



National Efforts in Combating Drugs (On the Occasion of the International Day of Combating Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking)

On June 26th of every year the world celebrates the “International Day of combating Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” with the aim of boosting cooperation for a drug free world as well as to increase awareness of the problems which illicit drugs inflict on the society.

On this occasion, Egypt confirms that confronting drug related challenges requires the collaboration of the international community due to the aggravation of illicit drug trafficking crimes. The challenges related to the expansion of the global market for illicit drug trafficking have increased. In particular, well organized crime gangs have taken safe refuge in some countries that are politically unstable, including some of the neighboring countries to Egypt, and are using them as favorable locations for the cultivation, production, and processing of drugs, and smuggling them into neighboring countries in the region. There is no doubt that the burdens of combating drug production and illicit trafficking have become more difficult due to the exploitation of the tremendous advances in information and communication technologies in committing these crimes. Technological development has resulted in a remarkable increase in the world market for illicit drugs and narcotics, and consequently exacerbating the risks resulting from drug abuse and addiction. Egypt is keen on enhancing constructive cooperation with all parties in the international community, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)- whose Executive Director is Dr. Ghada Wali- with the aim of strengthening the efforts to combat this cross-border phenomenon.

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In this respect, it is worth mentioning that Egypt has ratified various international agreements concerned with combating the drug trafficking and abuse phenomenon.

The Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights has prepared this report to showcase the national efforts exerted to combat the abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs as well as to treat drug addiction. It realizes the importance of the human rights dimension in taking effective measures to combat drugs and addiction treatment, where such measures are consistent with Egypt’s human rights’ obligations, including the right of treatment and health care to drug users,

Security Measures to combat the dangers of Drugs

1. Egypt took the lead in establishing a specialized Narcotics Control Agency to Combat Drugs in 1929. This agency later developed to become the General Narcotics Control Department

at the Ministry of Interior. Egypt's National Strategy to combat drugs is based on two fundamental pillars. The first is to combat the various forms of drug supply, and the second is to support all national efforts to reduce the demand on such substances. This strategy is implemented through several plans and security measures via the collaboration between all agencies concerned with this problem in the Ministry of Interior, the Armed Forces, the Customs Authority and all other ministries involved in drug control. This is demonstrated in the efforts exerted by several permanent joint committees that seek to unify the vision and measures to maintain public security, protect the community, and safeguard the country at large from the dangers of drug trafficking. According to this approach, the Egyptian drug control agencies address all forms of illicit abuse and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances and the money laundering resulting thereof. Moreover, they target criminal outposts and combat online drug sale as well. In 2019, these efforts led to the seizure of the following drugs: in the field of Cannabaceae, 35928.37 Kg. of Cannabis and 62097 Kg. of Bango and Marijuana were seized. In the field of psycho-active pharmaceutical drugs, 11,929435 pills of Tramadol with its various names were seized, in addition to 34.916.565 pills of Kiptagon, 3194.83 Kg. of Heroin were also seized, and 188.94 Kg. of Opium were seized. For Cocaine, 25.74 Kg. of Cocaine were seized. Furthermore, 26503 pills of the drug Ecstasy were seized, and in the field of new synthetic narcotic substances 151.62 Kg. of Fudo and 652 of Strox were also seized. Additionally, the number of financial criminal cases related to the illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs amounted to 58 cases worth a total sum of 2 billion and 705,200 million EGP.



2. Moreover, complementing the national strategy to combat drug use and striking a balance between the efforts to restrict the supply and decrease the demand of such substances, the Egyptian drug control agencies plan and execute periodic campaigns to combat the sale of drugs in locations surrounding schools, universities, sports and social clubs and monitor the spread of synthetic drugs. These campaigns also cover the detection of drug use and addiction among school bus drivers, as well as counter the phenomenon of the proliferation of unlicensed rehabilitation centers. This is executed within the framework of coordination and participation with the Ministries of Education and Health and the Fund for Drug Control and Treatment of Addiction (FDCTA), to protect the community, prevent and educate adolescents and youth, correct misconceptions about addiction and abuse, and introduce the negative effects and risks on society.
3. All agencies concerned with combating drugs are aware of the importance of enhancing the performance of security agencies based on a technical and scientific approach. Therefore, legal and technical studies are continuously relied on. Also, systematic studies are carried out to ensure their constructive contribution in proposing laws that are necessary to combat the spread of drug abuse. These endeavors, with the coordination between members of the Tripartite Committee established by the Ministries of Justice, Interior, and Health have resulted in combating drugs with the aim of confronting the rapid and successive change in the emergence of many types of new drugs and restricting their spread in the illicit drug trafficking market. Moreover, the recommendations made by this Tripartite Committee have resulted in the issuance

of several ministerial decrees by the Minister of Health, and cover several chemical compounds of the artificial Cannabis drug (Fudo and Strox) in section two of the table of narcotic substances attached to Law No. 182 of 1960. The Egyptian government is also striving to reduce the prevalence of the drug Tramadol, given that it still poses a serious threat to the Control Agencies, due to the unprecedented increase in the flow of smuggled shipments inside the country.

4. Egypt is also keen on international and regional cooperation in drug control by joining various international agreements in drug control starting with the International Opium Agreement of 1912, the three international drug control agreements (1961, 1971 and 1988) and the Arab Agreement for Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psych-active Substances for 1994. In addition, Egypt has likewise concluded several bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of combatting drugs with Arab and foreign countries. Moreover, since 1930 Egypt has been participating in the activities of the drug control agencies of the United Nations as well as attending all the meetings of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (last of which was its 62nd session held in the Austrian capital Vienna). At the regional level, Egypt annually participates in the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (HONLAF), the last of which was the 9th meeting held in Mauritius from 15 to 21 September 2019. It is worth mentioning that Egypt has previously hosted HONLAF several times in (1990, 1996, 2004 and 2017) thus reflecting Egypt's concern with drug related problems and its keenness to enhance international and regional cooperation in this respect. Egypt also annually participates in the Arab Conference for the Heads of Drug Control Agencies (last of which was the 32nd conference held in Tunisia in October 2019).

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5. Egypt, represented in its drug control agencies, is also keen on exchanging information with all its counterparts at both the regional and international levels in a way that contributes to the handling of many international issues, each of which is a successful model of international cooperation in this field. The Egyptian drug control agencies rely on a strategy that encourages cooperation with the relevant international agencies and organizations specialized in this field (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Interpol, The Arab Office for Drug Affairs, The Coordination Center for Narcotics Control for the Mediterranean Basin Countries (Centre de Coordination pour La Lutte Contre Drogue en Méditerranée CeCLAD-M). The Egyptian Narcotics Control Agency actively plays a major role in the field of international training on the basis of the long, acknowledged and accumulated experience of its staff in order to develop the capacities and skills of drug combating agencies in drug control in the Arab and African countries.

The Fund for Drug Control and Treatment of Addiction (FDCTA): Vision and Objectives.

The FDCTA was established in 1991 as a step towards enhancing the institutional framework to combat drug addiction and abuse through programs and mechanisms that seek to encircle all aspects of drug addiction. The activities of this Fund are based on the implementation of preventive programs, supporting treatment and rehabilitation services and making them accessible (through

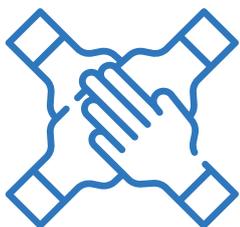
a hot line). It also carries out early detection tests of drug abuse, conducts studies and research, monitors media coverage, and maintains international cooperation. 2019 witnessed a quantitative and qualitative leap in the Fund's activities, most notably the following:

1. Preventive Programs

- The FDCTA has cooperated with ten thousand primary, secondary, vocational, and Azhari schools. The Fund's preventive programs targeted 1,500,000 female and male students from the age of 10 to 16, through interactive workshops, training courses, sports events and theatrical shows, in addition to targeting 26 State universities and 102 higher education and private institutes of 1,000,000 students of different age groups between the ages of 17 to 25 years, through sports events, summer camps, and interactive trainings. It also cooperated with 650 youth centers which targeted 404,000 young men and women in the age group 15 to 30 years.
- Furthermore, 105 specialized training courses have been held to train specialized personnel of which 40 were for medical interns, 5 for students from the nursing faculty and 60 for Imams and Priests. This program also organized 60 theatrical shows in the most needy areas and new cities and communities to create an environment that rejects addiction. 29,000 young volunteers from all the governorates of Egypt took part in the activities of the preventive programs, and 100,000 civil servants participated in specialized training courses, seminars and conferences to promote awareness of the dangers of drugs. Awareness campaigns also targeted 200,000 vehicle drivers in 20 governorates through initiatives in public bus stops and major squares in these governorates, as well as raising the awareness of 300,000 workers and citizens in the industrial regions of these governorates as well as in a number of companies.
- In addition to awareness activities, a media campaign entitled 'You are stronger than drugs' was carried out in which the world famous football player Mohamed Salah participated. It contributed to a four times increase in the number of calls made to the above mentioned hot line. The campaign was translated into English, Portuguese and Chinese, and the positive responses to this campaign were covered by major media institutions. Moreover, the number of viewers has multiplied by five, reaching 40,000,000 on social media during 2019, after only 8,000,000 in 2015.

2. Providing and Supporting Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

- In 2019, the FDCTA made hotline services available at 16023, and provided medical and psychological treatment, rehabilitation and post rehabilitation services, and society integration services free of charge and with complete confidentiality. This was done in application of



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quality standards and based on human rights standards, relying on remedial evidence approved by the WHO and the UNODC, and were implemented in a framework that is subject to oversight, evaluation, and impact assessment.

- In 2019, the number of centers providing therapeutic services was increased to 23 in 14 governorates while previously they were only 12 in 6 governorates in 2014. It was planned that the number of these centers reach 29 in 19 governorates during the year 2020.
- The number of phone calls made to the hotline reached a total of 81,777 calls from addicts and their families requesting treatment and advice as well as submitting complaints and reports. The previous number of these calls was only 3560 in 2014. The majority of these hotline calls were from addicts seeking treatment for addiction and abuse.
- These efforts to support treatment and rehabilitation did not stop at this point, but also included conducting analysis for accompanying diseases through virus analysis, economic empowerment for patients with the sum of 2,310,000 EGP, and establishing new centers and providing capacity building support to their employees. The latter was done through the implementation of the first diploma, accredited by the Universities Supreme Council, specialized in combating and treating addiction in cooperation with Cairo University, and developing the skills and competencies of the hotline staff.



3. Early Detection of Addiction

- 128,000 civil servants employed in 20 ministries in 21 governorates have been drug tested, focusing particularly on civil servants working in vital public services. As a result, 25,000 civil servants applied for treatment from addiction. Consequently, the percentage of civil servant addicts dropped from 8 % in March 2019 to only 2 % in March 2020.
- In this respect, early detection tests have also been conducted on 12,000 drivers of school buses. The percentage of drivers testing positive has decreased from 12% in 2015 to less than 1% in 2019. Likewise, the inspection of 145,000 drivers on highways was conducted, and these efforts resulted in reducing the percentage of drug users from 24% in 2015 to 12% in 2018.

4. Researches and Studies

- In the field of research and studies, the data of the comprehensive national survey conducted in 2014 was updated in collaboration with the National Center for Criminal and Social Research and the General Secretariat of Mental Health with the aim of updating the

national plan to counter the drug phenomenon. The national survey aims at determining the actual extent, dimensions and estimates of the drug addiction phenomenon in the Egyptian community and to identify the most widespread drugs among different groups. The results of this survey are expected to be announced by October 2020.

Promoting international cooperation to combat international drug problems

1. Coordinating with the countries affected by the spread of drugs so as to establish mechanisms for cooperation to reduce the supply of such substances, and to draw the attention of the international community to the dangers of such substances. In this respect, Egypt leads African and Arab efforts to encourage the international community to include Tramadol in the tables of international control on narcotic substances, in light of the increasing cases of misuse of this drug leading to death. To achieve this end, Egypt introduces this issue in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, where it provides scientific information proving the negative impact of Tramadol abuse, and coordinates with the Arab and African countries to submit joint information on this issue, as well as coordinates with the countries affected by the spread of synthetic opioids, headed by the South American countries, to unify all efforts in this respect.
2. Exchanging information on best practices to reduce demand on narcotic substances during international discussions in the Commission's meetings.
3. Effective participation in drafting international decisions and strategies dealing with combating the international drug problem, last of which is the participation in drafting the "Ministerial Declaration for Strengthening National, Regional and International Efforts" to accelerate the implementation of international obligations to combat the drug problem in 2019. This declaration established a framework for international action to confront the drug problem for the coming 10 years up to 2029. In this respect, it is vital to maintain a balance between efforts to limit the supply and efforts to limit the demand on drugs.



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