



## **Report on the National Efforts to Enhance Safety and Health in the Workplace in Fulfillment of the Right to Work On the Occasion of the International Day for Safety and Health at Work 28 April**

Since 2003, the world has been celebrating the International Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28 of each year. This year's celebration coincides with the challenges that COVID-19 pandemic poses to governments, employers and workers around the world, which require intensified efforts to maintain safety and health measures in the workplace. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantees the right to work, which is a fundamental right for the realization of other human rights, and also integral to preserve human dignity. Article 7 of the Covenant specifically stipulates that everyone has the right to enjoy just and favorable conditions of work, including working conditions that guarantee safety and health. Workers must enjoy safe and healthy working conditions in a manner that preserves their human dignity.

On this occasion, the Technical Secretariat of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights issued this report, which reviews the constitutional and legislative framework for safety and health in the workplace; the relevant institutional frameworks; the most prominent features of the Egyptian Strategy for Occupational Safety and Health and Securing Work Environment; indicators of State's efforts to promote and protect occupational safety and health; and finally, the precautionary measures taken to prevent COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace.

“National legislations provide guarantees for health and safety in the workplace, including Labor Law No. 12 of 2003 which includes detailed provisions in this regard that aim at securing work environment from physical, mechanical, biological and chemical hazards, providing training to workers on safety rules, and providing protection”

### **First: The Constitutional and Legislative Framework for Safety and Health in the Workplace**

- In accordance with Article 13 of the Constitution, the State is obliged to protect workers' rights through protecting them from work hazards and guaranteeing conditions for occupational safety and health.
- A number of national legislations provide guarantees for health and safety in the workplace, including Labor Law No. 12 of 2003 which includes detailed provisions in this regard that aim at securing work environment from physical, mechanical, biological and chemical hazards, providing training to workers on safety rules, and providing protection. The law also regulates the work of the agencies concerned with inspection and regulation in the field of

occupational safety and health. Other related laws include: the Industrial and Commercial Sites Licensing Law, the Urban Planning Law, the Public Sites Licensing Law, the Amusement Parks Licensing Law, the Electric Elevator Law, the Tourist Facilities Licensing Law, the Steam Machinery Law, the Radiation Protection Law, the Civil Defense Law, the Firefighting Agencies Law, the Drainage and Waste Disposal Work Law, and Mine and Quarry Workers Law.



- Egypt acceded to many international agreements related to occupational safety and health issued by the International Labor Organization, such as: Safety Provisions (Building) Convention No. 62 on safety provisions in the construction industry of 1937, Radiation Protection Convention No. 115 of 1960, Occupational Cancer Convention No. 139 of 1974 on prevention and control of cancer-causing occupational hazards, Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention No. 148 of 1977, and Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention No. 152 of 1979.

## Second: the Institutional Framework to Ensure Safety and Health in the Workplace

- The Ministry of Manpower is responsible for setting the general policy for occupational safety and health that aim at protecting workers from workplace injuries, accidents and occupational diseases, as well as protecting the public who frequently visit the workplace. The ministry's mandate covers all establishments of any type or affiliation, whether private or public sectors, or State administrative apparatus.
- The General Administration of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment within the Ministry of Manpower supervises and follows up on the work of occupational safety and health departments in all its field offices within all workforce directorates in the governorates. The General Administration is responsible for implementing the annual plan for field inspection, and providing technical advice in all areas of occupational safety and health free of charge to improve working conditions in any establishment. It also proposes basic and qualitative training for workers that aim at raising the level of their performance and awareness of the dangers of the profession and ways to prevent them. Furthermore, the General Administration follows up and records accidents, write reports on their causes, and specify preventive precautions needed to avoid their recurrence.
- There is an "advisory committee for occupational safety, health and work environment security" in each governorate headed by the Governor.
- The "Supreme Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health" is entrusted with studying and discussing the problems and obstacles related to implementing policies on occupational safety and health. It studies the problems that are reported by the advisory committees for occupational safety and health in the governorates, proposes appropriate solutions to them, and issues an annual bulletin on occupational safety and health conditions. The bulletin

includes data on accidents, injuries, deaths, diseases and losses, and an evaluation of occupational safety and health programs and plans.

- The “National Center for Occupational Safety and Health Studies and Securing Work Environment” assists establishments at all levels in studying and solving occupational safety and health problems. It also provides services and technical assistance, conducts research and studies in these areas, and follows up their implementation in order to protect the human and material components of production.

### Third: The “Egyptian Strategy for Occupational Safety and Health, and Securing Work Environment”

The Ministry of Manpower launched the Egyptian Strategy for Occupational Safety and Health, and Securing Work Environment (2011-2020). The Strategy aims mainly to reduce the number of people who are injured or die at work, and to reduce injury rates in the workplace by at least 40%, through adopting a number of measures, including: coordination between all relevant ministries, agencies and relevant bodies to ensure review of obstacles and challenges; joint planning; development of inspection systems; provision of specialized cadres and necessary equipment; development of basic and specialized training programs in the field of occupational safety and health; the inclusion of concepts of risks prevention in basic educational curricula; early medical detection of occupational diseases; improvement of the processes of reporting work accidents and injuries and occupational diseases; providing doctors and necessary treatment; and covering all workers with the social insurance system, which includes the work-related insurance system.

“The Ministry of Manpower prepared some films and artworks to raise awareness of occupational safety and health and disseminated them in various media outlets.”

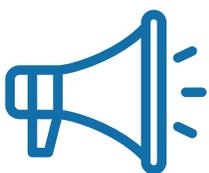
### Fourth: Indicators of State efforts to Promote and Protect Occupational Safety and Health in the Workplace

- The technical competence of the inspection authority at the Ministry of Manpower has been enhanced. The concepts related to occupational health have been standardized through activities that have benefited 536 inspectors and office managers in 19 governorates.
- Within the framework of the Ministry of Manpower’s plan to computerize the inspection system throughout the country, occupational safety and health inspection offices were developed to switch to electronic inspection through a tablet device and an electronic checklist; the facilities and their management were informed of the inspection results. The first phase included the computerization of (26) offices in (11) governorates, and the second phase witnessed the computerization of the offices of entire governorates in Alexandria, Port Said, Sharkia, and Fayoum.

- Intensification of inspection visits for occupational safety and health: During the year 2020, the workforce directorates inspected 482,922 establishments, and immediate legal measures were taken against some of these establishments.
- Raising community awareness of occupational safety and health: The Ministry of Manpower prepared some films and artworks to raise awareness of occupational safety and health and disseminated them in various media outlets. The Ministry of Manpower also prepared a protocol with the Ministry of Education to include safety and health provisions in the curricula of the different stages of education.
- 464 awareness-raising seminars and 24 occupational safety and health forums were held to raise awareness of the provisions of occupational safety and health. 30,907 workers benefited from these activities. 15 events were organized under the title of “Occupational Safety and Health Week”, which benefited more than 10,000 persons. These events included conducting competitions between industrial establishments over a period of one week to determine the extent to which the establishments meet the requirements of occupational safety and health and the extent of compliance with the related laws and decisions.
- The “National Center for Occupational Safety and Health Studies and Securing Work Environment” carried out (2476) training courses that benefited (48080) students. The Center also implements many field measurements of work environment risks in various work environments across the country. In addition, (12) research papers in the various fields of occupational safety and health were published.

#### Fifth: Precautionary Measures to Prevent COVID-19 Infection in the Workplace

- The government has taken many necessary precautionary and preventive measures to ensure a safe work environment during COVID-19 pandemic and preserve the health and safety of workers. A number of measures were undertaken such as: reducing the number of public employees attending workplace in one time; allowing work from home; granting persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and mothers with children under 12 years of age, and those with chronic diseases exceptional paid leave; as well as suspending training activities.
- Continuous field visits of safety and occupational health inspectors are conducted for industrial establishments to monitor their compliance with the instructions on all necessary precautionary measures needed to address the pandemic in order to ensure the safety of workers in these facilities.



**464** awareness-raising seminars and **24** occupational safety and health forums were held to raise awareness.



The “National Center for Occupational Safety and Health Studies and Securing Work Environment” carried out **2476** training courses that benefited **48080** students.

- The Ministry of Manpower, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) office in Cairo, issued “The Guide for Occupational Safety and Health, and Securing Work Environment: Regarding Prevention and Coexistence with Coronavirus in the Workplace”. The Guide aims to provide guidance and information to business owners and workers on precautionary measures to prevent infection in order to support a safe work environment.



- The Ministry of Manpower announced the existence of official channels to receive inquiries and complaints about precautionary safety measures related to the pandemic in the workplace, with the provision of a hotline number (19468) affiliated with the Ministry to provide the necessary support in this regard. The Ministry also coordinated with the International Labor Organization office in Cairo to create a new awareness service using Zoom application, with the participation of the “Central Administration for Occupational Safety and Health, and Securing Work Environment”, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the workforce directorates in the various governorates; as well as representatives of business owners, with the aim enhancing communication among these different parties. The Minister of Manpower issued directives to managers of manpower directorates within 27 governorates to periodically monitor factories and establishments to ensure the implementation of safety measures and protection from the Coronavirus.