



Report on Egypt's Efforts to Uphold the Right to a Healthy Environment In Celebration of the World Environment Day, June 5th, 2020

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5th as it coincides with the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, which was held under the auspices of the United Nations in 1972. The goal of the Stockholm Conference was to reach a common vision on protecting and nurturing the environment. This year's celebration comes 5 years after the UN's adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which underlines the importance of ensuring protection to the planet from degradation, as well as the sustainable management of its natural resources. Goals 14 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda focus on conserving the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as well as protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, managing forests in a sustainable manner, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss.



The right to a healthy, clean, and safe environment is a precondition for upholding other human rights, including the right to life, food, health, and an adequate standard of living. Every individual should be able to live in an environment that meets their health needs and welfare requirements. States should undertake all necessary measures and procedures to put in place frameworks that can provide the essential requirements for a healthy, sustainable environment. States should also cooperate to redress the cross-border impacts of environmental conditions, including climate change.

On this occasion, the technical secretariat of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights (SSCHR) prepared a report elaborating the measures undertaken by the Egyptian State to uphold the right to the environment.

Constitutional and Legal Frameworks to Uphold the Right to a Healthy Environment

1. The Egyptian constitution guarantees the right to a healthy, sound environment for all, and deems the protection of the environment as a national duty. As such, the state is committed

to safeguarding the environment, preventing any harm thereto, and safely utilizing natural resources to achieve sustainable development while taking into consideration the rights of future generations (Articles 32 & 46). As per the constitution, the state is also committed to protecting its seas, beaches, lakes, waterways, and natural reserves against encroachment, pollution, or misuse. Every citizen is guaranteed the right to enjoy the environment. The state also commits itself to the protection and development of green spaces in urban areas, the preservation of plants, livestock, and fisheries, and the protection of endangered species (Article 45). Moreover, the constitution obliges the state to protect the River Nile, rationalize its benefits, and avoid wasting or polluting its water. While every citizen is guaranteed the right to enjoy the River Nile, they are prohibited from encroaching upon it or harming its environment (Article 44).

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2. The Egyptian Legislative framework includes a number of laws that ensure the right to a healthy environment, amongst which are law no. 48 of 1982 on the protection of the River Nile and waterways from pollution and law no. 102 of 1983 on natural reserves. In addition, there is law no. 4 of 1994 on the environment, amended by law no. 9 of 2009, which aims to establish institutions so as to preserve the environment and protect it against pollution. Under law no.4 of 1994, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) was established to develop policies and monitor their implementation, and the Environment Protection Fund was established to support the funding of environment-centered projects and studies.
3. In addition, Egypt has acceded to several international environmental agreements, including: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is worth mentioning that Egypt submitted in 2018 its first report to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, which relayed the national procedures undertaken in line with the provisions of the Convention. Furthermore, Egypt has assumed a crucial leadership during its chairmanship of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (2018-2020).

The Right to a Healthy Environment in the Framework of “Egypt Vision 2030”:

1. The Environmental Strategy within “Egypt Vision 2030” aims to achieve the following goals:
 - a. To create a sustainable improvement in the quality of life for future generations, raise awareness on environmental protection, and limit the impact of climate change with the

purpose of maintaining a clean, safe, and sustainable environment for future generations.

- b. To integrate an environmental component in the context of implementing development policies. The latter should strike a balance between the priorities of economic growth and the environment by limiting the deterioration of the environment and aiding in the transition to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 - c. To enforce good, sustainable governance of natural resources to ensure their fair and optimal use.
 - d. To minimize air pollution and pollution resulting from unprocessed waste that cause serious environmental and health implications. In addition, it aims to adopt integrated waste management, especially for solid waste.
 - e. To maintain the balance of ecosystems and biodiversity, and ensure good, sustainable governance thereof.
 - f. To fulfill Egypt's international and regional commitments under environmental agreements, put in place the necessary mechanisms, and ensure that they are in line with national policies.
2. Egypt Vision 2030 also includes several performance indicators to measure the sustainable preservation of the environment, including: reducing the average consumed water resources to 80%, increasing the average per capita of freshwater resources to 950 m³/year, reducing pollution from airborne dust particles to 50%, reducing safely-disposed hazardous waste by 100%, increasing the percentage of non-traditional water resources to 40% of total utilized water resources, increasing the number of natural reserves that have an approved and implemented management plan to 30 reserves, increasing the percentage of sewage being discharged into the River Nile after being processed according to national standards to 100%, and cutting the percentage of industrial wastewater discharged into the Nile without meeting the required specifications to 0% of total industrial wastewater.

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Initiatives and Projects on Upholding the Right to a Healthy Environment:

1. The National Council for Climate Change, headed by the Prime Minister, is the national authority tasked with the issue of climate change. The council aims to achieve the following goals: to draft the state's public policy on addressing climate change, to develop updated climate change strategies and sectoral plans in light of international agreements and national interests, and to draft and update a comprehensive national climate change strategy. The first stage of the interactive map of climate change dangers in Egypt was finalized in 2019. Thanks

to its national policy to address the impacts of climate change, Egypt has earned a higher ranking on the Climate Change Performance Index, becoming the 24th out of 57 states.

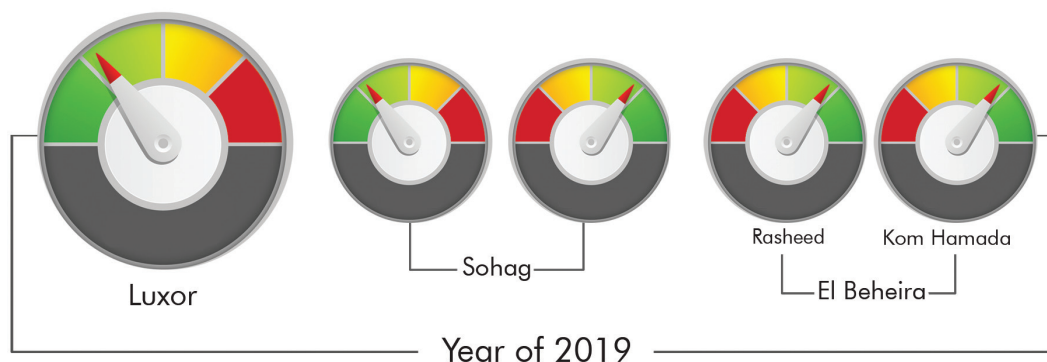
2. The Waste Management Regulation Authority (WMRA) utilizes methodologies that provide advanced and sustainable service that is able to address current and future challenges, develop methods to control and oversee waste management, and monitor and follow-up on all waste management processes on the central and local levels. All those actions help improve the safe management of all types of waste. Throughout 2019, WMRA implemented a project for the safe disposal of 2,000 tons of persistent organic pollutants in various governorates. WMRA also manages the national solid waste management program, which was launched in 2012 and is set to continue until 2020. The program aims to establish a sustainable, integrated solid waste management system, contribute to the sustainable protection of the environment and climate, and minimize environmental hazards.
3. Within the efforts to combat coronavirus and safely dispose of medical waste, WMRA has conducted visits to 2,129 medical facilities to monitor the medical waste management and safe disposal system. Additionally, 300,000 tons of solid municipal waste were collected and safely disposed of.
4. WMRA finalized the new integrated solid waste management system. This process involved shutting down 57 irregular landfills, establishing 92 transfer stations (36 fixed and 56 mobile), and adding 59 new landfill cells. In addition, this process involved upgrading and establishing 70 waste recycling and processing lines, working on the institutional development of the waste management system across the country, developing human resources, enhancing participation and social awareness efforts, fostering the informal sector, and supporting small and medium recycling industries. In 2019/2020, 15 fixed transfer stations were established in 7 governorates, and 7 mobile ones were established in 3 governorates. Additionally, 26 landfill cells were established in 17 governorates. 3 waste recycling and processing lines were established in 3 governorates, and 6 existing ones upgraded.
5. In 2019, a new e-system for violation detection was implemented through an application called "Dawwar" [Arabic word for search] which enables users to report wastes that should be removed by sharing photos and GPS locations. Municipal authorities then collect such wastes, thus minimizing the environmental hazards resulting from widespread garbage piles.
6. In 2019, Egypt became the first Middle East country to join "Green Fins", a United Nations environmental initiative launched in 2004 to protect coral reefs and marine life. The initiative aims to implement environment-friendly guidelines and encourage sustainable marine tourism, which can be achieved by applying internationally recognized environmental standards and assessment systems and popularizing the concept of green tourism.
7. In 2020, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) launched the "prepare for the green... prepare for the future" campaign– the first national strategy to spread environmental awareness in Egypt

in line with the government's efforts to transition to a green economy. The initiative aims to change attitudes and urges citizens to participate in preserving the environment and natural resources. This will ensure the sustainability of such resources and ultimately safeguard the rights of future generations.

8. In 2020, the President launched the "million trees project", an initiative to plant fruit trees across the country. During the first phase, 25,000 fruit saplings were planted in 15 governorates. Phase two is currently underway with a target of 24,000 fruit saplings to be planted in 12 governorates.
9. In 2019, the MoE cooperated with the Ministry of Education to integrate environmental concepts in curricula of various levels of education, which will help adjust students' environmental behavior.
10. The MoE has adopted several projects that aim to protect the environment, including:
 - a. The sustainable management of persistent organic pollutants project, which aims to improve the management and safe disposal of persistent organic pollutant stockpiles.
 - b. The national biodiversity strategy update project, which aims to integrate Egypt's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity into national development frameworks.
 - c. The natural reserve support project, which aims to support natural reserves, boost environmental tourism, and preserve environmental and cultural heritage.
 - d. The capacity building for emission reduction project, which aims to build capacities in developing clean development strategies, preparing greenhouse gas inventories, and planning reduction measures in accordance with national conditions.

National Indicators Related to Upholding the Right to a Healthy Environment:

1. Increasing the number of monitoring stations that track the national air quality to 102. In 2019, a station was installed in Luxor, 2 were installed in Sohag, and 2 were installed in El Beheira (1 in Rasheed and 1 in Kom Hamada).



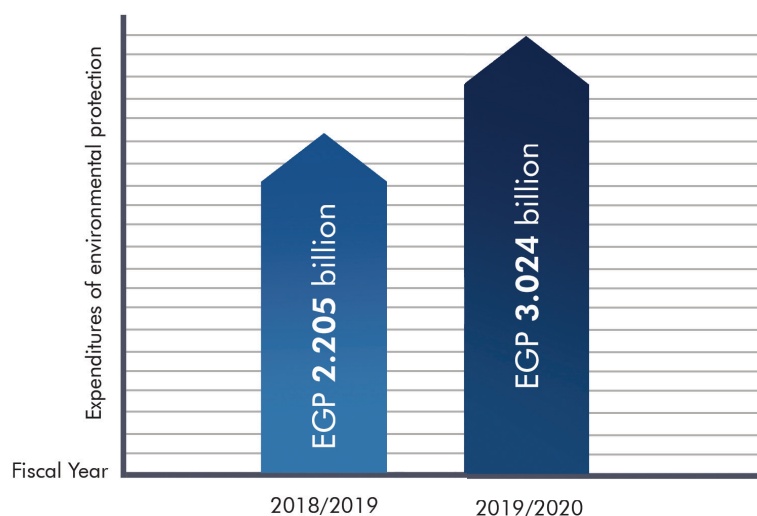
The number of monitoring stations that track the national air quality

2. 62 industrial facilities have been added to the national network to monitor industrial emissions bringing the total number of monitoring facilities to 291.
3. 39,941 vehicles in various governorates have been examined to ensure that their emissions are within the limits stipulated in the environment law.
4. In the context of the MoE's efforts to address sharp spikes of air pollution, commonly known as "the black cloud", in 2019 it collected and compressed 2.6 million tons of rice hay which represent 98% of the total rice hay generated from the cultivated areas.
5. In 2019, MoE held 1,907 seminars to raise awareness on the dangers of burning agricultural waste, how to benefit from rice hay, and on its efforts towards agricultural waste management. This marked a 29% increase in the number of seminars in comparison to the year 2018.
6. Conducting night raids to inspect the exhaust of buses in the Greater Cairo Transport Regulatory Authority garages. 2,527 public transport buses were inspected. A total of 1,458 buses did not meet the required specifications, which represent 58% of the buses examined.
7. 806 major industrial facilities were inspected in various industrial zones (6th of October - 10th of Ramadan - Badr - El Obour - Abu Rawash - Shobra El Kheima - Helwan - 15th of May), which resulted in filing 642 police reports regarding environmental violations committed by these facilities.
8. Within the confines of MoE's efforts to protect the ozone layer, several measures were implemented during 2019. Chief among these efforts was the reduction of annual consumption of hydrofluorocarbons by 25%, in accordance with Egypt's commitments under the Montreal Protocol.
9. Increasing the number of noise level monitoring stations, which are connected to the national network for monitoring noise levels, to 35 stations.
10. Noise levels in a number of sites have been reduced by 5-10% through frequent measurements done by the national network for monitoring environmental noise levels, which observes the levels of environmental noise in Greater Cairo.
11. A project for safe disposal of 2,000 tons of persistent organic pollutants in various governorates was implemented.
12. 12 natural reserves were developed and their efficiency and infrastructure was improved so as to meet international standards with respect to facility management. This process would ensure the preservation of the ecosystem balance and biodiversity, as well as maximizing the opportunities for cultural, social, and recreational development.

13. In 2019, MoE provided technical support for 330 facilities operating in various sectors and activities, so as to raise awareness on their commitments under the environment law and its executive regulation, guide them in developing environmental sanitation plans and programs, and rectify detected violations.
14. Within the scope of developing and updating the environmental impact assessment system in order to raise its efficiency, MoE reviewed the environmental impact assessment study for 7,747 projects.
15. Within the scope of its efforts to spread environmental awareness and culture, MoE cooperated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to organize 454 environmental seminars, 402 workshops, 6 environmental weeks, 40 camps for 6,150 young adults, 27 training course for 2,090 young adults, and 27 environmental convoy for 2,060 young adults.
16. MoE training department has implemented 121 programs for the capacity building of 2,391 trainees, including MoE employees, as well as governmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations. Under the sustainable development program, 5 training programs were implemented, targeting 100 trainees from MoE, WMRA, regional offices, and natural reserves in 7 governorates.
17. From 2013 to 2017, the Environment Protection Fund provided financial support to 226 environmental projects.

Expenditures of the Environment Protection Sector:

The total expenditures of environmental protection, according to the FY 2019/2020 budget, reached EGP 3,024 billion. This marked an increase of EGP 819 million in comparison with FY 2018/2019 when EGP 2,205 billion were spent on environmental protection. Investments in this sector reached EGP 1.219 billion in FY 2019/2020, compared EGP 698 million in FY 2018/2019.



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