

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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EGYPT

Joint submission of the Egypt Coalition for Human Rights and Sustainable Development

Composed with:



PARTNERSHIP NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (PNI); PNI HOMENA; PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS (PDS); ABNAA EL-MAHROUSA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION (EL-MAHROUSA); MASHREQ FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION; DOING; EGYPTIANS WITHOUT BORDERS FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; AL-GALALA ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; JUSTICE ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; QADROUN FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT; THE ARAB CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; THE EGYPTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL; CEDAW ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; ELHADAF ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; AI-FARAH FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; THE EGYPTIAN ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; THE SOCIAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS; UPPER EGYPT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; EHSEBHA SAH ASSOCIATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT; VOICE OF YOUTH FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT; ALSALAM ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; SHABAB ALKHEIR ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES; MEHNA MOSTAKBAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; HERAK ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; HORAS ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING; LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION;

Cairo, March 22- 26th 2019

**Consultation and Elaboration of
A UPR WRITTEN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION'S CONTRIBUTION
to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of EGYPT**

*IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ALL EGYPTIAN CITIZEN,
THROUGH
SOCIAL PROTECTION,
THE RIGHT TO HOUSING, ACCESS TO WATER AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT*

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION:

1. PARTNERSHIP NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (PNI); PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS (PDS); ABNAA EL-MAHROUSA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION (EL-MAHROUSA); MASHREQ FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION; DOING; AL-GALALA ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; ALSALAM ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; CEDAW ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; EGYPTIANS WITHOUT BORDERS FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; EHSEBHA SAH ASSOCIATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT; ELHADAF ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; HERAK ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; HOMENA; AL-FARAH FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; HORAS ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING; JUSTICE ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; MEHNA MOSTAKBAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; QADROUN FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT; SHABAB ALKHEIR ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES; THE ARAB CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; THE EGYPTIAN ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; THE EGYPTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL; THE SOCIAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS; UPPER EGYPT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; VOICE OF YOUTH FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT; WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

2. PARTNERSHIP NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (PNI) is an NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland. It was founded in 2014 to promote human rights and sustainable development through capacity building, project sponsorship, and international advocacy transmitting to the United Nations (UN) the concerns of the civil society. PNI is active in some fifteen countries. HOMENA is one of PNI section working in Human rights and Development in the Mena region.

3. PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS (PDS) Founded in 2011 a consultancy organization dedicated to the advancement of sustainable human development in Egypt and the Arab region through fostering of economic empowerment, vibrant civil society, citizen-centered policies, peace-building, social transformation, and sustainable solutions for food security, water management, and solar energy. PDS achieves its mission by implementing capacity building, strategizing, research, advocacy and networking, business development, project management, and evaluation.

4. ABNAA EL-MAHROUSA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION (EL-MAHROUSA); Is a nonprofit organization registered in 2017 but has been working in the society since 2011 with the aim to promote economic empowerment, the freedom of civil society and the promotion of citizens' participation in public life, it has been keen to enable NGOs, trade unions and youth to have effective roles in achieving sustainable development of society within the framework of public rights and freedoms that protect the rights of all citizens without any form of discrimination.

5. MASHREQ FOUNDATION for Development and Population: is an Egyptian NGO established in 2008. It aims at supporting and promoting the institutional and human development in the economic, social and human rights sectors and focused on promoting women's economic and social rights had an electoral awareness project for women in rural areas supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, a project 'strengthen the mechanisms of transparency, accountability and community supervision on local development plans' supported by (USAID). And 'a safe working environment for women' project supported by the United Nations Fund. AL MASHREQ FOUNDATION is partnering with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education.

6. DOING; Founded in the Netherlands in 2018, with a strong local presence in MENA. Our work is dedicated to equip communities, businesses and organizations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes, empower their capacity, increase their resilience, enhance their sustainable development, and gain access to basic services – empowering them to participate effectively in their public spheres and respecting the universal values of human rights.

7. HOMENA is a section of PARTNERSHIP NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (PNI) present in Mena region countries working in Human rights and Sustainable Development in the objective of improving social dialogue and quality of life on a daily basis through a service of expertise and capacity development programs.

In collaboration with:

8. AL-FARAH FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: The organization was established by the number 2583 for the year 2010 from the organizations of persons with disabilities (DPO), where 51% of the disabled have special needs in the organization

9. AL-GALALA ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; the association was established in 2005, to contribute to the media reform and to promote democracy and various types of political participation through many initiatives and activities through Focusing on developing the media in Egypt to allow the dissemination of a culture of diversity and acceptance of the other and social development in order to contribute to the creation of a society that adopts independent media opinions and practices freely according to the law and the human rights system concerned in the constitution, treaties and international conventions. AL GALALA also aims to protect and support marginalized groups including Persons with disabilities and also solving the issues of violence against women and address those by terms of journalism.

10. ALSALAM ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; was established in 2016 concerned with social, economic and political rights for the society and ensure active participation of citizens to develop their communities. The association works in the areas of community development, environmental protection, women, child rights, family planning, health, industry and agriculture, caring for people with disabilities.

11. CEDAW ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; is a non-governmental organization established in 2015 that works in the field of empowerment and support of women and aims to obtain women's rights granted to them by the Constitution and the law and the exercise of those rights without any discrimination, The activities of the Foundation provide legal services for women, the preparation of studies and legal research, Women's rights in particular, by educating women about their rights, provide training and developing women's skills, issuing of qualitative and periodic reports on women. The association works with nearly 5000 women beneficiaries of the services provided.

12. EGYPTIANS WITHOUT BORDERS foundation for Development; (EWB) is an Egyptian Organization established in 2007 aiming at promoting the role of civil society in policy making to achieve a more inclusive, open, peaceful and progressive Egyptian society. In particular concerned

with the Economic and social empowerment for Women and Youth also to create innovative mechanisms to reduce poverty and ensure marginalized groups have access to economic opportunities with adequate social and environmental. (EWB) provided direct opportunities for the political empowerment for more than 150 female activists and economic empowerment to more than 300 young men and women and direct social empowerment to more than 600 young men and women in addition to awareness activities targeting more than 15000 beneficiaries in Aswan Governorate and about 10,000 beneficiaries in other governorates. (EWB)The organization is the national coordinator of the Egyptian Coalition for Education and a member of the Global Campaign for Education for All.

13. EHSEBHA SAH ASSOCIATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT; We are working to support the development and dissemination of human rights culture by building the capacity of youth to contribute to the strengthening of civil society and the development of the institutional capacities of existing and emerging organizations to be able to improve the conditions of citizens. The Association is concerned with the health of citizens. It carried out a medical surveys, awareness campaigns and treatment of Virus C for more than forty thousand citizens in the marginalized and poorer villages of Egypt in five different governorates.

14. ELHADAF ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; established in 2010, to provide legal assistance and protection for women, work on issues related to the legal protection of prisoners, the advancement of marginalized women and the development of women's political participation through helping them to know their rights in political participation through training courses for lawyers and field work for women in Egyptian villages and cities. The association seeks to raise principles of equality, justice, freedom, democracy and human rights through adopting the idea of building the capacity of society and raising awareness to meet the challenges of development and achieve sustainable development

15. HERAK ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; an Egyptian civil society organization established in the year 2015 aiming to spread the culture of teamwork through training and skills development, initiatives and partnerships, organizing dialogues, debates, professional, vocational and administrative support programs and activating national, regional and international human rights instruments. HERAK fields of work are Human rights, social defense, women and children, economic empowerment.

16. HORAS ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING; An Egyptian non-profit organization registered in 2010 in Sohag governorate and its scope of work at the level of the whole Republic of Egypt, it works to improve community development in education, health and economic empowerment also promote the active participation of citizens in the society with emphasis on basic needs and educational guidance for children, youth and women. Horus supports marginalized groups, especially in Upper Egypt and is concerned with human rights and the principles of justice for the development of society and the sustainable development of all individuals in partnership and work

17. JUSTICE ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; is an Egyptian association established in 2007 with the aim to spread the values of human rights in Upper Egypt in particular and consolidating the rule of law and building democracy within the social system to ensure political and social participation of citizens. Through having dialogue on the cultural problems associated with the issues of the Egyptian society and its developmental problems to create a supportive environment for all, especially the less fortunate, such as minorities and people with disabilities, to participate in the development and public policies and the Empowering of women and supporting their presence in decision-making through capacity-building and ongoing technical support.

18. LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; A civil society, established in 1967, concerned with the child, women and people with disabilities rights. The association has many partnerships with many ministries and government agencies.

19. MEHNA MOSTAKBAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT; Established in 2015 with the aim to empower all groups of society, especially women and youth, for a inclusive and sustainable development and seeks to contribute to the elimination of societal gaps that impact negatively on the growth and development of the society. The Foundation is concerned with the economic and social empowerment of the most needy groups, especially in marginalized areas, especially women and youth, to support and build the skills and abilities of these groups and give them tools that enable them to manage their lives effectively and facilitate access to better life opportunities.

20. QADROUN FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT; Was established in 2016 to promote the social and economic empowerment of individuals and communities through education, career and vocational training, and public health programs to enhance access to health services and promote the participation of women and youth in public life and the provision of basic services for the most needy and the most vulnerable. The most important projects were “Education and All” Project, “Vocational Training and professional Training” Project, “Economic Empowerment for Women” Project, the” Public Health” Project, which aimed to raise citizens' awareness of the principles of public health, “public rights and positive participation” project that focused on enhancing the participation of women and youth in public life through their participation in public decision-making.

21. SHABAB ALKHEIR ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES; Founded in 2006, it works to develop and care for marginalized, poor and disabled people, to promote active engagement of youth and women, and to raise awareness to enable access to rights through the investment of community resources of the governmental and civil institutions and the private sector. SHABAB ALKHEIR areas of Work are Community Development - Health, Education, Cultural and Religious Development, Child Care, Human Rights, Consumer Protection.

22. THE ARAB CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; is an Egyptian non-governmental association established in 2012 based in Menia governorate. The aim of the association is to achieve Human Rights for marginalized and disabled groups and provide Care for prisoners and their families and to achieve Economic Development and Community Development. Provide citizen awareness to their constitutional and legal rights. The numbers of association beneficiaries are more than 2000 people.

23. THE EGYPTIAN ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; A non-profit civil society organization established in 2013. The association works in the field of sustainable development and promotes ideas of joint cooperation. Has already carried out a number of important campaigns and programs such as promoting tourism, more than 10,000 young men and women participated in it over the previous years and campaigns with charitable activities of medical convoys and distribution of food and other for more than 8000 beneficiaries and The association is carrying out a human rights campaign which aim to spread and promote the concepts of human values among the youth. The association enjoys a great number of partnerships both locally and in Arab countries.

24. THE EGYPTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL; The Egyptian council for Development was established in 2016, in Cairo its aim is to support youth in all areas of development, concerned with Women Empowerment, Community Development, Institutional Development, Organization and management, Social Defense, Support disadvantaged families Supporting investment opportunities, Environmental initiatives, Participating in building an effective civil society, Human Rights and reach sustainable development in accordance with international laws and regulations and based on the foundations of human rights and social justice. The Council is specialized in developing strategies for young people, identifying challenges and proposing appropriate solutions through training and developmental programs.

25. THE SOCIAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS; The Social Association for Media Professionals established in 2009 located in Alexandria aims to achieve inclusive society development, focusing on equality, the fight against racism, human rights, illegal immigration and refugees, working with orphans and people with disabilities. The association works to support

development and rights issues by informing the community about these problems and finding community solutions through the use of arts and drama tools (press, radio, television, film, theater). The association has about 1,000 members of young men and women.

26. UPPER EGYPT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; at Qena (SEDAQ) was founded in Feb 2002. It is a central organization which works all over Egypt; (SEDAQ) is a house expertise that support and empower women and children in Upper Egypt to access and enjoy a better life without discrimination and to change the community culture positively by making non-traditional development in all areas of health, cultural, social and economic development.

27. VOICE OF YOUTH FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT; established in 2016 based in Assiut Governorate aiming to develop society in all fields, train and qualify people for public and community work and job market and also to promote youth participation in community development and to empower women, children, youth and people with disabilities VOICE OF YOUTH Had conducted awareness of the importance of tourism to achieve Economic empowerment also had campaigns to raise awareness in Health issues.

28. WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; The association was established in 2009 in Giza to empower the rural women in the villages of the center of Kerdasa especially the marginalized women and their children in the social, health, educational, economic rights. WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION also works in the field of environment protection and preservation and social defense, providing scientific and cultural services, peace building and also it focuses on the labor organizations. The women for development Association had more than 2500 beneficiaries from its target groups benefited from its various activities.

*This **Egypt Coalition for Social and Economical rights** gathering together during a UPR consultation and writing contribution on 23-26th March 2019 in Cairo – Egypt submits written comments on Egypt, for consideration by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at its 34th session (13rd November 2019).*

INTRODUCTION

29. In the third cycle of the UPR of Egypt in November 2019, the coalition submits a report **focusing inter alia on** reaching the integral development of all segments of the population and regions, improve the standard of living of its citizens, including vulnerable groups of the population, and provide housing and other economic and social rights.¹

The **report highlights** the main concerns related to the issues directly related to the Egypt coalition partners in their respective work for the protection and promotion of human rights and improvement of sustainable development in Egypt.

This report takes into account data from various sources, including first-hand information collected by partner organizations working in the field.

It notes the remaining gaps in the progressive realization of the right to sustainable development and an adequate standard of living, including management of rural and urban security. Particular attention is devoted to the underprivileged populations in Egypt and the importance of the social protection mechanisms.

¹ Recommendations 2014 UPR: 166.262. (Tajikistan); Source of position: A/HRC/28/16/Add.1

In an economy and employment vision generating incomes and jobs² in a safe and sustainable development there is an urgent need to provide suitable housing for specific groups including limited-income families, single women, persons with disabilities and young people, as well as water and environment sustainability in parallel to financial and social subsidies for the poorest of the poorest.

Underdeveloped forms of shelter for those that cannot afford proper housing and amenities, scarcity of water and pollution are growing and intensifying. If these situations are not resolved, they may cause livelihood and environmental degradation and project disruption as well as violent responses.

The real pursuit of the defense of the right of housing, access to water and sanitation in a clean environment in Egypt requires executing policies and programs that aim at ensuring that all citizens have access to housing, access to water and clean environment particularly those living in the poorer governorates.

SITUATION

30. Egypt's total population exceeds 100 million making it the most populated country in the Middle East, has one of the highest annual rates of population increase and one of the critically water scarce countries in the world.

31. Poverty rates in Egypt have increased over the past 15 years to reach 27.8 per cent in 2015. As a result, ten million children have been declared “multidimensionally poor”. It is estimated that 52 per cent of Egypt's population is under the age of 20.”³

Egypt's annual inflation rate has reached 12.2 per cent in January 2019, with an increase of 0.8 per cent compared to 11.1 per cent in December 2018.⁴ Millions of Egyptians, who live below the poverty line, face difficulties in meeting daily basic needs following successive increases in fuel, medicine, and transportation prices.

32. Egypt starts reforms from last UPR (2014).” The implementation of reforms along with the gradual restoration of confidence and stability is starting to yield positive results. In fiscal year 2018, real GDP grew at 5,3 %, compared to 4,2% in 2017. (...).The country's social protection measures are shifting from generalized energy and food subsidies to more poverty and human development targeted programs “⁵ Nevertheless, access to housing as well as safe drinking water and sanitation in a clean environment is still out of reach for many people.

33. Egypt faces many challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights. Supply and demand has emerged and is expected to continue to increase. Access to water and clean environment remains challenging issues. Housing and health, safe water and environment, are a concern and have been the subject of recommendations accepted by the government at the 2014 UPR.

² 166.263. Ensure the participation of all stakeholders, particularly women, youth and vulnerable groups, in the country's economic development, so as to foster an inclusive long-term economic growth and well-being for all (Thailand); Source of position: A/HRC/28/16/Add.1

³ UNICEF Jan 2018 - <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180110-unicef-30-poverty-rate-in-egypt/>

⁴ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190211-egypt-inflation-rates-increase-again-reaching-12-2-per-cent/>

⁵ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt/overview#3>

34. Lack of decent housing, current water scarcity and environmental security concerns puts the most vulnerable people, and especially children, ⁶among others, in situations of critical deprivation and violates their fundamental rights to adequate standard of living, through lack of access to house, access to water and sanitation in a unsafe environment.

Access to special protection mechanisms, housing, water and sanitation and to live in a healthy and clean environment is a right for everyone, and is fundamental to the enjoyment of other rights such as the rights to live, health and development.

I. THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING: SOCIAL PROTECTION MECHANISMS

35. The Egyptian government has recently adopted an ambitious program of economic reform that requires to be accompanied with social protection programs and projects that will mitigate the potential negative effects on the poor and vulnerable and will end poverty.

As Goal 1: "Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere" in UN 2030 sustainable development goals and Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy "Vision 2030", which is to build a just and united society characterized by equality in economic, social and political rights and opportunities and to have a highest degree of Social integration, stimulates opportunities for social mobility based on capacity, and to provide mechanisms for protection against life risks.

36. Social protection is a key factor in achieving social peace, and is a necessity factor for the cohesion of society and achieve political, social and economic stability. It is also one of the mechanisms of community development and a strong pillar of social stability, reducing conflict between the segments of society and empowering the poor, especially after the implementation of privatization programs, economic reforms and structural adjustment.

It is responsible of supporting the marginalized groups of the society and providing protection to the most needy. The social protection has a recognized role of in alleviating poverty and contribution to the economic and social development

37. Egypt's accepted 247 recommendations in political, economic and social rights out of 300 recommendations that were raised by member states of the United Nations during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. In order to achieve these recommendations, the Prime Minister issued a decree to establish a Permanent High Committee for Human Rights which is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or his delegate on November 16, 2018. It is responsible of managing the mechanism of dealing with the human rights issues, in addition to preparing the file of Egypt to be presented to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism before the UN Human Rights Council as well as following up on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Egypt and to propose solutions to implement them. One of the positive aspects about this Committee is that it communicates with the civil society organizations to ensure their participation.

38. The right to social security: Egypt received 3 recommendations in this regard that were accepted by the Egyptian government: Recommendation No. 195 and 196, which calls for the adoption of social policies that support the family and Recommendation No. 256, 259, 260 and 261, which aims to have a strategy to combat unemployment. Recommendation No. 263 and 264 calling for the activation of social protection programs, which include women, youth and more vulnerable groups.

⁶ Over 50 percent of the Egyptian population is under the age of 20. Ten million children in the country are considered multi-dimensionally poor, meaning they are deprived of daily necessities such as access to water, access to proper health care and education.

Recommendation from No. 256 to No. 270, which are to reduce poverty and promote socio-economic rights.

The Egyptian Constitution stipulates in Art. 8 that “Society is based on social solidarity. The State shall achieve social justice and provide the means to achieve social interdependence, in order to ensure a decent life for all citizens, as regulated by Law”.

39. Several positive amendments were made to the Social Security Act which enabled the Council of Ministers to introduce different types of security pensions for the beneficiaries. On the basis of this legal amendment, the Council of Ministers promulgated Decree No. 540 for the year 2015, on - “*Takaful and Karama*” (“Solidarity and Dignity”) program, in order to provide conditional financial support to families and individuals. This program is one of the most important achievements in the field of social security despite the low value of the pension.

In the solidarity program, families worthy of support receive a sum of 325 Egyptian pounds (around 90 dollars) and the students get an additional 60 to 100 Egyptian pounds (around 3 to 6 dollars) depending on their level of education. The dignity program is an individual program that applies to individuals over the age of 65 and persons with disabilities who are unable to work; the individual receives an amount of 350 Egyptian pounds (around 90 dollars). It is permissible to combine the two programs for certain individuals according to the provisions of the law. It is also important to note that this program targets the poorest families who need this financial support.

40. On the other hand, the beneficiaries of aid and security pensions are significantly lower than the beneficiaries actually eligible among the poor or low-income groups, where it is estimated that nearly one third of Egyptian families lives below the poverty line and the value of security pensions is very low compared to the severe inflation observed in the Egyptian market in recent months.

41. The Right to Economic Development: Egypt received 11 recommendations in this regard, all of which were accepted by the Government. Art. 236 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that the State must ensure “setting and implementing a plan for the comprehensive economic and urban development of border and underprivileged areas, including Upper Egypt, Sinai, Matrouh, and Nubia”. Art. 238 states that the objectives of the tax system are focused on economic development.

42. Egypt has achieved a remarkable progress in the social and economic field (CAPMAS) announced that annual consumer price inflation in Egyptian cities fell to 13.5% in July 2018, compared with 14.4% in June 2017 and that the core inflation rate fell to 8.54% year-on-year in July 2018 from 10.9% in June 2018. Despite all these efforts, but inflation rates began to increase again in February 2019 to reach 13.9%.⁷

43. COALITION SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS:

43.1 Social protection measures should be expanded, after huge rates of inflation and increases in the prices, the government actions in this matter are still very slow;

43.2 Social protection mechanisms, if limited to state programs such as the “Takaful and Karama” (“Solidarity and Dignity”) Program, are limited programs that can’t cope with the increasing in the prices. The reduction of subsidies must be opposed with real economic development;

43.3 The neediest families should be partners in the development process rather than recipients, and "social justice" is more comprehensive than "social protection", is based on the fairness of distribution and participation rather than merely receiving aids;

⁷ https://www.capmas.gov.eg/Pages/IndicatorsPage.aspx?Ind_id=2542

43.4 Supporting national dialogues, including within Governments, on possible options for designing and implementing appropriate solutions, consistent with the relevant provisions of ILO Recommendation No. 202 and the existing national development priorities and strategies;

43.5 Participation of civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of social vision and comprehensive strategy for social policies;

43.6 Developing existing legislation regulating labor relations such as labor law, social insurance law, health insurance law, which provides legal protection for workers, especially private sector, and the informal employment;

43.7 Regulating the legalization of informal workers, establish special unions for them and support existing unions to protect the interests and welfare of their members;

43.8 Paying attention to training and qualification of graduates in accordance with the requirements of the labor market and oblige all sectors of labor to train their workers on a regular basis, for example the establishment of technical schools attached to the factories for education and technical training;

43.9 Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, expanding agricultural projects and increasing investment programs by the government to create job opportunities for youth and reduce unemployment;

43.10 Applying the principle of equality and non-discrimination in the access to employment opportunities.

II. THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING: THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IN EGYPT⁸

44. Background: The most visible symptom of Egypt's urbanization problem has been the lack of low-income and social housing available across the country. According to the Egyptian housing ministry estimations that 500,000 new homes need to be built every year for five years to keep pace with the expanding population and to address the estimated backlog of 3 million housing units. Although Egypt is in the midst of a housing crisis that has fueled the fire of poverty and substandard living conditions, all efforts are focused on extinguishing such strife-ridden issues. In fact, the government formally stated that its central aim is to tackle the prevailing housing issue after the Egypt Economic Development Conference.

45. In 2014, the country signed a \$40 billion agreement with the U.A.E.'s Arab to develop one million housing units. Although the deal broke down in mid-2015, the government has continued with its pledge to develop the number of units required to meet the current demand. In June 2016, President Abdel-Fattah El Sissi opened the first and second stages of the Tahya Masr housing project, which is aimed at transferring the population in "areas of risk" in Greater Cairo to al-Asmarat neighborhood. In 2017, the government began attempting to clear one of these areas, al-Warraaq island, of its inhabitants to promote new development initiatives and housing projects. Residents of the island contested the

⁸ Housing Recommendations;

(262) framework to fight illiteracy, reach the integral development of all segments of the population and regions, improve the standard of living of its citizens, including vulnerable groups of the population, and provide housing and other economic and social rights.

(272) intensify its efforts to ensure the establishment of the housing strategy 2012-2027(Equatorial Guinea);

Source of position: A/HRC/28/16/Add.1

government's plans, which would force them from their homes and cause significant economic hardship. President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi has asserted that the island is unauthorized for legal residency and forced evictions continue. Prime Minister issued a decree in November 2018 designating "100 meters around both sides of the Rod al-Farag Bridge in the Warraq island area" and "areas located in the 30-meter range of the island's perimeter will be expropriated to establish a corniche" for public use—a decision that will likely result in the demolition of homes and displace current residents in the area.

The al-Asmarat construction works, which include about 11,000 housing units to be financed by the Tahya Masr fund, are carried out in cooperation between the fund, Cairo governorate, and the Armed Forces Engineering Authority. Since the opening of the project, some 8,000 families have moved from the areas of Maspero, Manshiyat Nasser, Duweiq, Ezbet Khairallah, and Istibl Antar to al-Asmarat. Some of these relocations have been criticized for failing to provide housing appropriate for a larger family structure (many have been moved to homes that can only accommodate a family of four) and for the means through which such relocation has taken place.

46. Informal Housing; ⁹Poverty takes on many forms, but in Egypt, housing is the epitome of substandard living conditions. Dismal mud brick squatter houses with proper facilities and people are the homes to more 20 million people live in informal housing. The right to housing in Egypt has been marred by issues of access to adequate housing and by forced eviction at the hands of both the government and other citizens. ¹⁰At least 40 percent of housing is in informal areas. After citizens are evicted, they frequently report inadequate access to services in new areas; these reports are often ignored or repressed.

Although a vital aspect of wellbeing, housing is one the most neglected segments of Egyptian society and, being present for over 7 decades now, the housing crisis in Egypt is one of the leading issues in its country today with less housing for a growing low income population, poor families have nowhere else to turn; instead, they build their own squatter homes absent of essential qualities of safety and sanitation.

47. Legal Context: Article 78 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees "the right to decent, safe, and healthy housing, in a way that preserves human dignity and achieves social justice." However, the same article additionally indicates that "the state shall also regulate the use of state lands and provide them with basic facilities, as part of a comprehensive urban planning framework for cities and villages and a population distribution strategy."

Article 35 governing the right to private property suggests that property may not be confiscated "except for the public good and with just compensation that is paid in advance as per the law." Finally, Article 41 outlines the state's responsibility with regard to housing to "[achieve] balance between population growth rates and the resources available, maximizing investment in human energy, and improving its features, within the framework of achieving sustainable development."

48. Although the previous constitutional articles reveal what may be a tension between the state's responsibility to protect citizens' rights to housing and its responsibility to provide housing as part of a development strategy, the Constitution is clear on the issue of forced migration: "all forms of arbitrary forced migration of citizens are forbidden. Violations of such are a crime without a statute of limitations." Victims may file complaints to the Public Prosecution against the police in cases of forced evictions, based on Article 370(1) of the penal code regarding violations of "residency sanctity" or based on Article 129 regarding "the use of cruelty."

⁹ Egypt's capital, Cairo, roughly 11 million out of the total of 17 million inhabitants live in extra-legally formed housing, otherwise known as the slums. The slums are very underdeveloped forms of shelter for those that cannot afford proper housing and amenities

¹⁰ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/life-slums-cairo>

However, these complaints are rarely investigated because of difficulty identifying the actual perpetrator within the police force. Challenging the government's decision to evict and demolish can be done in the administrative court system by filing a petition, but favorable verdicts are rare and may take years to be issued, allowing the government extensive time to execute eviction and demolition plans in the interim.

49. In addition to the aforementioned domestic provisions, per its international obligations in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and interpretations of international law, Egypt is also mandated to recognize the right of its people to an adequate standard of living, including the right to housing, and to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right.

50. And although the government recent efforts above mentioned there are still some issues need to be tackled or need to have more focus on, in order to ensure the enjoyment of the right to housing and better living conditions for all. Such as the:

- The Government of Egypt has not yet adopted a national housing plan or strategy as envisaged in the Constitution, noting that in order for Egypt to meet its obligations under Goal 11 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Government must undertake a consultative process and develop a national housing plan based on the Top Ten Human Rights principles.
- Absence of incentive policies for green or sustainable construction.
- Marginalizing the role of the private sector and civil society in planning the development of new cities.
- There are few housing support programs provided by the State, with no diversity of choices.
- There are very limited attempts to encourage communities in Egypt to engage in participatory processes in designing housing policies and programs, and the Egyptian authorities have not provided the communities with the resources allowing this
- Lack of enough land allocated for education and health services in the current and new housing projects.
- Despite dealing with the problem of slums for a long time, the concerned stakeholders of the slums situation did not have accurate and integrated database about these areas, which hinders the adoption of appropriate decisions in relation to the development of slums and upgrading, all available in most Governorates are limited to estimating the population by type in the informal settlements, with a general description of the type of work and crafts carried out by the slum dwellers in some cases.
- Lack of sufficient funding to develop all the slums in Egypt.

51. THE COALITION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

51.1 Asking for better utilization of the public-private partnership (P.P.P.) model. The private sector has been reluctant to develop low cost housing but could be enticed if it co-developed the property with the government with various incentives offered. The P.P.P. model has been successful in other sectors such as power and water;

51.2 Unlocking large plots of land across the country. Inflated land prices have negatively impacted the feasibility of large low-cost housing schemes;

51.3 Tackling the informal economy through micro-finance solutions in order to improve the accessibility of the social housing fund for some of Egypt's poorest;

51.4 Ensuring that new developments are built with the necessary basic services and adequate transportation infrastructure to increase living standards and prevent disconnected communities and the emergence of new slums;

51.5 Achieving more stable policies in housing projects and development plans both in the market and political atmosphere of Egypt are prerequisites to attracting much needed foreign investments.

III. THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING: THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO WATER ¹¹ AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

52. Based on the commitment of the State in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution to achieve social justice and social solidarity, so as to ensure a decent life for all citizens, the State has implemented a package of projects and programs: Providing 3 882 million dollars in funding to support efforts to improve the standards of living through development projects in the areas of drinking water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure, improved health services and pollution control.

The State is working to provide safe drinking water in 27 governorates. The coverage of the drinking water network is about 92 %. A national project is being implemented to expand the production of drinking water to complete the coverage and meet the needs of all citizens.

53. On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. The Resolution calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

In November 2002, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment No. 15 on the right to water. Article I.1 states that "The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights". Comment No. 15 also defined the right to water as the right of everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable and physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.¹²

54. In Egypt, water infrastructure coverage has grown substantially over the last decades. In 2018, around 92 percent of the Egyptian population received water directly into their residence. However, while access to water is almost universal and reliable in urban areas, a significant number of households are still not connected with the water system in rural areas and in urban slums. 7.3 million People are deprived of access to safe water, among which 5.8 million live in rural areas and 1.5 million in urban areas. In rural areas, around 12 percent of the population live in dwellings not connected to the water system while, in urban areas, it's 4 percent which do not have water connection. They are usually located in urban slums and poor settlements. In urban slum areas, only around 77 percent of households have piped water coming into their homes and in many cases the connection is illegal.

¹¹ Recommendation 166.273. Take concrete measures to guarantee access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, particularly for those in rural areas (Maldives); Source of position: A/HRC/28/16/Add.1

¹² Sources: Resolution A/RES/64/292. United Nations General Assembly, July 2010
General Comment No. 15. The right to water. UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, November 2002

55. Only 18% of households in rural Egypt are linked to public sewers, leaving 50 million people suffering from overflowing sewage from traditional septic tanks. The design of those tanks does not ensure efficient and safe handling of wastewater; they leak wastewater into soil as well as underground water and dispose the wastewater directly into water canals. This has negative economic and environmental impacts, as the contaminated irrigation water harms the quality of agricultural soil which is one of rural Egypt's main income generators.

Studies also showed that only six percent of Egyptian villages are provided with wastewater treatment services. Children in rural households are 8.5 times more likely than those in urban areas to lack toilet facilities, and almost 10 percent of households in rural areas use toilet facilities shared among multiple households. (World Bank, September 2018)

56. Lack of access to safe water and proper sanitation facilities as well as poor hygiene contribute to the spreading of diseases, which significantly and negatively impact on citizens' health. In Egypt, diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among under-5 children. Most diarrhea-related deaths in children are due to dehydration from loss of large quantities of water and electrolytes. Statistics show that 3,500 – 4,000 under-five children die of diarrhea every year according to UNICEF 2018.

In a context of social and economical development, natural ecosystem as well as safety and the hygiene of the populations are essential.

57. Inefficient municipal and industrial water and waste-water networks, bad waste management practices, can result in land and air pollution and can cause respiratory problems and other adverse health effects as contaminants are absorbed from the lungs into other parts of the body. In rural area, there is a lack of proper maintenance of networks and waste service level is usually poor. Especially the flourishing agriculture Delta area, there are not enough public land for waste treatment resulting in uncollected waste. Many wastes are scattering throughout towns and streets without being treated.

Social and economic benefit for everyone includes higher incomes, new job opportunities particularly for the youth, improved health and the environment.

Considering public interest and aim at improving quality of life of the citizens and preserving the rights and welfare of future generations as well.

58. THE COALITION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

58.1 *Ensuring access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all by developing and implementing a national plan that ensures independent regulation of the sector and prioritizes the elimination of disparities among governorates in the allocation of resources;*

58.2 *Enacting laws and policies that recognize the right to water as a public good in line with the 2014 Egyptian Constitution*

58.3 *Creating stronger accountability mechanisms for pollution to prevent the dumping of sewage waste onto streets and into water sources, such as the Nile River;*

58.4 *Urging the government to adopt the principle of active and meaningful participation of citizens in planning and monitoring its water and sanitation projects that means communities and vulnerable groups will be empowered to take part in decision-making processes. It strengthens their voice so that they are not excluded when services are rendered and expanded and allows them to demand accountability from institutions in charge of allocating scarce resources;*

- 58.5 Giving priority management of unsanitary, dangerous and congested areas under the control of competent authorities responsible for enforcing the regulations on waste and the environment;*
- 58.6 Asking for the reduction of the total amount of wastes, municipal waste service privatization and development of recycle plan and more urgently waste treatment and disposal facilities for industrial wastes so that industrial wastes are treated with municipal wastes;*
- 58.7 Ensuring the proper handling and treatment of waste and garbage;*
- 58.8 Suggesting better interventions, identify possible threats, capitalize on opportunities, address weaknesses and take advantage of strengths;*
- 58.9 Drawing and implementing a national plan to ensure that all citizens have access to access to water and proper sanitation systems;*
- 58.10 Executing policies that aim at ensuring that all citizens have access to access to water and clean environment particularly those living in the poorer governorates;*
- 58.11 Creating strong accountability mechanisms for pollution to prevent the dumping of sewage wastes onto streets and into water sources;*
- 58.12 Taking concrete measures to guarantee access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, particularly for those in rural areas.*