiciary and a woman holds the position of adviser to the Head of National Security.

46. The National Council for Women – in line with the law governing its activities<sup>39</sup> and article 214 of the Constitution – is responsible for coordinating programmes and activities, raising awareness and promoting values of equality and non-discrimination, with a view to the empowerment of women. It also pronounces its views on draft laws and regulations relevant to its sphere of activities, receives complaints about violations and works with the relevant bodies to resolve them. Since 2015, training courses have been held for 300 female “rural pioneers” capacitating them to raise awareness among rural communities about women’s rights. In addition, 712,155 national identity cards have been issued free of charge to needy persons in various governorates, as part of the “your card, your rights” programme. In fact, an identity card is vital in order to be able to exercise a range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

47. In order to monitor the problems women face and to raise awareness about government services, in 2016 a campaign was launched in villages and hamlets under the title “knock on the doors”. By July 2019, it had reached 11,784,289 women and girls in 991 villages. In parallel, another campaign, “the secret of your strength is the *ta marbutah*”, was seen by 40 million people on social media, and mobile cultural round tables were set up to discuss issues relevant to women. In addition, and as part of the “they are able” initiative, 2,812 medical services were provided, 1,010 women and girls in isolated communities received training and 162 small and micro-businesses were set up. A women’s complaints office and a family advice line 16021 have been created as two national mechanisms to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, child marriage, human trafficking and female circumcision, and to raise awareness about reproductive health and family planning.

48. In order to improve women’s health, the Government has launched an initiative, which covers 28 million adult women and involves 1,030 medical teams offering free screening for breast cancer and non-communicable diseases. In addition, there have been awareness-raising campaigns about harmful cultural practices such as early marriage, early pregnancy, circumcision, ignorance of family planning and childbirth without medical supervision. A total of 83 medical campaigns have been set up targeting 46,573 women in addition to programmes to promote reproductive health, which were run with the participation of some 700 civil society organizations and reached 66,307 women.

49. In the area of the economic empowerment of women, equal opportunity units have been set up in all government ministries as a way to achieve real equality in the working environment and to address discriminatory practices against women, while programmes have been run to raise legal awareness about the rights of working women. A cooperation forum bringing together 117 civil society groups has been formed to exchange expertise about women’s empowerment and to define priorities among women’s issues. Furthermore, an initiative about “the dangers of cheques and promissory notes” has been rolled out to raise awareness and reduce the numbers of female debtors.

50. In coordination with banks, and in order to encourage the financial inclusion of women, 316,000 simplified accounts (without charges or a minimum balance) have been opened, and 35 per cent of them belong to women. Between 2015 and 2017, the proportion of women with a bank account grew from 9 per cent to 27 per cent while, from 2015 to 2018, small and medium-size businesses run by women went from 23 per cent to 46 per cent, and women benefiting from microloans went from 45 per cent to 69 per cent. In addition, 30 per cent of investors on the stock exchange and 44.5 per cent of government workers are women. Since 2018, 50,000 free insurance policies have been issued to self-

employed female breadwinners. During the same period, 3,600 women and girls participated in 160 training courses to improve their leadership and administrative skills, in the public and private sectors. Other initiatives include a “national training” programme, which provided training to 2,900 female jobseekers in 18 governorates; an “opportunities” programme, which provided job openings for women in various different fields; a “community work centre” to build capacity among 5,000 girls in software development and community entrepreneurship; and a savings and loans assistance programme.

51. Three national strategies were launched in 2015 to address the issue of violence against women: the national strategy to combat violence against women, the national strategy to combat female circumcision and the national strategy to prevent early marriage. The penalty for female circumcision envisaged in the Criminal Code has been made more severe. Perpetrators are now liable to a term of imprisonment of between 5 and 7 years, and the terms of imprisonment are harsher if the act leads to permanent impairment or death. Moreover, a new article imposes a penalty of imprisonment of between 1 and 3 years for persons who request that an act of female circumcision be performed.

52. A medical guide on the treatment of gender-based violence has been produced with a view to ensuring that victims receive the highest possible level of care. The guide has been distributed to hospitals, and doctors and health practitioners have been trained in its use. Nine shelters providing protection as well as health, social and psychological care and legal advice for female victims of violence have been expanded, and anti-harassment units have been opened, initially in six universities. The “together at the service of the homeland” programme has been rolled out to raise awareness among female Muslim proselytizers and among nuns about the importance of making the rejection of all forms of violence against women part of their message. At the same time, 120 female preachers have received training with a view to correcting erroneous concepts and a partnership has been formed among female religious leaders, both Muslim and Christian, to discuss community matters and raise awareness about women’s rights.

53. The Public Prosecution Service has also produced a guide for its members on how to deal with offences involving violence against women. The presence of female police officers in the unit for combating violence against women has been increased, while protection mechanisms have been updated and legal support has been provided for women, in cooperation with the National Council for Women and the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry has also set up a directorate on offences involving violence against women, including harassment, rape and domestic violence, and sections for combating violence against women have been established in security directorates. Seminars and programmes have been conducted to explain the legal measures that need to be taken in cases of violence against women, while women and girls have been encouraged to report incidents, with a view to obtaining their legal rights.

## V. Children’s rights<sup>40</sup>

54. The rights of children are enshrined in the Constitution, article 80 of which states that children – defined as anyone under the age of 18 – are entitled to protection of their person and their rights. Article 214 of the Constitution establishes the status of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood as an independent body that has the right to report to the public authorities regarding any violations in its area of activities. For its part the Government – in cooperation with civil society and acting upon recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review – has launched a national strategy for childhood and motherhood 2017–2023. The strategy, which takes an integrated development perspective, aims to provide better services with a view to improving children’s quality of life. Its focus is on ensuring survival, protecting health, promoting development and education and increasing children’s involvement in the public sphere. The strategy accords particular importance to ensuring that children from poor families are able to access basic services.

55. Recent legislative amendments have included two changes to the Children’s Code. The first of these makes children eligible for the foster family system from the age of 3

months rather than 2 years. The second amendment suspends criminal measures for children when they reach the age of 18.<sup>41</sup> In addition, under an amendment to the Prisons Act, female inmates have the right to be accompanied by their children until they reach the age of 4.<sup>42</sup>

56. Since 2015, the Government has participated with civil society in the implementation of a number of programmes, including:

(a) The child helpline 16000, which receives complaints, dispenses free legal aid and helps children who have interrupted their education to return to school;

(b) The child protection committees, which are community level mechanisms that protect children and provide technical support;

(c) The national strategic framework to eradicate violence against children, which includes harmful practices such as female circumcision, child marriage and sexual exploitation;

(d) The system to protect and improve the situation of child refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking;

(e) A national campaign to combat bullying.

57. The Public Prosecutor issued a circular concerning the juvenile criminal justice system, which has become a guide for ensuring that the best interests of the child are upheld at every stage of proceedings.<sup>43</sup> A hotline has been established between the State Prosecution Office and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood to facilitate the transmission of reports received by the Council. Cases of violence against children are referred to the human rights directorate within the Office of the Public Prosecutor, which investigates reports and oversees the periodic inspection of care homes to ensure that they are up to standard. In addition, a number of ministerial decrees to promote the child protection system have been issued since 2015:

(a) The application of the accident insurance scheme to all students at State-run schools;

(b) The establishment of a children's fund to protect and care for children in street situations, and combat and curb child labour;

(c) The establishment of a headquarters, in Cairo, for a model children's court with two levels of justice; the structure will have a child prosecution office, offices for social workers, children's leisure areas and facilities for lawyers.

58. In addition to the foregoing, various programmes and initiatives to ensure the best interests of children are being conducted in collaboration with civil society organizations, they include:

(a) Developing the system of foster families for children deprived of family support; there are currently 9,794 foster families caring for 9,910 children;

(b) Expanding the system of "shelter institutions" for children between the ages of 6 and 18 who are deprived of family support; there are currently 345 shelters housing 9,082 children;

(c) Expanding the system of "shelter kindergartens" for children between the ages of 2 and 6; there are currently 145 such shelters housing 3,584 children;

(d) Expanding the system of social care institutions for children between the ages of 6 and 18 who are at risk of delinquency; there are 37 such institutions, 11 for girls and 26 for boys;

(e) Expanding the system of observation centres, which accommodate children under the age of 15 who are being held under court order until the case in which they are involved is resolved;

(f) Expanding the system of social supervision centres, which examine cases referred by the State Prosecution Service, the police or the observation centres and devise

plans to treat and care for the child within his or her own family; there are currently 256 such centres;

(g) Expanding the free school meals programme to cover 81 per cent of children enrolled in State-run schools, providing medical examinations for first-time enrollees as well as at the beginning of each new educational stage and for students who practise sporting activities.

59. The Ministry of Labour inspects workplaces in order to protect children and ensure that employment regulations regarding persons of working age are being duly respected. Between 2015 and 2018, 72,910 facilities were inspected and 348 violation reports were drawn up and referred to the courts. In collaboration with ILO, an action plan has been launched to combat the worst forms of child labour by 2025 at an estimated cost of \$548,555,997.

## VI. Rights of persons with disabilities<sup>44</sup>

60. Articles 53, 81, 180 and 244 of the Constitution include provisions to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, eliminate all forms of discrimination against them and ensure that they are appropriately represented on the House of Representatives and on local councils. Article 214 of the Constitution establishes the status of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities as an independent body that has the right to report to the public authorities regarding any violations in its area of activities. In line with the Constitution and recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, 2018 was declared as the Year for Persons with Disabilities, and their privileges and their right to participate actively in all spheres of life were enshrined in a law.<sup>45</sup> Under the Act on the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Council coordinates programmes and projects, and pronounces its views on draft laws and regulations relevant to its sphere of activities. It also receives complaints about violations and works with the relevant bodies to resolve them.<sup>46</sup>

61. Between 2015 and 2018, 39 seminars and meetings were held for persons with disabilities to raise their awareness about political participation. The Supreme Electoral Commission (subsequently the National Electoral Authority), apart from monitoring elections, has taken pains to ensure that such persons are able to participate. In 2015, eight persons with disabilities were elected to the House of Representatives and one was appointed by decree of the President of the Republic. The 2019 referendum on the amendments to the Constitution was also made accessible thanks to ballot papers in Braille for persons with visual impairments.

62. According to the 2017 census, persons with disabilities – of various types and degrees – account for 10.67 per cent of the population. In 2019, as part of efforts to improve services, a first batch of 500,000 “integrated service cards” for persons with disabilities were distributed by post offices. The cards, which are issued following a medical examination to determine the type and degree of disability, allow access to various services and benefits, and to the “Miza” national service payment system. Since 2015, moreover, the Government has taken a number of steps to promote the integration of persons with disabilities:

(a) The Egyptian building code now includes conditions that must be fulfilled in public buildings and facilities in order to enable them to be used by persons with disabilities;

(b) Courts, land registry offices, and prosecutors’ offices have all been adapted to admit persons with disabilities, and officials have received training in sign language;

(c) Ministry of the Interior public service sites in governorates and in some districts have been adapted for persons with disabilities; officials have been trained in the use of sign language and a guide on available services has been drawn up in Braille;

(d) Train tickets and Metro season tickets have been reduced in price for persons with disabilities;



(e) Five per cent of social housing units are allocated to persons with disabilities, with the ground floor being assigned to persons with motor disabilities;

(f) A hotline has been set up for the care and protection of children with disabilities;

(g) Measures have been put in place for prison inmates with disabilities, including the allocation of special cells and assistive devices in some prisons;

(h) News bulletins and other programmes on State-run television have been translated into sign language, and special programmes have been broadcast for persons with disabilities;

(i) Official websites have been made accessible to persons with visual disabilities, and information and services are provided in simplified format or translated into sign language;

(j) A sign language legal dictionary has been published, as well as a unified sign language dictionary which aims to eradicate problems arising from different usages in sign language; audiobooks have also been made available;

(k) International days for persons with disabilities have been celebrated as a way of spreading awareness about the needs and rights of such persons.

63. In order to promote the right to work, the Civil Service Act stipulates that 5 per cent of posts in government service are to be allocated to persons with disabilities, who also work one hour less per day and are entitled to an increased quota of paid leave.<sup>47</sup> Since the Act was issued, 40,000 persons with disabilities have been appointed to the civil service and 10,000 in the private sector. Most of them are involved in specialized technical work.

64. Since 2015, efforts on the part of the Government to improve educational services for persons with disabilities have included the following:

(a) A special education unit has opened in the Ministry of Education while 440 classes have been set up in special education schools with 12,943 teachers receiving training. In those schools, education and school uniforms are provided free of charge while, in some schools, students are also housed and maintained free of charge;

(b) A total of 472 schools have been adapted for students with disabilities, with school buildings being inspected to ensure they abide by the building code as regards disability access;

(c) Digitalization is being used to make educational curricula for persons with disabilities highly accessible; this has advantaged 18,000 students with hearing and visual disabilities thanks to the provision of special equipment and the printing of textbooks in Braille;

(d) Specifications have been set for exam papers for students with special needs while steps have been taken to regulate the integration of children with disabilities into general and technical education;

(e) Computers, licences for screen readers, Braille printers and projectors have been made available at 24 centres in 23 State-run universities.

65. During the same period of time, and with the participation of civil society organizations, a health strategy for persons with disabilities was developed with a view of providing health-care programmes at a reasonable price. This has included expanding oral placement therapy centres, which now number 123 across all the governorates, and developing 108 physiotherapy centres in clinics and hospitals of the General Authority for Health Insurance to deal with cases of paralysis. Children are periodically examined for congenital thyroid deficiency, hearing or visual impairments and anaemia, while probiotic treatments are made available for persons suffering from metabolism-related complaints of various kinds.

66. As a way of encouraging persons with disabilities to participate in sports, a number of youth clubs have been set up that respect the disability access requirements enshrined in building codes. The Sports Act, which recognizes the Egyptian Paralympic Committee as a

sporting body, includes provision for the establishment of centres to discover and nurture sporting talent among persons with dwarfism or with disabilities, in accordance with the nature and degree of their disability.<sup>48</sup> The purpose is to enable Egyptian para-athletes – both women and men – to win medals at international and regional tournaments. Their medal tally at the recent Olympic Games of Rio de Janeiro was 12.

## VII. Empowerment of young people<sup>49</sup>

67. The elections of 2015, pursuant to articles 82, 180 and 244 of the Constitution, led to the election of 59 young persons to the House of Representatives, where they account for around 10 per cent of members. Their continuing representation in the House was enshrined in the constitutional amendments of 2019. Acting upon recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Government has taken various steps to empower young people and ensure that they are able to hold leading roles in public life. Those steps include:

(a) The declaration of 2016 as the Year of Egyptian Youth. In that connection, seven national conferences were held at which the President of the Republic and high-ranking officials communicated directly with young people and listened to their views. The conferences led to a number of initiatives, such as the establishment of a supreme authority for the development of southern Egypt, with investments of LE 5 billion, and the release under presidential amnesty of several young people serving jail sentences. In addition, 2018 was declared as the Year for Persons with Disabilities and young people around the world were invited to participate in an international youth congress;

(b) The World Youth Forum was held in Sharm al-Sheikh in 2017 and 2018, with more than 8,000 young persons of both sexes from 113 countries taking part. The event provided an opportunity for participants to enter into direct dialogue with decision makers from around the world about subjects of concern to the young;

(c) A presidential programme to prepare young persons to take on leadership roles and to shoulder political, social and administrative responsibility was launched at the beginning of 2016. As of 2018, it had produced 1,000 graduates;

(d) Forty-one ministerial aides under the age of 40, including 17 women, have been appointed in 13 different ministries; 6 young people, 3 of them women, have become deputy governors while 2 have become assistants to directors of youth and sport directorates covering 17 governorates;

(e) Fifty per cent of places on specialized commissions on community development, education and academic research, economic development, foreign policy and national security have been reserved for young people. The commissions, which answer directly to the President of the Republic, conduct studies and help to draft public policy.

68. The Government has also taken steps to provide employment opportunities for young persons:

(a) It has rolled out a comprehensive strategy to develop vocational training centres for young persons, in line with the needs of the labour market; the goal is to have a market-linked system to train and qualify young persons with a view to creating 2 million job openings over five years;

(b) It has adopted a national employment training programme, which is being implemented by 22 government agencies; between 2015 and 2018, 18,434 persons received training, 68 per cent of them women;

(c) A number of initiatives have been launched – including “my counsellor”, “Act!”, “job-seeking clubs” and “Egypt works” – which have provided training to 342,814 young persons in line with the needs of the labour market;

(d) An Egypt/United Arab Emirates employment training project has been rolled out, with four different levels and covering 26 governorates; the project has involved 25,505 young persons of whom around 10,000 have found employment;

(e) In 2016, the Central Bank launched an initiative to finance 350,000 small and medium-size projects by young people and create 4 million job opportunities, with funds of LE 200 billion and interest rates below 5 per cent;

(f) The “Egypt” company for entrepreneurship and investment, which has been founded in cooperation with the private sector, aims to encourage start-ups and entrepreneurial projects, to develop training programmes for young persons and to launch the “Egypt works” website which offers around 63,000 posts in the private sector;

(g) A plan has been formed to raise awareness about the culture of self-employment among university students and to disseminate new notions about entrepreneurship in medium-size, small and micro-businesses.

## VIII. Combating corruption<sup>50</sup>

69. Given the fact that corruption endangers sustainable development and is an obstacle to reform and good governance, the Constitution imposes a requirement to fight corruption and includes provision for independent oversight bodies. Acting upon recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Government launched its national anti-corruption strategy 2014–2018 the aims of which are to streamline the mechanism of government, improve public services, promote principles of transparency, pass and update anti-corruption laws, build confidence in public institutions and promote cooperation with civil society. A number of executive and legislative initiatives have been taken to combat corruption since 2015:

(a) The Code of Criminal Procedure has been amended so that the period of expiry for criminal proceedings in cases involving the embezzlement of public funds or bribery begins on the date of end of service or loss of capacity, unless investigations into the case in question have already begun;<sup>51</sup>

(b) A national commission has been established for the recovery of overseas funds, property and assets;<sup>52</sup>

(c) The post of anti-corruption adviser to the President of the Republic was created in 2015;

(d) A section has been introduced into the Civil Service Act<sup>53</sup> and its implementing regulations; the section governs professional conduct and envisages disciplinary proceedings in cases of abuse of public office;

(e) A commission was established in 2016 for the restoration of lands that had been unlawfully confiscated;<sup>54</sup>

(f) The Administrative Oversight Agency Act has been amended to enable the Agency to monitor the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy;<sup>55</sup>

(g) The Criminal Code has been amended to introduce penalties for the offence of bribing foreign public officials or officials of public international organizations;<sup>56</sup>

(h) A law regulating public sector contracts has been issued that upholds the principles of governance, transparency, equality and equal opportunity and aims to create a climate wherein medium-size, small and micro-companies and businesses are able to compete;<sup>57</sup>

(i) A code of conduct for government workers is being applied and the text has been made available on the websites of ministries and governorates;

(j) A unified complaints system has been set up to receive and examine all complaints against the Government and to provide responses by email;

(k) An anti-corruption civil society commission has been set up, which involves the whole of civil society in raising public awareness;

(l) Ministries, governorates and universities have set up web service portals and a government procurement portal has been launched on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

## **IX. Refugees and migrant affairs<sup>58</sup>**

70. Out of respect for the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution guarantee freedom of movement, residence and migration. In addition, article 88 requires the Government to protect the interests of Egyptians who reside abroad while article 244 states that such persons should be suitably represented in the first elected parliament. This, in fact, happened at the 2015 elections when 139 polling stations were set up in Egyptian embassies and consulates in 123 countries, and 8 Egyptians residing abroad were duly elected. Their continuing representation in the House was enshrined in the constitutional amendments of 2019.

71. In line with the Constitution and recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Ministry of Migration and Egyptians Abroad was created in 2015. Other measures have also been taken, including the following:

(a) A web portal has been launched via which to communicate with Egyptians abroad, advertise government services, receive complaints and suggestions, and either reply or refer them to the competent authority;

(b) Telephone number 19787 has been activated to receive complaints and queries, and resolve them with the competent authorities at home and abroad; legal advice bureaus have been made available as occasion demands;

(c) There has been cooperation with the National Council for Human Rights to resolve issues facing Egyptians who reside abroad, and to bring them under an integrated insurance scheme;

(d) Some ministries now have a special counter for services offered to Egyptians abroad, in order to expedite the delivery of those services;

(e) The work of companies offering to facilitate and support Egyptians wishing to emigrate permanently has been regulated in order to protect the rights of such persons and to avoid them falling victim to fraud.

72. In line with obligations arising out of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Egypt cooperates with the local bureau of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) which, under an agreement signed between the two parties in 1954, registers refugees and asylum seekers. Such persons are guaranteed freedom of accommodation and movement in the country. Currently, there are 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers of 55 different nationalities registered with UNHCR. In addition, there are some 5 million persons, most of them fleeing from armed conflicts in neighbouring States, who have not sought asylum status in order to facilitate their integration into society where they enjoy the same basic services as Egyptians free of charge, and to avoid being segregated in camps. In 2018, 12 centres were set up to provide services to refugees and migrants in the governorates.

73. Refugee students number 71,851, not counting Syrians who are enrolled in State-run schools where they are treated on a par with Egyptians. Thanks to cooperation with UNHCR, specialized social workers are available for unaccompanied minors, who also enjoy access to all basic services.

74. In general, Egypt believes that it is important to respect the principle of sharing the burden of hosting refugees and that short-term solutions based on the provision of assistance are insufficient. It is vital to find long-term solutions that tackle the underlying causes of migration, with a comprehensive vision that embraces not just security but also development. As part of its commitments under the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and within the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, Egypt collaborates in regional mechanisms such as

the Khartoum Process (African Union-Horn of Africa initiative on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants). It also participates in consultative mechanisms on migration, both within the League of Arab States and at the international level, such as at the Valetta Summit on Migration. Furthermore, Egypt had a hand in drawing up the global compact on refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in 2018.

## **X. Combating irregular migration and migrant smuggling<sup>59</sup>**

75. As per recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, Egypt has been making efforts to bring domestic legislation into line with its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementary Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. In fact, the law criminalizes all forms of migrant smuggling and enshrines the right of voluntary return. Moreover, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood is designated as the legal representative of unaccompanied children whose own families or representatives cannot be identified, and the Government has an obligation to protect the rights of such children. A fund has been set up to combat irregular migration and protect migrants and witnesses, also taking account of the social aspects of measures to combat irregular migration and migrant smuggling.<sup>60</sup>

76. A national coordinating committee to combat and prevent irregular migration and human trafficking was set up in 2017. Its job is to coordinate policies, plans and programmes and to provide care and services for smuggled migrants. The committee has conducted several field studies to identify governorates that are the source of the irregular migration of young people and unaccompanied children. With the involvement of civil society, it has also carried out community-based awareness-raising activities in target governorates under the name “Egypt is your future”. Since 2018, 57 training courses have been run for 1,120 judges, public prosecutors, administrative inspectors, police officers, social workers, civil society organizations and journalists.

77. As soon as it began operating, the committee launched its national strategy to combat irregular migration by 2026. The aim is to promote cooperation between the Government and non-governmental, regional and international stakeholders with a view to curbing irregular migration, raising public awareness, mobilizing resources and strengthening the legal framework to help combat the phenomenon. The strategy focuses on development as a key factor and seeks to support regular forms of migration. The committee has drawn up a map of the governorates that are the main sources of irregular migration so that they can be more easily targeted by the strategy. The first action plan for the implementation of the strategy has been completed and the second will continue to be applied until 2020. As a result of these efforts, no vessel carrying irregular migrants has left Egyptian shores since September 2016.

## **XI. Combating human trafficking<sup>61</sup>**

78. As per recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review and in line with article 89 of the Constitution and with obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act,<sup>62</sup> Egypt has joined the Blue Heart Campaign, which works to raise awareness about the crime of trafficking in persons.<sup>63</sup> The Government has introduced a number of anti-trafficking measures since 2015:

(a) A national strategy to combat human trafficking 2016–2021 has been adopted with a view to establishing an integrated anti-trafficking system, tackling the phenomenon at its roots, taking security measures, launching judicial proceedings in accordance with the rights and safeguards enshrined in the Constitution and the law, and protecting and rehabilitating victims. The strategy’s midterm report has been completed;

(b) The concept of combating human trafficking has been broadened to include corruption and money-laundering, and agencies that deal with those offences have been integrated into the national coordinating committee to combat and prevent irregular migration and human trafficking;

(c) Penalties for violations of the Human Organ Transplant Act have been increased, depending upon the nature of the offence;<sup>64</sup>

(d) Criminal chambers have been set up in courts of appeal to examine human trafficking offences;

(e) A map has been drafted showing the extension of human trafficking offences across the governorates in the years 2014–2017;

(f) A guide on protection from human trafficking for Egyptian workers abroad has been prepared and disseminated via embassies, consulates and the Ministry of Labour. In addition, a guide has been drafted to help members of the State Prosecution Service who investigate human trafficking offences and another on evidence gathering in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offences and the protection of victims under the law. The guides have been disseminated among law enforcement officials. A booklet has been drawn up to help persons working in the media cover human trafficking-related matters correctly;

(g) The subject of human trafficking has been introduced into Police Academy curricula; officers studying for diplomas at the Academy's higher studies faculty are conducting research on the subject and the Academy library has been enriched with books, academic journals, research papers and relevant international documents;

(h) Fifty-seven training courses have been run for 1,120 judges, public prosecutors, administrative inspectors, police officers, social workers, civil society organizations and journalists;

(i) A social media campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking has been run in collaboration with civil society;

(j) The technical capacity of hotlines run by national human rights associations to receive reports of human trafficking has been increased;

(k) Work has begun to open a secure shelter for women and child victims of human trafficking, and a referral mechanism is being developed to facilitate communication between the parties involved and law enforcement agencies.

79. The Government has also taken various steps to protect the interests of domestic workers:

(a) A model contract for domestic workers has been adopted to standardize guidance and regulate relations between worker and employer;

(b) A system of rules for gauging skill levels and professional capacity has been applied to domestic workers, with certification of their profession included in their national identity card. In addition, they can be covered by social insurance;

(c) Domestic workers have the right to form a professional union to protect their rights and interests, as per the Trade Union Act;<sup>65</sup>

(d) A bill regulating domestic work is being drafted; it covers training for domestic workers, working hours and holidays, wages and insurance, home inspection mechanisms and how to submit complaints, in addition to other provisions that take account of their interests and the specific nature of that form of work.

## **XII. Respecting human rights while combating terrorism<sup>66</sup>**

80. It is important to combat terrorism in order to keep citizens safe and ensure that they are able to enjoy their human rights to the full. At the same time, it is important to respect human rights while combating terrorism. In the light of that and of recommendations

received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, and in compliance with the Constitution – particularly the chapter on public rights, freedoms and duties and article 237 – the law includes a definition of the concept of “terrorist entity” and of “terrorist project” and envisages two lists: a list of terrorist entities and a list of terrorists.<sup>67</sup> The law entitles public prosecutors to submit an application (duly supported with investigation records and documents) for an entry to be made on the lists, or for an entry to be removed, and it defines the consequences arising from an order issued by a competent court for an entry to be made on either of the lists. The law further states that no entry may remain on the list of terrorist entities for longer than five years; if that period elapses without a ruling definitively establishing the criminal nature of the entity concerned, the State Prosecution Office must refer back to the competent judicial body for it to consider whether the entry should remain on the list. Otherwise the entry must be removed. An appeal against inclusion on either of the two lists may be made before the Court of Cassation within 60 days, as per normal procedures.

81. The Anti-Terrorism Act protects all the human rights that are safeguarded under the Constitution and the law, without hindrance.<sup>68</sup> The Code of Criminal Procedure is applicable to accusations involving terrorist crimes, and persons involved in such cases have the right to lodge, without fee, an appeal against pretrial detention, or the length of that detention, before a competent court. Moreover, accused persons may not be searched, they may not be placed under surveillance or have their conversations and correspondence recorded, their activity in private locations filmed or recorded, or their Internet or social media activities monitored except by a reasoned court order. As a way of striking a balance between combating terrorism and defending human rights, law enforcement authorities have been granted prerogatives that apply only to offences of that kind, with restricted procedural norms that aim to ensure the legality of the measures taken, while at the same time protecting human rights. Moreover, the procedures are supervised by the courts and detained persons must be informed of the reasons for their detention, allowed to contact a relative and to engage the services of a lawyer, and their statements must be duly recorded.

82. The National Council for Combating Terrorism and Extremism has been established. Its job is to channel anti-terrorism efforts, identify sources of terrorist funding, tackle the causes of the phenomenon and deal with its effects. The Council is also responsible for drafting a comprehensive national strategy, as well as policies, plans and programmes, and it plays a coordinating role among stakeholders. Furthermore, it coordinates with religious and media institutions to promote moderate religious preaching and disseminate correct religious concepts in the face of extremism, and it is developing a mechanism for cooperation with civil society.<sup>69</sup>

83. On a separate front, the Government, in fulfilment of its constitutional obligations, recently presented the House of Representatives with amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure. The amendments seek to broaden the rights and prerogatives of the defence during the stages of evidence gathering, initial investigation and criminal trial. They also introduce new rules regulating the protection of witnesses and victims and governing remote criminal proceedings.

84. National efforts to combat terrorism have redoubled, though without impinging upon human rights guarantees. Since 2017, in addition to the information given in paragraph 17 above, the following steps have been taken:

- (a) Al-Azhar held an anti-terrorism conference, which discussed takfirism, extremism, fanaticism, radicalism and the effects of terrorism on society;
- (b) A national strategy has been launched to disseminate a legal culture with a view to combating terrorism;
- (c) The Ministry of the Interior has been cooperating with the General Federation of Civil Society Organizations to promote human rights principles and draw attention to the dangers of terrorism and extremism;
- (d) Cash assistance and pensions have been offered to citizens who risk being driven from their homes through fear of terrorist acts, which threaten the lives of civilians and the military alike;

(e) A special pension has been made available for families of civilian victims of terrorism and for persons who have suffered full or partial disability as a result of terrorist acts.

85. At the international level, during its membership of the Security Council (2016–2017) Egypt chaired the Counter-Terrorism Committee and, as President of the Council in May 2017, spearheaded efforts for the unanimous adoption of resolution 2354 regarding a comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives. Furthermore, with its partners on the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, Egypt presented a resolution on the impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights. The resolution covers the effect of terrorism on the right to life, freedom and individual security and the threat it poses to economic and social development with all the grave repercussions that has for human rights. With Mexico in 2018, that resolution was incorporated into a comprehensive resolution covering respect for human rights while combating terrorism, with due concern for the rights of victims.

### **XIII. Disseminating a human rights culture<sup>70</sup>**

86. The Government is firmly convinced of the importance of raising awareness about human rights and, acting upon recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, has taken a number of steps in that regard since 2015:

(a) It has modified standards and indicators in relation to certain educational subjects and activities to include behavioural practices and guidance to promote the expression of opinion without harming others, principles of tolerance and acceptance, moderate religious ideas and ethical values;

(b) Beginning in the academic year 2018/19, a pro-human rights and anti-corruption module is being taught in all higher faculties and institutes; it is a compulsory module and candidates cannot graduate without having taken it. Alongside that, the process of introducing human rights concepts and principles into basic education is being developed;

(c) The State Information Service publishes a quarterly bulletin entitled “Human Rights Studies”;

(d) The authorities cooperate with international stakeholders and organizations on activities and programmes to promote a human rights culture in the education system. This includes projects to promote education and protect children from risks as well as an initiative to support and develop human rights and civil society in Egypt;

(e) A number of human rights booklets and pamphlets have been published and distributed to police officers; they include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a behavioural and ethical code for police work, a pamphlet entitled “No to violence against women!” and a circular entitled “Police at the service of the people”. In addition, human rights-related subjects have been made part of research examinations at the Police Academy and the Academy library has been supplied with books and periodicals relating to human rights.

87. Since 2015, the following steps have been taken to train law enforcement officials in respect for human rights:

(a) A criminological research and training institute has been set up within the State Prosecution Service and, since 2017, 1,180 members of the Service have been trained in how to investigate reported offences; field visits have been conducted to prisons to examine the oversight role the Service plays there, illustrate the rights of prisoners and explain how to receive complaints and investigate any criminal incident that might take place behind bars;

(b) A total of 148 training courses have been held for 4,897 judges at the Centre for Judicial Studies;



(c) Since 2015, 139 training courses have been held for police officers and 2,796 training courses for civilian staff of the Ministry of the Interior;

(d) Since 2016, 103 training courses on the treatment of prisoners and of children in institutions have been held for staff working in prisons and social care centres; in addition, since 2017 and in collaboration with the National Council for Human Rights, 10 training courses have been organized for officers in police posts and police stations regarding their obligations under the Constitution, the law and international human rights instruments;

(e) A criminal justice and human rights section has been established at the Police Academy and a basic human rights module has to be taken in order to graduate; 104 research papers on human rights have been written while 41 doctorates have been conferred with a further 14 currently being prepared. Human rights have been included in the Academy's curricula in the following ways:

- A human rights and social media diploma has been introduced as one of the diplomas issued by the Academy's higher studies faculty;
- An in-depth human rights module has been made a compulsory part of all diplomas issued by the Academy's higher studies faculty;
- Psychological preparedness is available for Academy students to help them develop the capacity to perform security duties while respecting human rights.

#### **XIV. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms<sup>71</sup>**

88. Acting on recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Government has been an active participant in meetings of United Nations, African and Arab human rights mechanisms. Since 2015, it has submitted 41 reports regarding the implementation of international labour treaties and, in May 2018, it submitted its periodic report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which it discussed in May 2019. In addition, it has submitted its second review cycle report under chapters II and V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Government is currently completing the drafting of periodic reports for human rights treaty bodies, in line with a fixed agenda, with a particular focus on those that are overdue and bearing in mind the circumstances Egypt experienced between 2011 and 2014.

89. The Government cooperates with the special procedures mechanism of the Human Rights Council and always responds to the communications it receives. In 2018, it welcomed a visit by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and it has invited a further six mandate holders to visit the country: the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education. The Government is still waiting for the dates of those visits to be finalized and is looking forward to receiving other applications for visits. A government delegation met with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the margins of the Group's 117th session in February 2019, while the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association participated in the sixty-fourth session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Egypt in 2019. Moreover, government officials meet regularly with mandate holders on the margins of Human Rights Council sessions. The purview of the high-level standing committee on human rights, referred to in paragraph 9 above, will include communication with all international and regional human rights mechanisms.

90. The Government has fulfilled the voluntary commitments arising from its current membership of the Human Rights Council, including the financial support it had pledged to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As part

of its cooperation with OCHCR, 32 young diplomats took part in eight training courses organized between 2017 and 2019. Moreover, in 2017, agreement was reached with OHCHR regarding a technical cooperation programme, which included a training course for judges on international human rights law, held in 2018. The course was preceded in that same year by a workshop on the preparation of reports to human rights treaty bodies under General Assembly resolution 68/268. The OHCHR proposal on human rights indicators was also taken up, and the Government has included such indicators in the implementation of its five-year plan 2018–2022.

## Conclusion

91. The Government has taken rapid steps over very few years to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular focus on the empowerment of women, young people and persons with disabilities, and the rights of children. Even if it has not realized all its ambitions, the Government has nonetheless made great strides in that direction despite its limited resources, the security, economic and social challenges it faces (chief among them the threat of terrorism) and the rapid rate of population growth, which devours the fruits of development and depletes available resources, and the influx of migrants and refugees as a result of disorder and economic difficulties in neighbouring States. In the face of all that, the Government has sought, to the extent possible, to implement the recommendations it accepted during the second cycle and reaffirms its intention to abide by its international commitments and to continue to strive to fulfil the expectations of its people.

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> التوصيات أرقام 16 و20 و21 و22 قبول كلي، والتوصيات أرقام 14 و17 قبول جزئي.
- <sup>2</sup> القضية رقم 114 لسنة 29 قضائية بجلسة 2017/1/14، والطعن رقم 131 لسنة 39 قضائية بجلسة 2019/4/6.
- <sup>3</sup> القضيتان رقما 22 لسنة 29 قضائية بجلسة 2015/5/9 و116 لسنة 29 قضائية بجلسة 2015/7/25.
- <sup>4</sup> القضية رقم 202 لسنة 32 قضائية بجلسة 2018/11/3.
- <sup>5</sup> القضية رقم 160 لسنة 37 قضائية بجلسة 2018/6/2 والقضية رقم 84 لسنة 39 قضائية بجلسة 2019/2/2.
- <sup>6</sup> من أهم هذه القوانين ما يلي:  
أ. القانون رقم 7 لسنة 2015 بشأن تعديل بعض أحكام قانون الطفل رقم 12 لسنة 1996، والمتضمن إنهاء التدبير الجنائي للأطفال ببلوغ سن 18 عاماً.  
ب. القانون رقم 8 لسنة 2015 في شأن تنظيم الكيانات الإرهابية والإرهابيين، والقانون رقم 94 لسنة 2015 في شأن مكافحة الإرهاب.  
ج. القانون رقم 78 لسنة 2016 بتعديل قانون العقوبات بتعليق عقوبة ختان الإناث.  
د. القانون رقم 80 لسنة 2016 بشأن تنظيم بناء وترميم الكنائس.  
هـ. القانون رقم 81 لسنة 2016 بشأن الخدمة المدنية، لضمان تكافؤ الفرص وعدم التمييز.  
و. القانون رقم 82 لسنة 2016 بشأن مكافحة الهجرة غير الشرعية وتهريب المهاجرين.  
ز. القانون رقم 14 لسنة 2017 بتعديل بعض أحكام القانون رقم 107 لسنة 2013 بتنظيم الحق في الاجتماعات العامة والمواكب والتظاهرات السلمية.  
ح. القانون رقم 213 لسنة 2017 بشأن المنظمات النقابية العمالية.  
ط. القانون رقم 10 لسنة 2018 بشأن حقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة.  
7 القانون رقم 197 لسنة 2017 بتعديل بعض أحكام القانون رقم 94 لسنة 2003 بشأن إنشاء المجلس القومي لحقوق الإنسان.  
8 قرار النائب العام رقم ٢٠٣٤ لسنة ٢٠١٧.  
9 القانون رقم 30 لسنة 2018 بتنظيم المجلس القومي للمرأة، والقانون رقم 11 لسنة 2019 بشأن المجلس القومي للأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة.  
10 قرار رئيس مجلس الوزراء رقم 2396 لسنة 2018.  
11 التوصيات أرقام 19 و20 و23 و24 و25 و26 و27 و28 و30 و31 و32 و33 و36 و38 و39 و40 و41 و42 و90 و91 و100 و112 و113 و114 و115 و117 و118 و119 و120 و122 و123 و124 و125 و126 و127 و129 و130 و140 و177 و179 و180 و183 و184 و188 و197 و198 و200 و201 و202 و203 و204 و205 و208 و209 و210 و212 و213 و214 و218 و219 و220 و221 و230 و232 و234 و236 و239 و240 و241

- و244 و245 و246 و248 و250 و251 و252 قبول كلي، والتوصيات أرقام 178 و182 و187 و199 و206 و224 و225 و228 و231 و233 و235 و237 و238 و243 و247 قبول جزئي.
- 12 القانون رقم 198 لسنة 2017.
- 13 القانون رقم 93 لسنة 2016.
- 14 القوانين أرقام 178 و179 و180 لسنة 2018.
- 15 القانون رقم 14 لسنة 2017 بتعديل بعض أحكام القانون رقم 107 لسنة 2013 بتنظيم الحق في الاجتماعات العامة والمواكب والتظاهرات السلمية.
- 16 القانون رقم 213 لسنة 2017.
- 17 القانون رقم 80 لسنة 2016 بشأن تنظيم بناء وترميم الكنائس.
- 18 القانون رقم 47 لسنة 1978.
- 19 حكم المحكمة الدستورية العليا في القضية رقم 153 لسنة 32 قضائية بتاريخ 2017/2/4.
- 20 انعكس ذلك في المادة 52 من قانون الخدمة المدنية رقم 81 لسنة 2016، والمادة 143 من لائحته التنفيذية.
- 21 تنص المادة 54 على: "الحرية الشخصية حق طبيعي، وهي مصونة لا تُمس، وفيما عدا حالة التلبس، لا يجوز القبض على أحد، أو تفتيشه، أو حبسه، أو تقييد حريته بأي قيد إلا بأمر قضائي مُسبب يستلزمه التحقيق، ويجب أن يُبلغ فوراً كل من تقييد حريته بأسباب ذلك، ويحاط بحقوقه كتابة، ويُمكن من الاتصال بذويه وبمحاميه فوراً، وأن يُقدم إلى سلطة التحقيق خلال أربع وعشرين ساعة من وقت تقييد حريته. ولا يبدأ التحقيق معه إلا في حضور محاميه، فإن لم يكن له محام، نُدب له محام، مع توفير المساعدة اللازمة لذوي الإعاقة، وفقاً للإجراءات المقررة في القانون. ولكل من تُقيد حريته، ولغيره، حق التظلم أمام القضاء من ذلك الإجراء، والفصل فيه خلال أسبوع من ذلك الإجراء، وإلا وجب الإفراج عنه فوراً..." وتنص المادة 55 على "كل من يُقبض عليه، أو يُحبس، أو تُقيد حريته تجب معاملته بما يحفظ عليه كرامته، ولا يجوز تعذيبه، ولا ترهيبه، ولا إكراهه، ولا إيذاؤه بدنياً أو معنوياً، ولا يكون حجزه، أو حبسه إلا في أماكن مخصصة لذلك لائقة إنسانياً وصحياً، وتلتزم الدولة بتوفير وسائل الإتاحة للأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة. ومخالفة شيء من ذلك جريمة يُعاقب مرتكبها وفقاً للقانون. وللمتهم حق الصمت. وكل قول يثبت أنه صدر من محتجز تحت وطأة شيء مما تقدم أو التهديد بشيء منه، يُهدر ولا يعول عليه."
- 22 تم إقرار الحق في الطعن على أحكام القضاء العسكري أمام محكمة أعلى بالقانون رقم 12 لسنة 2014 بتعديل قانون الأحكام العسكرية.
- 23 القانون رقم 396 لسنة 1956.
- 24 القانون رقم 46 لسنة 1972.
- 25 القانون رقم 197 لسنة 2017 بتعديل بعض أحكام القانون رقم 94 لسنة 2003 بشأن إنشاء المجلس القومي لحقوق الإنسان.
- 26 القانون رقم 6 لسنة 2018 بتعديل بعض أحكام قانون تنظيم السجون رقم 396 لسنة 1956.
- 27 استناداً إلى المادة 36 من قانون تنظيم السجون رقم 396 لسنة 1956 التي تجيز الإفراج الصحي.
- 28 بموجب المادة 201 من قانون الإجراءات الجنائية.
- 29 المواد 40 و41 و117 و126 و129 و280 و375 مكرر -أ من قانون العقوبات.
- 30 المادة 15 من قانون الإجراءات الجنائية.
- 31 حكم محكمة النقض في الطعن رقم 30639 لسنة 72 قضائية بجلسة 2003/4/23.
- 32 يعكس ذلك المادة 302 من قانون الإجراءات الجنائية.
- 33 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و39 و195 و196 و256 و259 و260 و261 و262 و263 و264 و265 و266 و267 و268 و269 و270 و271 و272 و273 و274 و275 و276 و277 و278 و291 و292 و293 و294 قبول كلي.
- 34 القانون رقم 72 لسنة 2017.
- 35 قرار رئيس مجلس الوزراء رقم 371 لسنة 2019.
- 36 تم إنشاء الصندوق بموجب القانون رقم 1 لسنة 2019.
- 37 القانون رقم 2 لسنة 2018 بشأن نظام التأمين الصحي الشامل.
- 38 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و38 و39 و50 و71 و72 و73 و74 و75 و76 و77 و78 و79 و80 و81 و82 و83 و84 و85 و86 و87 و88 و89 و90 و91 و92 و93 و94 و95 و96 و97 و98 و99 و144 و146 و147 و148 و149 و150 و151 و152 و153 و154 و155 و156 و157 و158 و160 و162 و163 و164 و165 و166 و167 و168 و194 و195 و196 و197 و257 و258 قبول كلي، والتوصيات أرقام 145 و159 و161 قبول جزئي.
- 39 القانون رقم 30 لسنة 2018 بتنظيم المجلس القومي للمرأة.
- 40 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و38 و39 و50 و55 و147 و175 و194 و195 و196 قبول كلي.
- 41 القانون رقم 6 لسنة 2015 والقانون رقم 7 لسنة 2015.
- 42 القانون رقم 106 لسنة 2015 بتعديل بعض أحكام قانون تنظيم السجون رقم 396 لسنة 1956.
- 43 كتاب النائب العام الدوري رقم 7 لسنة 2018.
- 44 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و38 و39 و141 و142 و143 و280 و281 و282 و283 و284 قبول كلي.
- 45 قانون حقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة رقم 10 لسنة 2018.
- 46 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و169 و170 و171 و172 و173 و174 و253 و254 قبول كلي.
- 47 القانون رقم 81 لسنة 2016.
- 48 القانون رقم 71 لسنة 2017.
- 49 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و32 و33 و36 و39 و51 و52 و53 و54 و255 و256 و259 و260 و261 و291 و292 و293 و294 قبول كلي.

- 50 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و39 و43 و44 و45 و46 و47 و48 و49 قبول كلي.
- 51 صدرت التعديلات بالقانون رقم 16 لسنة 2015.
- 52 أنشئت بموجب القانون رقم 28 لسنة 2015.
- 53 القانون رقم 81 لسنة 2016.
- 54 أنشئت بقرار رئيس الجمهورية رقم 75 لسنة 2016.
- 55 صدرت التعديلات بالقانون رقم 207 لسنة 2017.
- 56 تم التعديل بموجب القانون رقم 5 لسنة 2018.
- 57 القانون رقم 182 لسنة 2018.
- 58 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و56 و286 و290 قبول كلي.
- 59 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و176 و287 و288 و289 قبول كلي.
- 60 القانون رقم 82 لسنة 2016 بشأن مكافحة الهجرة غير الشرعية وتهريب المهاجرين.
- 61 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و169 و170 و171 و172 و173 و174 و253 و254 قبول كلي.
- 62 القانون رقم 64 لسنة 2010.
- 63 يتبنى مكتب الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة المخدرات والجريمة حملة القلب الأزرق.
- 64 القانون رقم 142 لسنة 2017 بتعديل بعض أحكام قانون تنظيم زرع الأعضاء البشرية.
- 65 المادة 2 من القانون رقم 213 لسنة 2017.
- 66 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و28 و32 و33 و36 و39 و40 و41 و197 و198 و200 و201 و202 و203 و204 و205 و295 و296 و297 و298 و299 و300 قبول كلي.
- 67 القانون رقم 8 لسنة 2015.
- 68 القانون رقم 94 لسنة 2015.
- 69 تم إنشاء المجلس الأعلى لمواجهة الإرهاب والتطرف بموجب القانون رقم ٢٥ لسنة ٢٠١٨.
- 70 التوصيات أرقام 23 و24 و25 و26 و32 و33 و36 و37 و131 و132 و133 و134 و135 و136 و137 و197 و198 و200 و203 و205 و279 قبول كلي، والتوصية رقم 285 قبول جزئي.
- 71 التوصيات أرقام 28 و32 و33 و36 و39 و57 و58 و59 و66 و67 و68 و69 و70 و185 قبول كلي، والتوصية رقم 35 قبول جزئي.