



Ministry of Planning,
Monitoring and
Administrative Reform



Egypt 2018 Voluntary National Review Presentation Script

Tuesday, 17th of July 2018

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you Egypt's 2018 Voluntary National Review as part of the international follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda. This is the second review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prepared by Egypt within a period of two years, reaffirming Egypt's commitment towards the achievement of the SDGs as conveyed in its first VNR in 2016.

Egypt's homegrown Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030, launched in February 2016 - aligned with the SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063 is presented as one the main pillars of Egypt's governing framework until 2030, setting targets and ensuring alignment and coordination between all efforts directed towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Egypt's Vision 2030 is a leading effort in localizing the SDGs encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. For the first time, the Government has adopted a participatory approach to develop Egypt's Vision 2030, including all stakeholders in the process; the private sector and civil society. The strategy is based on the principles of inclusive growth and balanced



regional development.

“Investing in human capital” is at the core of Egypt's Vision 2030 with youth empowerment at the forefront of the country's priorities. Around **60%** of the Egyptian population is below the age of 30, the country's future. Hence, it is very important to prepare them and ensure their engagement in policy making early on. In that vein, the Presidential Leadership program was launched in 2016. Moreover, the first World Youth Forum worldwide was initiated and organized in Egypt in November 2017 after a series of national youth forums with the aim of creating a platform for knowledge sharing and an opportunity to make a change.

Egypt is on a promising track to achieve the SDGs as clearly presented in this review. Building a solid foundation for a strong economy was the start. The macroeconomic and administrative reform program embarked on by the Egyptian Government in 2016 helped Egypt in regaining its macroeconomic stability. Real GDP growth rate increased from 1.8% in 2011/2012 to 5.4% in the third quarter of 2017/2018. Unemployment rate declined from 13.3% in 2012/2013 to 10.6% in 2017/2018. Moreover, energy subsidy reforms adopted since 2014, coupled with reforms to the whole subsidy system for a more efficient reallocation of financial resources were pivotal to the reduction of Egypt's budget deficit as a percentage of GDP, reaching 10.9% in 2016/2017 compared to 12.9% in 2012/2013. Additionally, major investments have been directed to the development of Egypt's enabling infrastructure, specifically road networks and electricity facilities, as well as a variety of megaprojects. This has substantially improved Egypt's competitiveness, and credit rating.



Being aware of the adverse impact of the reforms and following the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”, the Government, , worked on expanding the social safety net coverage using savings accrued from energy subsidy reform. That’s in addition to many other programs shown in our VNR dedicated to the empowerment of disable people, and economic empowerment of low-income families and rural women.

Egypt’s VNR covers all the 17 SDGs with a specific focus on the 5 selected goals for this year’s review. Let me walk you through some of the main highlights of this report.

With regards to **Clean Water and Sanitation**, 21 stations were installed to monitor the quality of the Nile River. In addition, 98 percent of households in urban areas and 95 percent of households in rural areas now have access to safe drinking water. The private sector has significantly contributed to this goal through the adoption of sustainable irrigation systems, processing of wastewater, and organic farming.

With respect to Egypt’s commitment to **provide clean and affordable energy**, which is an integral part of its national strategy “The Integrated Energy Strategy 2035” aims at generating 20 percent of Egypt’s power from renewable sources by 2022, and 37 percent by 2035.

Also, the Government introduced major reforms to the energy subsidy system so that subsidies are phased out by 2020, which will naturally encourage the sustainable consumption of energy. Additionally, the world’s largest private sector-led solar park is currently being built in



Aswan, housing 32 power plants, set to produce about 2 gigawatts when completed in mid-2019..

On the pursuit to achieve **Sustainable Cities and Communities**, New cities are being developed across Egypt to increase the percentage of inhabited areas and reduce population density. Currently, fifteen new cities are being built. The geographical distribution of these cities reflects the Government's direction towards more regionally balanced development. New cities are designed to be green and sustainable. For example, the New Alamein City will be a smart, eco-friendly city hosting a number of water desalination and solar energy stations.

The provision of accessible and affordable housing is crucial to accommodate Egypt's rapidly growing population.. The government expanded its social housing programs and delivered 265,000 of 600,000 units to be completed within four years.

Egypt's VNR report clearly indicates that Egypt is on the right track towards achieving sustainable development, and has considerable potential. Unleashing this potential requires dealing with challenges pertaining to data, financing, governance and high population growth rate. In awareness of these challenges, the Government of Egypt has deployed the efforts and strategy to address them.

Finally, collaboration among all relevant stakeholders is key to the achievement of sustainable development. The adoption of sustainable development is no longer an option, it has become a necessity. Egypt is well aware of that fact and works on ensuring that all relevant stakeholders share the belief that the only way to improve citizens' quality



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of life and achieving social justice is by using its resources in an efficient and eco-friendly manner.

Thank you for your time and attention. Our report will be available for further details and looking forward to our discussions. I will leave you now with a short video that highlights Egypt's efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs.

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