

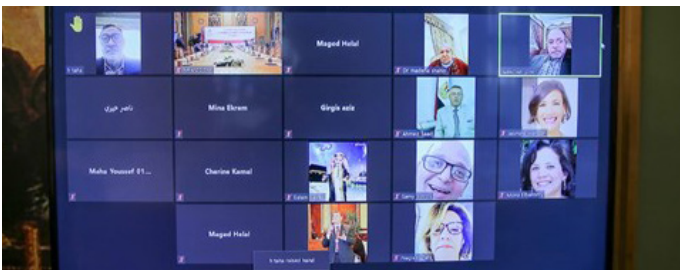


Broad Consultation for the preparation of the National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS)

1) Consultation with Civil Society Representatives: 6 Hearing Sessions

In light of the firm belief of SSCHR that civil society organizations (CSOs) are a key partner for the promotion and protection of all aspects of human rights, and its keen commitment to communicate, coordinate and consult with the civil society, the Technical Secretariat held a number of hearing sessions with civil society representatives within the framework of preparing for the first NHRS .

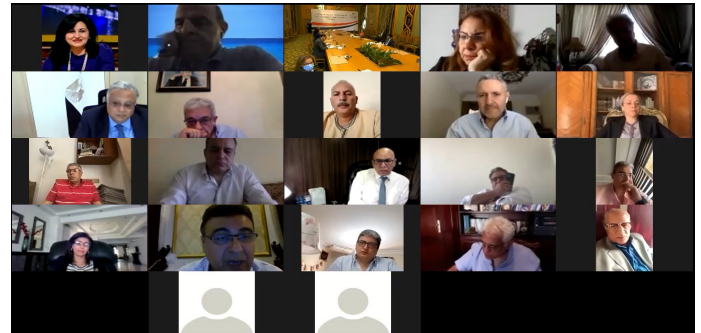
Phase 1: Five hearing sessions were held on 10, 11 and 12 January 2021



Participants in the sessions included representatives of professional syndicates, labor unions, human rights, developmental and thematic NGOs, research centers and regional unions in various governorates which reflects the keen interest of SSCHR to listen to their suggestions within the framework of the consultative process to prepare the NHRS. During the sessions, the steps for preparing the strategy and the its main pillars were reviewed. For their part CSO representatives acknowledged State initiative to prepare the first national human rights strategy which is testimony to the its commitment to develop a framework for strategic planning in the field of human rights and expected it would generate a momentum to builds on the efforts made by the State at all levels. Participant presented specific proposals with regards to the pillars of the strategy and how to strengthen partnership between the State and CSOs within the context of following up on the implementation phases of the strategy.

Phase 2: Hearing Session held on May 8, 2021

Participants in the session included representatives of a number of civil society organizations to review the most prominent objectives targeted in the draft strategy and to listen to their observations and suggestions in this regard. They expressed their appreciation for the State’s initiative to prepare the strategy and the openness of SSCHR to listen to various opinions and suggestions in the process of preparing it. The participants discussion points



touched upon the most prominent issues and challenges related to the promotion of human rights and their vision for the optimal approaches to handle them within a framework of constructive and open dialogue. In drafting the Strategy, SSCHR took into consideration several proposals presented by representatives of the civil society during the hearings.

2) The Technical Secretariat meets with the Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives

The SSCHR Technical Secretariat meet on May 9 with the Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives to review the features of the draft for the first NHRS and its expected results and objectives. During the meeting, Ambassador Alaa Roushdi, Assistant Foreign Minister and Head of the SSCHR Technical Secretariat stressed that the Supreme Committee is keen to enhance communication and consultation with the Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives in order to achieve the desired coherence and synergy for all national efforts related to the advancement of human rights. From their side, the representatives praised the initiative to prepare the draft strategy, and the meeting witnessed a constructive and open dialogue about their observations and suggestions regarding the draft strategy and they touched upon a number of important issues related to the promotion of human rights.



SSCHR presents to the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) the Government's commentary on the Council's Annual Report



Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs and SSCHR President met with Mr. Mohamed Fayege, President of NCHR, within the framework of the cooperative relationship between the two sides to enhance the human rights situation in Egypt. The Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed his appreciation, as well as that of SSCHR for the important role played by the Council as an independent body in the field of human rights, and the importance of continuous consultation between SSCHR and the Council for the protection and promotion of human rights in Egypt. For his part, Mr. Muhammad Fayege commended the Government's initiative to prepare a commentary on the Council's most recent annual report after studying its content. He welcomed the holding of a joint session between the Council and SSCHR to discuss the Council's

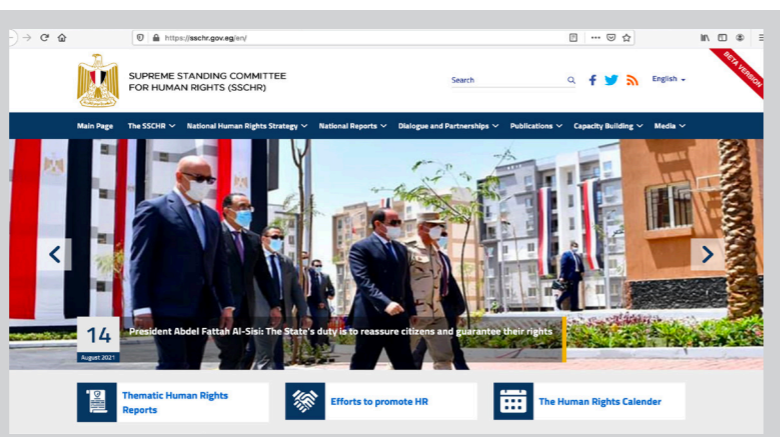


report and the Government's observations on it. SSCHR had held a meeting on March 16, 2021 with the NCHR to discuss the Government's commentary on the Council's Annual Report. The meeting, which was attended by Mr. Mohamed Fayege, Chairman of the Council, and a number of Council's members and witnessed an interactive, open and constructive discussion on the recent progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, related challenges; and the Council's recommendations to address these challenges. During the meeting, SSCHR members affirmed their appreciation for the important role played by the Council in consolidating and promoting awareness of human rights values.

It is noteworthy that Ambassador Alaa Rushdi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights, delivered on March 15, to Mr. Mohamed Fayege, a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Committee, attached to the Government's commentary on the Council's last annual report. That is after the Supreme Committee had thoroughly examined all observations and recommendations of the report, and coordinated with all concerned official authorities in order to comment on those observations and to determine the possibility of adopting the recommendations contained therein.

SSCHR Launches Its Website

In June 2021, SSCHR launched its website Beta Version to introduce the Committee, its roles and mandate, activities, publications, in addition to introducing prominent national efforts in the field of promoting human rights on a large scale.



Publications issued by the SSCHR Technical Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat published the first issue of the **Periodical on Efforts to Promote Human Rights covering the first quarter of 2021**. The Periodical highlights efforts related to the promotion of: women's rights, the right to form and join civil associations and institutions, children's rights, the right to health, the right to work, the right to social insurance, the right to adequate housing, and the treatment of prisoners and other detainees. This is in addition to the efforts to enhance capacity building and spreading a culture of human rights, as well as the Egyptian initiatives within the multilateral human rights framework. The Technical Secretariat issued a number of reports that review national efforts related to international days for human rights as follows:

- **A report on the occasion of the International Day of Human Fraternity** on February 4, 2021, which reviews the leading role of Egypt within the framework of the United Nations in the field of a culture of peace and the promotion of the values of tolerance and religious freedoms, the constitutional and legal framework supporting the values and principles of human fraternity, and the institutional structure supporting the implementation of the principles and values of human fraternity in Egypt; highlighting the most prominent national efforts to implement the values and principles of human fraternity.
- **A Report on National Efforts to achieve Social Justice** from a Human Rights Perspective on the occasion of the World Day of Social Justice on February 20, which addresses the constitutional and legislative frameworks for social justice, the strategic vision of the State until 2030 in this regard, the national policies and programs already undertaken, the level of expenditure on social protection programs, and the efforts to reduce the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic on the most needy groups.
- **A report on national efforts to promote the right to access safe drinking water and sanitation services**, on the occasion of the World Water Day on March 14. The report reviews the pivotal role of Egypt within the framework of the United Nations to address water issues, State's efforts to provide clean drinking water, and State's efforts to provide sanitation services. The report then reviews the expansion of seawater desalination plants to address drinking needs, the role of the Egyptian Water Regulatory and Consumer Protection Agency, and the most prominent efforts of the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater.
- **A report on national efforts to promote the right to health** on the occasion of the World Health Day on April 7. The report reviews relevant legislative developments, increased public spending on the health sector, developments in implementing the comprehensive

health insurance system, efforts to develop health facilities, and progress made in implementing the Presidential initiatives under The "100 Million Healthy Lives" umbrella, the implementation of the national project to eliminate waiting lists of hospitals, efforts to provide medicines and vaccines, State's efforts to confront the health repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic, and the medical assistance provided by Egypt to a number of countries.



- **A report on national efforts to achieve safety and health in the workplace** in order to enhance the right to work on the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work April 28. The report reviews the constitutional and legislative framework for safety and health in the workplace, the relevant institutional frameworks, and the most prominent pillars of the Egyptian Strategy for Occupational Safety and Health and Securing the Workplace, the most prominent indicators of State's efforts to promote and protect occupational safety and health, and the precautionary measures taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the workplace.
- **A report on national efforts to promote the right to a healthy environment** on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5. The report deals with the most prominent initiatives and projects related to the right to a healthy environment, the relevant national indicators during the year 2020, the prominent legislative developments, and Egypt's efforts at the multilateral level in the field of environmental protection.
- **A report dealing with the most prominent statements made by the Prime Minister and a number of ministers** before the House of Representatives during the months of January and February 2021 regarding Government's efforts to promote human rights within the framework of the progress achieved in implementing Government's work program "Egypt Launches" (2018- 2020) and the most prominent indicators in this regard.
- **A Report on National efforts to promote human rights in North Sinai**, which reviews efforts to promote the right to adequate housing, health, education, development, mobility, and facilitation of litigation procedures. The report also reviews the compensation and assistance provided to the people of North Sinai who are affected by the security confrontations between law enforcement forces and terrorist groups.



A Training Course for the TS on techniques and methods on how to deal with managers and working teams

Within the framework of the work plan of the Training and Capacity Building Unit regarding the development of the skills of members of the TS of the Committee, a training course titled “Methods of Dealing with Managers Within Work Teams” was held on 3-4 March 2021 at the headquarters of the State Information Service (SIS), which was organized by the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development.

This training program targeted members of the various units of the TS of the SSCHR, which are: the media monitoring unit, the periodic reports unit, the correspondence unit, the human rights monitoring and recommendations follow-up unit, the partnerships unit, and the legislative affairs unit.

Through this training, the concept of management and leadership was introduced, and the different patterns of managers and subordinates were analyzed and their motives were understood in order to achieve effective and flexible work relation and handling between them. In addition, the training defined the most important strategies and skills that must be enjoyed while dealing with each pattern or style to avoid conflicts, as well as providing subordinates with the skills necessary to effectively engage in work teams.

The training program was held for members of the TS with the participation of all units of the SSCHR. The training included a number of presentations, as well as workshops and some film materials to assist in the training process.

Human Rights training in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development (MOLD)

The Capacity Building Unit of the TS of the SSCHR in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development (MOLD), carried out a training course to develop the skills of heads of human rights units, their deputies and their assistants, at the Local Development Training Center in Saqqara, during the period from 10 to 14 January 2021. This results from the role entrusted to the SSCHR, in accordance with the decision to establish it, and in the light of working on setting policies, programs and plans to raise awareness and build capacity in the field of human rights; as well as preparing training programs and supporting the capabilities of workers in the concerned authorities. This is also within the framework of the MOLD’s efforts to strengthen the capacities of heads and members of human rights units in the governorates, and raising their skills in dealing with citizens.

It is worth noting that human rights units were established in the governorates based on the recommendation of the Cabinet on 15/11/2017 to contribute to the modernization and development of local communities and the localization of human rights. In this context, a human rights unit has been established in the office of each governorate, which works to improve the level and quality of services provided through it. The unit is also specialized in receiving citizens’ complaints and working to resolve and respond to them,



especially those related to human rights.

At the level of the training course, the Training and Capacity Building Unit participated in three working sessions, through a presentation of international and national legal frameworks for human rights, as well as two subsequent sessions on the terms of reference for the work of human rights units in the governorates, and the future vision for the work of these units. This comes within the framework of coordination between the two sides to support efforts to train cadres of human rights units in the governorates and cooperate with the Local Development Center for Training in Saqqara, which aims to provide an institutional framework that combines academic study and the exchange of applied experiences to raise the skills of leaders and workers in local administration units and agencies.