



**The National Council for Human Rights**  
Together to promote human rights

# **The Eighteenth Report of the National Council for Human Rights (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025)**

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## **Introduction**

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) issues its 18th Annual Report at a time of profound global and regional political, economic, and social transformations that continue to shape the human rights landscape and intensify the challenges faced by States and societies in their pursuit of justice, equality, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

This report reflects the Council's enduring commitment—since its establishment—to independence, objectivity, and transparency. It aims to serve as a faithful mirror of reality, presenting both achievements and challenges, while fostering inclusive dialogue on how best to strengthen the human rights framework in Egypt.

Established as an independent national institution under the Egyptian Constitution and pursuant to Law No. 94 of 2003, as amended by Law No. 197 of 2017, the NCHR operates in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/134 (1993), with the mandate to promote, develop, and protect human rights and public freedoms.

From the leadership of the late Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN Secretary-General and the Council's first President, through to Minister Mohamed Fayek, the NCHR has maintained a participatory, collective, and independent approach rooted in professionalism and a genuine commitment to the human rights mission. Under Minister Fayek's stewardship, the Council retained its "A" status accreditation, reinforcing its credibility nationally and internationally.

Since December 2021, the Council has pursued a comprehensive reform vision characterized by professionalism, openness, and constructive engagement with all stakeholders. This report provides a holistic assessment of civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, in line with Egypt's constitutional provisions and its international obligations. It integrates factual observation with policy analysis, guided by the principle that human rights protection is a shared responsibility between the State and society, and that safeguarding human dignity remains the ultimate goal of all national efforts.

Beyond documentation, the NCHR actively contributes to strengthening national capacities and partnerships—with State institutions, civil society, and international actors—through cooperation frameworks, policy dialogues, and capacity-building initiatives. Recognizing the interconnected nature of human rights, the Council has expanded its engagement mechanisms to ensure collaborative and inclusive responses to emerging challenges.

The Council continues to prioritize awareness-raising and human rights education through training, research, and community outreach, believing that cultivating a culture of human rights is essential for the sustainability of reforms and public policies. A key focus of these efforts has been investing in the capacity of the Secretariat to enhance institutional performance and develop a new generation of national experts capable of addressing evolving human rights issues at the national and international levels.

This report serves not only as a record of progress but also as an instrument of positive accountability and a means of strengthening trust between the Council and the public. It invites State institutions, civil society, academia, and experts to engage with its findings and recommendations, reaffirming the Council's belief that challenges—no matter their magnitude—can be addressed through open dialogue, shared commitment, and a balanced approach that upholds both security and freedom, as well as development and social justice.

At the international level, the NCHR convened, in partnership with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, a side event during Egypt's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session in Geneva on 27 January 2025, titled "*The Human Rights Situation in Egypt 2019–2024: Achievements and Progress.*" The following day, during Egypt's fourth UPR session before the Human Rights Council, the country received 343 recommendations from 137 States, including calls to accede to international treaties, abolish the death penalty, strengthen gender equality, establish a national anti-discrimination commission, and further reinforce the independence of the NCHR.

Recognizing the importance of these recommendations, the Council considers them a key reference for guiding its national work and institutional development. On the sidelines of the UPR, the NCHR delegation held bilateral meetings with several diplomatic missions, including Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Bulgaria, to discuss Egypt's human rights progress and the Council's positions on issues such as the death penalty, the new Criminal Procedure Code, and freedom of expression.

On 2 July 2025, during the adoption of Egypt's UPR outcome at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, the NCHR delivered a formal statement reaffirming its active engagement with UN mechanisms. The statement emphasized the value of UPR recommendations as an opportunity to strengthen national commitment to human rights, calling for legislative reforms to protect freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, ensure a safe environment for journalism, and advance criminal justice reform—including reducing pre-trial detention, promoting legal alternatives, and enhancing judicial oversight of detention facilities. It also highlighted the need to extend the National Human Rights Strategy to 2030 with measurable implementation indicators, and to reinforce the NCHR's independence through legislative amendments in line with the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) recommendations.

Domestically, the Council continued its monitoring role through complaint mechanisms and field visits to correctional and rehabilitation centers to assess detention conditions and investigate allegations of ill-treatment. It also followed up on several individual cases and expanded strategic partnerships with national institutions through cooperation agreements aimed at strengthening institutional capacities, promoting democratic participation, and supporting data-driven decision-making.

The NCHR further broadened its network of international and national partnerships, including with the European Union, UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, and human rights institutions in Denmark and Morocco. It maintained active engagement with the Arab Network

and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and hosted European parliamentary delegations at its headquarters.

At the parliamentary level, the NCHR's collaboration with the legislative authority deepened through participation in discussions of draft laws related to public rights and freedoms, and in consultations on amending its founding law to ensure greater alignment with the Paris Principles.

To preserve its "A" status accreditation, the Council prepared detailed technical reports addressing SCA observations, enhanced institutional tools—including an upgraded bilingual website—and ensured timely publication of its 18th Annual Report ahead of the upcoming accreditation session. The Council views the SCA's recommendations as a constructive roadmap for institutional development and greater effectiveness.

Anchored in a clear human rights vision, the NCHR has achieved tangible progress through a dual approach combining evidence-based and human rights-based methodologies, resulting in more effective policies and responsive institutional practices aligned with international standards.

In response to the SCA's comments on its founding law, the Council held extensive consultations with legislative and executive bodies, culminating in August 2025 with a high-level meeting with the Prime Minister, H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, who affirmed the government's support for enhancing the NCHR's legal and institutional independence.

Continuing its participatory approach, the Council launched its first consultative session with civil society organizations, engaging human rights defenders, academics, and media representatives to ensure inclusive policy dialogue. Simultaneously, it undertook a comprehensive review of its internal structure and regulations to promote transparency, equity, and efficiency in its operations.

This report thus reflects not only an annual review but a collective commitment to advancing the Council's effectiveness, independence, and engagement. Progress has been recorded across multiple areas, including participation in national dialogues, legislative reform initiatives, and the protection of vulnerable groups—while recognizing that certain structural challenges require sustained institutional coordination and policy development.

The Council expresses its deep appreciation to its members and the Secretariat staff for their dedication and professionalism in preparing this report. It reaffirms its commitment to upholding the Paris Principles and maintaining its "A" status accreditation as an independent national institution dedicated to promoting justice, dignity, and equality, and to supporting Egypt's continued development of a comprehensive and rights-based legislative and institutional framework.

**Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, PhD**

**President of the National Council for Human Rights**

## **Foreword by the Chief Editor**

In fulfillment of its constitutional mandate and legal responsibilities, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continues to issue its annual reports, which include assessments and analyses of the human rights situation in Egypt, as well as an overview of the Council's activities and interventions within its legally assigned areas of work. Through these reports, the Council presents recommendations to stakeholders aimed at strengthening compliance with international human rights standards.

The present Eighteenth Annual Report, covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, has been prepared in accordance with the Council's long-standing commitment to providing a comprehensive and independent review of developments, trends, and dynamics shaping the human rights situation during the reporting period. It concludes with a set of practical recommendations addressing legislative and procedural aspects that require attention and implementation to achieve sustainable progress in the protection of rights and freedoms, and to narrow the gaps between national practices on one hand, and Egypt's constitutional and international human rights obligations on the other.

This report is issued nearly fourteen years after the Egyptian Revolution of 25 January 2011 and twelve years after the events of 30 June 2013, which marked the people's rejection of religious authoritarianism. Over these years, Egypt has witnessed profound political, economic, and social transformations. The State has successfully confronted the challenge of terrorism and, under the leadership of the political, executive, and legislative authorities, has adopted key human rights-related initiatives, including the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026), the review of several human rights-related laws, the continuation of the Presidential Pardon Initiative, and the tangible outcomes of the National Dialogue. These developments have directly influenced the expectations and aspirations regarding human rights practices in the country.

Despite notable achievements, a range of challenges and gaps persist, requiring further efforts in legislative and institutional reform, as well as in public policy and practical implementation. The Council continues to believe that the scope for consolidating and building upon Egypt's achievements in political and security stabilization remains vast. While recognizing the complex regional environment marked by instability and conflict—and the inevitable implications of such conditions for Egypt—the Council firmly believes that further improvement in the protection of rights and public freedoms will strengthen the country's internal resilience and enhance its capacity to face external and domestic challenges.

It is important to note that this year's annual report comes at a time when the Council faces the risk of a downgrade in its international accreditation status, due to the need for additional legal and institutional reforms to enable it to engage more effectively with developments in the human rights landscape and to strengthen its adherence to the Paris Principles. This context has shaped the nature of the Council's activities and interventions during the reporting period, which have prominently

included calls to amend its founding law and to address fundamental challenges related to public rights and freedoms in Egypt.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Council and to the dedicated team of researchers at the General Secretariat for their invaluable contributions throughout the preparation of this report. I also extend deep gratitude to Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, PhD, President of the Council, for his leadership and guidance, and to Hany Ibrahim, PhD, Secretary-General of the Council, for his steadfast support and collaboration.

**Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim**

*Chief Editor*

## **PREFACE**

Amid a period where national transformations intersect with human rights and humanitarian challenges, the 18th Annual Report of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), covering the period from 1 July 2024 to the end of August 2025, provides an objective assessment and comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in Egypt. The report highlights achievements in legislative, institutional, and societal domains, while also identifying areas requiring intensified efforts and strengthened coordination among state institutions and civil society. The report is grounded in a holistic vision that recognizes that the promotion of human rights is inseparable from the State's project of consolidating the rule of law, advancing social justice, and enabling citizens to fully enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms within a framework of responsibility and active citizenship.

In line with its commitment to producing an objective and credible report, the NCHR, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem, established a Working Group comprising Council members Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim, Mr. Said Abdel Hafiz, and Dr. Noha Bakr. The Council's Secretariat was tasked with the technical and administrative implementation of this process, from data collection across Council committees and units, through systematic review and analysis, to structured editorial drafting according to a comprehensive human rights framework.

In this institutional approach, specialized sub-teams were formed for each thematic chapter of the report, including experienced researchers who drafted substantive chapters with methodological consistency and accuracy. These teams organized information and analysis in a logical sequence, beginning with the constitutional basis for rights, followed by legislative and institutional developments, presentation of governmental executive and administrative efforts, and concluding with the NCHR's interventions, field activities, and public positions on issues of concern.

Following the initial drafting stages, a Final Drafting Committee, chaired by the Secretary-General, reviewed the texts to ensure conceptual coherence, precision in legal and human rights terminology, and that the report faithfully reflected a balanced picture of the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period. The Committee emphasized an objective presentation based on comparative and analytical methodologies, highlighting positive developments and tangible efforts while also noting ongoing challenges requiring attention.

Structurally, the report addresses key human rights and legislative matters during the reporting period. It opens with an overview of the general context and legislative developments, highlighting significant laws related to human rights, including the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Medical Liability Law, the Law on Regulating Asylum for Foreigners, the Social Security Law, and the Rent Control Law. It also examines selected rulings of the Supreme Court that reinforced principles of justice, freedom, equality, and the rule of law.

The report then addresses civil and political rights, analyzing the state of freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly; guarantees of fair trial; conditions of detainees and prisons; and

government efforts to reform the penal system towards rehabilitation centres that meet international standards. Economic, social, and cultural rights are also examined, including developments in social protection, the right to work, health, education, and adequate housing, with reference to major national initiatives aimed at improving living standards and quality of life.

Regarding cultural and environmental rights, the report presents the State's and civil society's efforts to integrate a human rights culture within cultural reform initiatives, counter extremist ideologies, raise awareness of citizenship and cultural diversity, and engage with issues of climate justice and sustainable development.

A substantial section of the report is dedicated to the NCHR's role in receiving and following up on complaints from citizens and their families, analyzing general trends, reviewing responses from relevant authorities, including complaints related to allegations of torture, ill-treatment, or discrimination, and tracking their legal follow-up. The report also highlights the Council's activities, including field visits, workshops, conferences, and cooperation protocols with national and international entities, all aimed at fostering a human rights culture in public institutions and enhancing collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

The report concludes with a set of objective recommendations, organized as follows:

1. Recommendations related to national policies and the institutional framework for the protection of human rights.
2. Recommendations aimed at strengthening civil and political rights.
3. Recommendations aimed at enhancing economic, social, and cultural rights.

Through this report, the NCHR emphasizes that an objective assessment of the state of rights and freedoms is a necessary step towards continuous development; that the protection of human beings is a measure of the strength of the State and its institutions; and that dialogue and cooperation are essential for embedding a culture of human rights in Egyptian society, supporting the national reform process, and ensuring justice and dignity for all citizens.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the preparation of this report, particularly Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Chair of the Council, for his meticulous review and attention to all aspects of the work; Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim, Council member and chief editor, for her dedicated effort in collecting and analyzing the report's material and leading the team with professionalism; Mr. Said Abdel Hafiz, esteemed Council member and human rights expert, whose analyses of laws and legislation were foundational to a deeper understanding of the human rights situation in Egypt; and Dr. Noha Bakr, for her valuable contributions to enhancing the report's content. I also extend my gratitude to my colleagues in the Secretariat research team for their dedication in collecting, documenting, and analyzing all inputs, including Zeinab Safwat, Khaled Marouf, and Ahmed Nasr for final review and verification, and Dr. Islam Rehan, Dr. Ayman Issa, Kareem Shalaby, Asmaa Fawzi, and Taha Al-Qasrawy for their exceptional efforts in producing

this comprehensive report. The English version of the report is the result of the outstanding work of Ms. Yara Qassem, to whom we extend our thanks.

In conclusion, I thank governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, partners of the Council, for supporting its vision and mission—the Egyptian State's commitment to preserving human dignity through the promotion of rights and freedoms under the rule of law.

**Hany Ibrahim**  
**Secretary-General**  
**National Council for Human Rights**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**(JULY 2024- JUNE 2025)**

#### **Introduction**

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) was established pursuant to Law No. 94 of 2003 as an independent national institution entrusted with the mandate to promote, protect, and advance human rights in Egypt. The 2014 Constitution reaffirmed this status by recognizing the Council as an independent entity and conferring upon it broad competencies, including the provision of opinions on draft legislation relevant to human rights, the delivery of legal assistance, and the performance of other functions aimed at reinforcing the framework of rights and freedoms. In accordance with subsequent constitutional amendments and Egypt's international obligations, Law No. 197 of 2017 further strengthened the guarantees of the Council's independence and broadened the scope of its functions and authority.

The NCHR serves as Egypt's national human rights institution, established in accordance with the *Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions* (the Paris Principles). It performs advisory, monitoring, and coordinating functions through documenting violations, issuing recommendations, engaging with public authorities, and cooperating with civil society organizations and relevant international mechanisms.

The Council issued its eighteenth annual report, covering the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the human rights situation during this period, including legislative and institutional developments, as well as an assessment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. It also highlights the Council's role in receiving and addressing citizens' complaints and documents the wide range of activities and events carried out by the NCHR.

The report's methodology is grounded in a descriptive and analytical approach, supplemented by comparative analysis where relevant to the report's objectives. It is based on a solid constitutional foundation for rights and freedoms and draws upon Egypt's international obligations. The report proceeds to examine the legislative framework governing these rights, reviews the efforts and measures undertaken by State institutions to realize them, and concludes by presenting the Council's interactive role through its direct interventions, practical responses, and the positions and recommendations it has adopted in addressing prevailing challenges.

#### **The human rights situation**

The period from July 2024 to June 2025 witnessed an increased prominence of human rights on the State's agenda, reflected both in presidential directives and in public policies and executive programmes aimed at improving living conditions and strengthening the framework of rights and freedoms. Repeated affirmations during this period underscored that the dignity of every Egyptian citizen and respect for constitutional rights constitute the foundation of the "New Republic," and that the advancement of human rights has become an integral element of the country's political, social, and economic reform process.

This approach was demonstrated through the State's continued implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy, which serves as a key reference framework linking legislative reform with public policy, and through an enhanced openness to inclusive dialogue, notably via the National Dialogue, which addressed a range of complex issues, including several directly related to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Under this framework, several presidential initiatives were launched to expand social protection programmes in response to economic challenges and to alleviate the burdens faced by the most vulnerable groups. Development projects also continued in rural and remote areas, focusing on improving infrastructure and ensuring access to health and education services. Efforts to advance the rights of women, youth, and persons with disabilities were further strengthened through initiatives promoting economic empowerment and expanding legal safeguards, reflecting the State's commitment to integrating marginalized groups into the process of comprehensive and inclusive development.

"The Presidential Initiative for Developing the Egyptian Citizen" continued to focus on enhancing awareness and strengthening citizens' educational, health, and cultural capacities, with a view to fostering citizenship values and safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms within a holistic developmental vision. At the same time, growing attention was devoted to digital transformation in the provision of public services, including within the justice sector, as a means to enhance transparency and facilitate access to rights.

During the reporting period, a number of legislative measures relevant to the promotion and protection of civil and political rights were adopted, including the Criminal Procedure Law, the Law Regulating the Right of Asylum for Foreigners, and the laws governing parliamentary elections scheduled for the final third of 2025. The same period also marked Egypt's fourth engagement with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The review process was characterized by constructive engagement, with Egypt actively participating in discussions on its national report and affirming its readiness to continue dialogue and implement priority recommendations in line with national circumstances. The outcome reflected an official commitment to advancing compliance with international human rights standards and strengthening Egypt's role as a partner within the international human rights system. In this regard, Egypt accepted—fully or partially—281 recommendations, many of which addressed issues related to civil and political rights.

Despite the positive developments, it's important to recognize the ongoing challenges that remain sources of concern for citizens and civil society groups. During this period, the Ministry of Interior and Public Prosecution reported several deaths of people in custody through official statements. These incidents attracted considerable public attention and prompted calls for better healthcare and more humane detention conditions.

The National Council for Human Rights monitored these cases closely, calling for prompt and transparent investigations and stressing the importance of accountability for any violations of the right to life or physical integrity. Continuing allegations of torture and ill-treatment in certain detention facilities remain deeply concerning, highlighting the urgent need to activate existing legal mechanisms, enable the Council to conduct unannounced periodic visits, and review the legislative and regulatory framework to prevent such practices and ensure effective remedies for any violations that occur.

**Pretrial detention** remained one of the most pressing human rights concerns during the reporting period. While presidential clemency decrees issued on national and religious occasions resulted in the release of additional groups of pretrial detainees and sentenced individuals, the prolonged duration of pretrial detention in certain cases—and its serious social, psychological, and economic consequences—has raised significant concerns about the need to review investigative practices and expand the use of alternative measures in line with international human rights standards.

The National Dialogue's recognition of this issue at the official level represents an important step toward a more comprehensive approach in the coming period, particularly given the adoption of the new Criminal Procedure Law.

**On the freedom of opinion, expression, and media front**, a noticeable decrease in the number of individuals detained in connection with publication and opinion-related cases has been observed. Nevertheless, a number of journalists remain in detention or under investigation due to their professional content or publicly expressed views. Moreover, some media outlets have faced difficulties in obtaining the necessary licenses, despite fulfilling all requisite conditions and submitting complete documentation. The absence of a law regulating the right to access information also remains a significant gap.

Under this framework, a ruling by the Supreme Constitutional Court during the reporting period is particularly noteworthy. The court affirmed that criticism of public action falls within the core of freedom of expression, provided it remains within the scope of the public interest. This judicial decision serves to reinforce a long-standing position advocated by the Council.

Building on this development, the Council recommended the abolition of custodial penalties in publication-related cases, the amendment of laws governing journalism and cybercrime, and the expedited issuance of the executive regulations for the Personal Data Protection Law. These measures are intended to foster a freer and more balanced environment for media operations.

**With regard to freedom of association and the establishment of civil society organizations and political parties**, positive developments have been observed in the expanding role of civil society organizations and increased access to support and funding. These advances strengthen their capacity to carry out developmental and human rights work. The political landscape has also seen progress toward broader political pluralism through the official registration of new entities. However, the representation of these parties in parliament remains limited, which affects the extent of genuine societal representation. Concerning trade union freedoms, regular electoral processes have continued, demonstrating sustained democratic practice within professional syndicates.

Regarding **economic, social and cultural rights**, the State has undertaken significant efforts to improve living standards through raising the minimum wage in the public sector and increasing allocations for social protection programmes—measures that reflect official recognition of the growing cost-of-living challenges. However, inflation rates, the continued precariousness of informal employment, and global economic pressures have at times limited the impact of these measures, underscoring the need for further efforts to ensure an adequate standard of living and human dignity. The health sector has seen the continuation of national initiatives for early disease detection and the expansion of health insurance programs, though disparities in service quality between governorates and insufficient human resources remain persistent challenges. In education, progress has continued in integrating digital technology and developing infrastructure, yet classroom overcrowding and the urban-rural divide continue to pose challenges to achieving the desired quality of education.

Taken together, these indicators show that the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period reflects both genuine efforts to advance human rights and ongoing structural challenges that still require deeper and more sustained action. Positive steps—such as greater engagement with international mechanisms, the expansion of social protection programs, the release of detainees through presidential initiatives, and progress in digital transformation—have been tempered by continuing concerns over personal liberty, lengthy pretrial detention, limited civic space, and unequal access to essential services.

Real and lasting improvement depends on turning commitments into concrete action that leads to meaningful change in people's daily lives. This calls for stronger monitoring and accountability systems, broader collaboration with civil society, and the development of independent tools to assess progress—so that the human rights framework becomes more effective and responsive to citizens' needs.

### **First: Legislative Framework:**

The reporting period featured several important developments within Egypt's legislative and legal framework concerning human rights. Laws and decrees serve as critical instruments, not merely for formalizing legal obligations, but also for effectively strengthening civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and freedoms, and for cultivating more equitable and inclusive

institutions. Consequently, a number of laws and presidential decrees were enacted during this period that have directly influenced the human rights landscape, specifically including:

- **Unified Insurance Law No. 155 of 2024:** This law consolidates the legislation governing the insurance sector, strengthens regulatory oversight and supervision of insurance companies and private funds, and broadens the scope of insurance services, thereby enhancing the right to social security and financial protection.
- **Law Regulating Asylum for Foreigners No. 164 of 2024:** This law establishes a comprehensive legal framework for refugees and provides legal safeguards governing their rights and obligations in accordance with international standards.
- **Social Security Law No. 12 of 2025:** This law extends social protection coverage to vulnerable groups, thereby strengthening the right to an adequate standard of living.
- **Medical Liability and Patient Safety Law No. 13 of 2025:** This law seeks to balance the protection of patients' rights with the provision of a safe and equitable working environment for physicians and medical practitioners, thereby strengthening the right to health and physical integrity.
- **Criminal Procedure Law (New Law Draft) of 2025:** This law aims to ensure the expeditious administration of justice, enhance procedural guarantees for litigants and the right to defense, and streamline litigation procedures in a manner that reinforces fair trial guarantees, liberty and personal security.
- **Labor Law No. 14 of 2025:** This law governs labor relations between workers and employers and provides for the protection of wages and the rights of women workers in conformity with international labor standards.
- **Amendment to the Senate Law No. 84 of 2025:** This amendment broadens the scope of political participation and strengthens women's representation in the electoral process.
- **Amendment to the House of Representatives Law No. 85 of 2025:** This amendment restructures certain aspects related to the electoral process, particularly regarding the composition of electoral lists and seat distribution, and enhances opportunities for political representation of marginalized groups.
- **Old Rent Law No. 164 of 2025:** This law restructures the landlord-tenant relationship in a manner that balances the right to adequate housing with property rights.

#### **Presidential Decrees:**

- **Presidential Decree No. 428 of 2024:** Accession to the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention on Combating Corruption, thereby strengthening transparency and the rule of law.
- **Presidential Decree No. 449 of 2024:** Approval of an agreement with Italy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society.
- **Presidential Decree No. 399 of 2024:** Concerning the promotion of vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing and the application of health technologies, contributing to the development of the health system and the localization of biological products manufacturing.

- **Presidential Decree No. 361 of 2024:** Approval of a financing agreement for the European Union Support Programme for Youth Employment and Skills Development, thereby enhancing the right to work.
- **Presidential Decree No. 398 of 2024:** Concerning the approval of the financing agreement for the European Union Support Programme for Future Generations, contributing to the implementation of a comprehensive national program for the protection of children and the combating of all forms of violence against them.

In alignment with the adopted measures, the Council recommends the completion of outstanding legislative and institutional steps, the securing of sustainable funding, and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms based on human rights indicators. Furthermore, the Council underscores the critical importance of expanding awareness-raising and training programs for frontline personnel and promoting broader community engagement. These actions are essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiatives and to strengthen their overall human rights impact.

### **Second: Civil and Political Rights:**

The right to life constitutes the foundation upon which all other human rights rest, as enshrined in international instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. While the Constitution and national legislation protect this right, the continued expansion of capital offences in Egypt remains a source of concern. The Council has therefore reiterated its call for a comprehensive review of the existing legal framework with a view to restricting the application of the death penalty to the most serious crimes, in accordance with international human rights standards.

In its field monitoring activities, the Council documented the incident that occurred in Matrouh in April 2025, which resulted in the deaths of two individuals, Youssef Al-Sarhany and Farag Al-Farazy, amid escalating security events. Conflicting accounts emerged: the Ministry of Interior stated that the two individuals, who were sought in connection with criminal cases, were killed during an armed confrontation, while other sources alleged that they had surrendered voluntarily. The Public Prosecution initiated an investigation that remains ongoing. The Council has called for the investigation to be completed promptly, thoroughly, and independently, and for its findings to be made public.

The Council's Committee on Civil and Political Rights also monitored incidents of confrontation and violence on Al-Warraq Island and in Marsa Matrouh, emphasizing the need for transparent and impartial investigations into all related events. In the same context, the Council documented the death of Mohamed Hassan Hilal, a 32-year-old former engineering student, who died while being transferred from Badr Prison to Al-Qasr Al-Ainy Hospital. The Council called for an immediate investigation into the circumstances of his death and for a comprehensive review of detention conditions to ensure full compliance with national legislation and international human rights standards.

At the international level, the Council was apprised of the letter addressed by the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt in May 2025, which called

for a review of Egyptian laws providing for the death penalty (including laws on counter-terrorism, narcotics, high treason, civil aviation and others), and for ensuring that the penalty is applied only to the most serious crimes. Within the framework of its national role, the Council organized a national workshop in November 2024 with broad participation from experts and civil society, which resulted in recommendations to restrict the penalty and strengthen judicial safeguards, and to ensure transparency and proportionality in the imposition of death sentences. The Council conducted a comprehensive review of the provisions of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and recommended reconsideration of the provisions imposing the death penalty for approximately 77 offences under the Penal Code, in addition to strengthening procedural guarantees in trials that may result in the imposition of this penalty. The Council also participated in regional and international conferences (Jordan, Azerbaijan) to underscore its position on this matter.

Regarding protection from **torture and cruel and degrading treatment**, the Council attaches paramount importance to the implementation of provisions of the Egyptian Constitution that establish human dignity as an absolute right and criminalize torture in all its forms as a crime not subject to a statute of limitations. During the reporting period, the Council received 190 complaints alleging torture and ill-treatment. The vast majority (179 complaints) were submitted by relatives of inmates in correctional and rehabilitation facilities, while 11 complaints related to incidents inside police stations or central prisons.

The Council addressed these complaints to the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution and received responses to more than 95% of them, which included investigation findings and official medical reports. While the majority of complaints were submitted by relatives of detainees, and official investigations—together with statements from some detainees themselves—refuted the allegations contained in those complaints, the Council considers that this discrepancy between allegations raised and investigation findings calls for strengthening guarantees of independent and transparent investigation, thereby reinforcing confidence in final outcomes and ensuring protection of the rights of all parties.

In an individual case that attracted widespread attention, the Council followed the death of citizen Mahmoud Mohamed Asaad ("Mika") while in custody at Al-Khalifa Police Station in April 2025. Allegations circulated of severe torture and serious medical neglect, while the Ministry of Interior denied these allegations in an official statement, attributing the death to "psychological agitation" and subsequent health complications. In light of this discrepancy, the Council emphasized the necessity of a serious and transparent investigation into the circumstances of the death.

In this context, the Council continued its call for amendment of relevant penal provisions, particularly Article 126 of the Penal Code, to align with the definition contained in Article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and to expand the scope of accountability to include attempt, complicity or participation in torture, as recommended by Article 4(1) of that Convention.

Regarding **the right to liberty and personal security**, the Egyptian Constitution provides that personal liberty is a natural and protected right that may not be violated, and may only be restricted in accordance with strict judicial safeguards. The reporting period witnessed a decline in the pace of arrests related to the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the release of

certain public figures, including former presidential candidate Ahmed Tantawi and his campaign manager Mohamed Abou El-Diar.

Conversely, the Council monitored the continued pretrial detention of a number of activists and journalists, most notably cartoonist Ashraf Omar (detained since July 2024), journalist Khaled Mamdouh (since 16 July 2024), politician Yahya Hussein Abdel Hadi (since July 2024), and economist Abdel Khaleq Farouk (since October 2024). These cases have raised concerns regarding the length of pretrial detention periods and their impact on the health conditions of some detainees.

The Council also received 10 complaints concerning violations during home raids for the purpose of apprehending wanted individuals. Four of these received official responses denying the violations and stating that the purpose was to prevent interference with the arrest operation. Regarding enforced disappearance, the Council addressed 25 cases during the reporting period and received responses concerning 14 of them, which indicated that the individuals concerned were either held in official detention facilities, had not been previously arrested, or in one instance had been released, while 11 cases remained without response by the end of the reporting period.

The Council also followed the case of lawyer Hoda Abdel Moneim, a former Council member (2012–2013), who was detained in 2018 in connection with a case before the Supreme State Security Prosecution and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. Following completion of her sentence, she remains in pretrial detention in connection with another case. A Council delegation visited the Correctional and Rehabilitation Center in Tenth of Ramadan on 22 May 2025 and reviewed her health and living conditions file, verifying that she was receiving necessary medical care. A legal representative of the Council also attended her trial hearing to ensure respect for fair trial guarantees.

Regarding the **treatment of persons deprived of their liberty**, the Egyptian Constitution in Articles 55 and 56 guarantees human dignity for persons arrested or detained, criminalizes torture, coercion and ill-treatment, and affirms that prisons are institutions for reform and rehabilitation subject to judicial oversight.

In this context, the Ministry of Interior has made significant progress through a program to replace old and unsuitable prisons with modern correctional and rehabilitation centers. Five major centers have been established in Wadi El-Natrun, Badr, Tenth of Ramadan, 15 May, and Akhmin. The operation of these centers has resulted in the closure of 27 out of 42 old prisons, representing a qualitative transformation in the infrastructure of the prison sector.

During the reporting period, the Council received 1,862 complaints and requests concerning inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centers, distributed as follows:

- 1,023 requests for conditional or medical release.
- 330 requests to benefit from presidential pardon or release.
- 179 complaints alleging ill-treatment or torture.
- 164 requests for transfer between facilities.
- 145 requests for medical care.
- 21 complaints that were archived due to insufficient information.

Follow-up actions resulted in the actual release of 67 inmates and the preparation of files for 367 inmates for submission to the competent committee, while 245 inmates were found not to meet the eligibility criteria. Regarding allegations of ill-treatment, the Council received responses concerning 174 out of 179 complaints. As for transfer requests, the response rate reached 72.6%, with 35 inmates transferred, while logistical reasons or lack of available space prevented the implementation of remaining requests.

Within the framework of the presidential pardon initiative, Presidential Decree No. 581 of 2024 was issued granting pardon to 54 convicted persons, and the Public Prosecution released 151 pretrial detainees during September 2024.

The Council monitored allegations raised concerning Badr 3 facility, which included hunger strikes and complaints of ill-treatment. The Attorney General, accompanied by a Public Prosecution team, conducted an inspection visit to the facility in September 2024—an unprecedented step at this level. The Public Prosecution has also intensified its oversight visits to include 17 police stations across governorates and several correctional and juvenile facilities.

In line with its mandate, the Council conducted visits to the correctional centers of 10th of Ramadan and Badr, as well as to the juvenile correctional facility in Al-Marg. While noting the availability of advanced health, educational, and rehabilitation services, the Council recorded several observations. These included the delegation's limited access to certain inmate wards in some facilities, the continued occurrence of school dropouts among juveniles, insufficient computer training programs, and a general lack of awareness among inmates regarding their right to submit complaints through the designated boxes. The Council also noted the financial burden placed on the families of juveniles, given that the Al-Marg facility remains the only one serving all governorates.

Regarding the **rights of refugees and foreigners legally residing in Egypt**, in December 2024 the House of Representatives issued Law No. 164 of 2024 on Regulating the Asylum of Foreigners, in implementation of the provisions of Articles 59 and 91 of the Constitution, as the first comprehensive national legislation in this area. The law aims to align Egypt's international obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol with the requirements of national sovereignty.

The Council welcomed the law as a pivotal legislative development, particularly through the establishment of a permanent committee to manage the file, prioritization of the most vulnerable groups, and the guarantee of a package of rights including travel documents, freedom of belief, the right to basic education, employment and health care, and the prohibition of forced return. At the same time, the Council recommended the issuance of clear implementing regulations, enhanced transparency in the work of the permanent committee, and expanded legal awareness programs for refugees.

However, the Council drew attention to certain aspects of concern, foremost among them the broad powers granted to the committee to reject applications or withdraw refugee status on vague grounds, the possibility of retroactive application of the law to existing cases, and the restriction of rights to recognized refugees excluding asylum seekers.

In January 2025, the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families issued its observations on Egypt's periodic report, welcoming the State's accession to important conventions such as the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (2024) and the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons. However, it expressed concern about continued reports of discrimination against certain groups, weak remedies, limited legal assistance, language barriers, hate crimes, restrictions on remittances, and the requirement of nationality to access certain health services.

The Council noted that Egypt bears exceptional burdens resulting from regional crises, particularly the conflicts in Sudan and Libya and the war in Gaza since October 2023, which compound the pressures on the State in managing the refugee and migrant file.

With regard to the **right to a fair and impartial trial**, Articles (94–100) of the Constitution affirm the **independence of the judiciary** and the **guarantee of fair trial standards**, while recognizing the **essential role of lawyers** in safeguarding justice.

In alignment with these constitutional principles, the **Parliament approved in April 2025 the new draft Criminal Procedure Code** (pending its official publication). The **National Council for Human Rights** actively participated in the parliamentary deliberations, particularly on the issue of **pre-trial detention**, recommending that its duration be reduced, that its imposition be duly justified, and that compensation be provided to those adversely affected. The Council further called for strengthening the **right to defense** and limiting the **powers of judicial arrest authorities**.

The draft law contains several **notable positive provisions**, including:

- protection of the **inviolability of private dwellings**,
- regulation of **travel ban orders**,
- recognition of **electronic notifications** alongside traditional means, and
- the **imposition of maximum limits on pre-trial detention**, coupled with a mandatory publication of **acquittal judgments**.

However, certain provisions have raised **concerns** regarding the **monitoring of communications** (Articles 79 and 116) and the **possibility of conducting investigations in the absence of defense counsel**, which may undermine the **fundamental guarantees of a fair trial**.

In parallel, the **Court of Cassation** consolidated a number of **significant judicial principles** during the reporting period, including:

- The **extension of the res judicata effect** of acquittal to acts connected with the same incident (Appeal No. 613/94, February 2025).
- The **nullity of judgments** rendered without due consideration of the essential evidence presented by the parties (Appeal No. 12174/93, August 2024).

During the reporting period, the **Council received 78 petitions** concerning the **implementation of judicial rulings**, of which approximately **two-thirds received official responses**, in addition

to six requests related to release pending investigation on grounds of health or social circumstances.

With regard to the **right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion**, the Egyptian Constitution guarantees the full equality of all citizens before the law (Article 53) and affirms in Article 64 that freedom of belief is absolute, while the practice of religious rites and the establishment of places of worship for adherents of Abrahamic religions constitute rights regulated by law.

In this context, the Council emphasizes that Law No. 80 of 2016, concerning the regulation of the construction and restoration of churches, constitutes an important step toward addressing historical challenges in this area. By the end of 2024, its implementation had resulted in the formal regularization of 3,453 churches and affiliated buildings of Christian communities. This reflects a notable acceleration compared to previous periods and demonstrates cooperation between the State and religious institutions in ensuring that places of worship are organized in a manner consistent with the right to freely practice religious rituals.

The regularization process requires the submission of formal requests by church authorities, supported by documentation establishing ownership or usufruct rights, and compliance with engineering and safety standards. While the law has facilitated procedures relative to the pre-2016 framework, certain complaints remain regarding delays in administrative processes, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Simultaneously, discussions concerning the personal status law for Christians have continued, though the draft has not yet been placed on the agenda of the House of Representatives. The Council considers the enactment of such legislation an urgent priority, in response to recurring concerns regarding gaps in the current legal framework.

On 25 August 2024, the National Council for Human Rights convened a roundtable to review the 2023 United States Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom, with participation from academics and representatives of religious institutions. The discussions underscored the importance of expediting the adoption of the personal status law for non-Muslims, revising educational curricula to promote pluralism and respect for diversity, and strengthening the institutional mechanisms of the committee responsible for the legalization of churches.

In connection with freedom of religion dossier, the Council accorded particular attention to certain challenges related to the rights of members of the Baha'i community, foremost among them the matter of enabling their access to designated burial grounds in each governorate, in accordance with their religious beliefs and in a manner consistent with the State's international obligations regarding freedom of religion and belief.

Regarding the **right to freedom of expression**, the Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and opinion (Article 65) and ensures the right to access and disseminate information (Article 68). It guarantees freedom of the press, printing, and publication, prohibits the imposition of censorship or the closure of media outlets, and restricts custodial penalties in publishing-related offences,

except in cases of incitement to violence, discrimination, or defamation (Article 70). The Constitution also affirms the independence of press and media institutions (Article 72).

Despite this constitutional framework, the absence of a law regulating the right to access information remains a significant challenge. The Council has repeatedly called for the prompt enactment of such legislation, recognizing it as a cornerstone for the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

During the reporting period, the Council noted the convening of the Sixth General Conference of the Journalists' Syndicate, which recommended a review of laws affecting journalistic work, including the Penal Code, the Counter-Terrorism Law, and the Cybercrime Law. The Council also observed a positive decline in the number of individuals detained in cases related to freedom of expression; however, approximately 24 journalists remained in pretrial detention, some for over two years. The Council urged the Public Prosecution to review their cases and called for the inclusion of detained journalists in the mechanism of presidential pardon.

Beyond monitoring and documenting these challenges, the Council actively facilitated dialogue and engagement. In this context, it organized a roundtable on 24 February 2025 to discuss the challenges faced by independent media platforms, resulting in a series of recommendations, including: the removal of custodial penalties for publishing offences, the review of broadly drafted legal provisions, amendments to the Press and Media Law No. 180 of 2018 and its associated sanctions regulations, and the expedited issuance of the implementing regulations for the Personal Data Protection Law No. 151 of 2020, in line with constitutional provisions and international standards.

The Council also organized a second roundtable on 19 March 2025 entitled "The Role of Intellectual Elites and Opinion Leaders in Supporting and Advancing Human Rights," which concluded with practical recommendations, including the establishment of a cultural forum as a platform for dialogue, the launch of a Council-affiliated observatory to monitor and analyse social phenomena, and the call for the release of all individuals detained in cases related to the exercise of freedom of expression.

These efforts are consistent with the principles affirmed by the Supreme Constitutional Court in its ruling in Case No. 60 of Judicial Year 22, issued on 6 July 2024, which emphasized that the freedom to critique public action constitutes a fundamental pillar of freedom of expression, provided that such critique serves the public interest and does not devolve into defamation or abuse. This ruling reinforces the Council's view on the necessity of reviewing relevant legislation to ensure a balance between the protection of fundamental freedoms and the maintenance of public order.

Regarding the **right to peaceful assembly**, Article 73 of the Constitution guarantees the right to peaceful demonstration, which is regulated by Law No. 107 of 2013 setting out the procedures and controls governing the exercise of this right. Some human rights observers have noted that certain provisions of the law merit review to better balance security and public order considerations with citizens' ability to exercise their constitutional right to peaceful assembly.

During this period, the Council observed a limited number of workplace protests demanding improved living conditions, as well as solidarity vigils in support of the Palestinian people held outside the Journalists Syndicate. The Rafah crossing also witnessed large demonstrations by political parties and groups supporting Egypt's rejection of forced displacement of Palestinians.

In June 2025, authorities intercepted an international civilian convoy that attempted to reach Gaza through Egyptian territory without prior coordination, leading to the deportation of foreign participants. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that visits to border areas are subject to specific security protocols, noting that numerous official and human rights delegations had previously been organized in accordance with these procedures.

Regarding the guarantee of **the right to freedom of association**, the Constitution affirms the freedom to form political parties, associations, and trade unions (Articles 74–77), while prohibiting clandestine, sectarian, or militarized activities.

During the reporting period, two new political parties—"National Front" and "Al-Wa'i"—were established, bringing the total number of political parties to nearly 100. Nevertheless, effective parliamentary representation remains limited to a small number of major parties.

In the sphere of civil society, non-governmental organizations continued to regularize their status under Law No. 149 of 2019, with their number reaching approximately 37,000 associations and institutions. The Council observed a significant increase in the volume of authorized foreign grants, totaling 1,637 grants amounting to over EGP 14.5 billion in 2024, compared with 1,186 grants totaling over EGP 5.5 billion in 2023.

With respect to trade unions, no substantive elections took place during the reporting period, except for the Journalists' Syndicate, which held mid-term elections in May 2025. These elections resulted in the re-election of the current head, Khaled El-Balshy, along with six council members. The process was conducted in a positive environment without objections, and the Council did not identify any irregularities affecting the conduct or results of the elections.

Recognizing the importance of freedom of trade union organization, the Council signed a cooperation protocol with the Egyptian Trade Union Federation aimed at promoting workers' economic and social rights and raising awareness of human rights culture in workplaces, as part of mechanisms supporting the consolidation of this right.

Regarding **the right to participate in public life, elections, candidacy, and the management of public affairs**, Article 87 of the Constitution establishes that participation in public life is a national duty and recognizes the right of citizens to vote, stand for election, and express their opinions in referenda. The State is obliged to maintain a comprehensive and regularly updated voter database and to ensure the integrity and impartiality of the electoral process.

During the period covered by this report, the House of Representatives approved amendments to certain provisions of Law No. 46 of 2014 on the House of Representatives, Law No. 174 of 2020 concerning electoral districting, and Law No. 141 of 2020 on the Senate. Parliamentary elections

for both chambers are scheduled to take place in the final third of 2025 in accordance with these amended laws.

The amendments maintained the absolute closed-list system for 50% of the House of Representatives seats and 33% of the Senate seats. This occurred despite the national dialogue convened by the President, which had recommended consideration of alternatives, including a mixed system combining proportional representation and individual candidacy, or a full transition to proportional representation. The National Council for Human Rights had similarly recommended in previous reports the adoption of an electoral system that would provide greater empowerment for political parties.

The Council observed that public discourse on the electoral system largely favored arrangements that would ensure broader party representation and enhance competition, through a combination of proportional and individual candidacy mechanisms. However, maintaining the current system has limited competition in certain districts, as exemplified by the Senate elections, which remained confined to a single list comprising candidates from approximately twelve parties, with no additional lists submitted by the end of the reporting period (30 June 2025).

This limitation extends to local-level popular participation, as no local council elections have been conducted since their dissolution in 2011, notwithstanding the Constitution's grant of extensive oversight powers to local authorities. Although the national dialogue reaffirmed the priority of enacting a Local Administration Law and holding elections, no practical steps have yet been taken.

The Council emphasizes that political participation is not confined to the rights to vote and stand for election but also encompasses the capacity of elected institutions to fulfil their constitutional functions. During the 2020–2025 legislative term, parliamentary committees were notably active, and the use of oversight tools, particularly interpellations and formal questions, expanded, reflecting the Parliament's commitment to exercising its supervisory role. Nevertheless, the activation of more robust instruments, such as questioning of the executive, remains an area with potential to strengthen parliamentary oversight, consolidate the balance of powers, and enhance citizens' confidence in both legislative and accountability processes.

Regarding **the right to freedom of movement**, Article 62 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of movement, residence and emigration, and provides that restrictions may only be imposed by a reasoned judicial order for a specified period and in accordance with legal controls.

During the reporting period, the Supreme Administrative Court established important principles in several appeals (August–September 2024), affirming that the continued inclusion of citizens in security databases without legal basis constitutes a violation of the principle of legality and the rule of law, and represents an unjustified restriction on freedom of movement and work. The Court further held that failure to delete such data from Ministry of Interior databases constitutes a negative administrative decision subject to appeal, and involves infringement of personal rights without legal justification. The judgments emphasized the balance between security requirements and respect for fundamental rights, in accordance with Egypt's international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly regarding the right to privacy, freedom of movement and effective judicial remedy.

The Council also followed the closure of the foreign funding case No. 17 of 2011 with the issuance of the final judgment in March 2024, and the subsequent removal of the accused from travel ban lists. During the reporting period, the Council noted the removal of human rights lawyer Nasser Amin (November 2024) from travel ban lists, representing an additional step toward the complete closure of this file, in response to the Council's recommendations in its previous reports.

In light of the foregoing, the Council reaffirms that it exercises its mandate with complete independence, committed to its national responsibility, cooperative with State institutions, and adhering to the principle that the promotion of civil and political rights is an investment in societal stability and the rule of law.

### **Third: Social, Economic and Cultural Rights:**

In the context of the ongoing economic challenges, and with regard to the right to an adequate standard of living, social security, and social protection, the State has undertaken several measures to strengthen social safety nets through both conditional and unconditional cash transfer programs. Between July 2024 and June 2025, approximately 800,000 new families joined the “Takaful and Karama” program, while 600,000 families exited, bringing the total number of beneficiaries since the program’s inception to 7.7 million families. The value of cash assistance was increased by 25 per cent. Conditionalities linked to education and health contributed to higher compliance among beneficiary families with respect to school attendance and regular health care. During the reporting period, the Council received 125 requests related to access to cash transfer programs, 86 per cent of which were responded to by the relevant authorities, with the majority submitted by female heads of households—reflecting the prevailing economic and social difficulties.

With respect to **the right to health**, significant measures were undertaken to develop health infrastructure and expand the gradual implementation of the universal health insurance system in select governorates. These efforts have improved access to basic medical services and alleviated financial burdens on citizens, particularly in rural areas. Public health programs were also strengthened, including vaccination campaigns and early detection initiatives for chronic diseases such as hepatitis C, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and hypertension.

Nonetheless, the Council noted persistent challenges concerning the quality of services in some health facilities, disparities in service delivery across governorates, and relative shortages of doctors and nursing staff in certain areas. The Council emphasizes the importance of expediting the completion of comprehensive health insurance coverage, improving hospital management systems, and enhancing the capacity of medical personnel to ensure the sustainability of the right to health.

Regarding **the right to education**, despite the State’s efforts, challenges remain, particularly concerning the quality of education and equality of opportunity. The reporting period saw a significant expansion in classroom construction, resulting in a reduction of student-to-classroom ratios; however, average class sizes remain above forty students, indicating that quantitative efforts have yet to yield sufficient qualitative improvement. Teacher shortages remain a critical issue, with an average of approximately 1.2 teachers per class, below international standards.

On a positive note, government expenditure on education and scientific research has increased substantially, with the 2024/2025 budget allocating nearly EGP 1 trillion to the sector. This represents a significant step forward, which should be leveraged through improved allocation of resources to enhance education and research quality and reduce disparities between public and private education.

The Council also followed discussions regarding reform of the secondary education system, including the proposal of the “Egyptian Baccalaureate” as an alternative model, emphasizing that secondary education reform is necessary but must be preceded by broad societal dialogue and pilot testing before nationwide implementation.

In higher education, recent years have witnessed notable expansion in private and non-governmental universities, providing students with additional options but also increasing the cost of university attendance and reducing relative enrollment in public universities. These developments indicate a tendency among families to seek greater quality and diversity, even at higher financial costs.

During the reporting period, the Council received a limited number of complaints related to the right to education and observed weak responsiveness from some official bodies, highlighting the need to develop more effective mechanisms to address issues pertaining to this right.

In a related context, **the right to adequate, safe, and healthy housing** is recognized as a fundamental pillar for ensuring human dignity. The Constitution obliges the State to develop a national housing plan that promotes social justice, improves quality of life, addresses informal settlements, and allocates the necessary resources for its implementation.

Despite achievements in social housing projects and presidential initiatives that have provided hundreds of thousands of units, challenges in accessing or renting adequate housing persist, particularly in light of significant increases in real estate prices and inflationary pressures. While Egypt has recorded notable improvements in international road quality indicators, the continued high incidence of traffic accidents underscores the need for a comprehensive enhancement of road safety systems.

At the legislative level, the House of Representatives approved amendments to the Old Rent Law after years of debate, aiming to strike a balance between landlords and tenants. However, the application of the law, including the termination of contracts after a defined transitional period, raises genuine concerns regarding low-income households and their ability to secure alternative affordable housing, despite government commitments to prioritize these groups in housing projects. The National Council for Human Rights convened a roundtable to discuss the draft law, emphasizing the need to ensure social justice and protect the fundamental rights of tenants.

The Council also noted ongoing complaints regarding expropriation for public benefit or the eviction of lands and housing as part of certain national projects. Although these measures are grounded in legal authority, insufficient compensation or delays in disbursement constitute challenges that require serious attention to ensure a balance between development needs and individual rights.

Pursuant to constitutional provisions affirming that work is a right, duty, and honour guaranteed by the State, the labour market in Egypt experienced relative improvement during the reporting period, reflected in lower unemployment rates and increased employment. Nonetheless, challenges remain in ensuring the sustainability of job opportunities and compliance with decent work standards, particularly given the expansion of the informal sector, which often lacks social and health insurance coverage. As part of social protection measures, the minimum wage was raised to EGP 7,000 per month effective July 2025, although coverage for informal workers remains limited.

The Council addressed a number of complaints related to the right to work, including cases of arbitrary dismissal or transfer, poor working conditions, claims concerning financial entitlements, and requests for transfers on humanitarian grounds, receiving responses from the relevant authorities that varied in scope and effectiveness.

The enactment of the new Labour Law No. 14 of 2025 represented a significant step in strengthening workers' rights and regulating relations between employees and employers. The law expanded the scope of legal protection, reaffirmed recourse to judicial mechanisms in cases of dismissal, and addressed new forms of work. However, some civil society organizations expressed concerns regarding restrictions on the right to strike and the level of periodic wage increases.

Furthermore, rulings by both the Supreme Constitutional Court and the Supreme Administrative Court have consolidated fundamental principles ensuring equal opportunity and fairness in the recruitment of public sector positions, affirming that administrative authority in this domain is not absolute, thereby reinforcing transparency, fairness, and respect for the principle of equal opportunity.

Recognizing every citizen's **right to a safe and healthy environment**, as affirmed by the Constitution, the State continued during the reporting period to take measures aimed at balancing development needs with the preservation of natural resources. This included adopting a national climate change strategy through 2050, implementing biodiversity conservation plans, and maintaining the provisions of the Environmental Law, providing a supportive institutional and legislative framework.

The Council noted progress in several areas, including the promotion of renewable energy investment, improvements in waste management, and initiatives to enhance biodiversity. Egypt advanced to the 20th position globally in the 2025 Climate Change Performance Index. However, carbon emissions increased by 12%, even though Egypt's contribution to global emissions remains under 0.6%. While the overall impact is limited compared to major emitters, these figures highlight the ongoing need for broader measures to ensure environmental sustainability.

The State has also advanced sustainable transport initiatives, including the expansion of monorail and electric train systems, which accounted for roughly half of green investments. Infrastructure development continued, with access to drinking water reaching 99% and urban sanitation coverage 96%, while rural sanitation coverage remains at approximately 48%, achieved through over 1,400 projects costing nearly EGP 138 billion.

In the energy sector, renewable energy generation capacity increased to 8.3 gigawatts, a 22% rise over the previous year, with plans to achieve 42% of total energy from renewables by 2035, positioning Egypt as the second-largest solar energy producer in Africa. The use of alternative fuels in cement production also increased, reflecting efforts to reduce emissions.

Despite these positive developments, challenges remain, including high levels of pollution and carbon emissions, the need to expand afforestation projects, and improving environmental conditions in older urban areas to enhance the quality of life. These issues underscore the importance of sustained and comprehensive efforts to secure both environmental protection and sustainable development.

Regarding **cultural rights**, the Council noted several tangible initiatives during the reporting period. The Ministry of Culture launched the “Cultural Human Rights” platform and established a dedicated Human Rights Unit within the Ministry. Cultural and artistic events were organized at symbolic or no cost, including “People’s Cinema” and the “Citadel Story Festival.” In addition, the National Strategy for a Culture of Law, Citizenship, and Human Rights was introduced in cooperation with the National Centre for Social and Criminological Research, aiming to promote respect for the law, equality, and equal opportunities.

Significant support was also provided to traditional crafts through the Ministries of Social Solidarity, Local Development, and Industry, as well as the Small Enterprise Development Agency. Major exhibitions, such as “Our Heritage” and “Our Homes,” were organized to showcase this sector. Concurrently, the Ministry of Communications implemented specialized training programs to support youth in programming and digital technologies.

In line with its role in monitoring the influence of soft power, the Council established a Drama Committee to review Ramadan television productions for 2025. Five productions addressing key issues—including child harassment, women’s empowerment, domestic violence, and marriages exploiting religious loopholes—were selected and recognized in a dedicated ceremony. This highlighted the value of using art to promote justice and human dignity, while fostering partnerships with cultural and media institutions to strengthen a culture of human rights.

Despite these efforts, challenges persist in Egypt’s cultural landscape. The role of cultural palaces has noticeably declined, and cultural activities remain concentrated in the capital and major cities, limiting access in rural and remote areas. Cultural production continues to face financial constraints and signs of monopolization, which have affected Egypt’s historical role as a culturally influential nation regionally and internationally.

Further, some sectors, including visual arts and theatre, have shown signs of decline, and publishing and translation activities remain weak. The phenomenon of “identity and heritage theft,” through external attempts to distort historical narratives, underscores the need for stronger measures to protect and document both tangible and intangible elements of Egypt’s cultural heritage.

#### **Fourth: NCHR’s role in individual complaints handling:**

Within the framework of its legal mandate, as established under Law No. 94 of 2003 and its amendments in Law No. 197 of 2017, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) exercises its functions through a complaints system, receiving complaints from citizens and addressing them by liaising with the relevant authorities to ensure redress. These complaints constitute a primary mechanism for monitoring the human rights situation in the country and informing the Council's action plans.

In line with its commitment to enhancing service delivery, the Council completed the modernization of its electronic complaints system by introducing technical updates to the software, facilitating citizen access and generating precise qualitative reports. Additionally, the NCHR mobile application (NCHR-APP) was developed to receive complaints around the clock, complementing the online complaints platform and other reception channels, including in-person submissions, mail, fax, email, WhatsApp, and the Council's branches across eleven governorates, as well as monitoring complaints through official social media platforms.

To further facilitate citizen access, the Council continued deploying mobile units nationwide, targeting populations unable to engage directly or unfamiliar with the Council's procedures. During seven field visits, the Council met with governors, executive officials, representatives of local councils, and service providers, including hospitals, educational administrations, and care institutions, to raise awareness of the Complaints Committee's role, exchange expertise, and assess service delivery to citizens.

Building on these efforts, on 26 February 2025, the NCHR convened a consultative meeting with national complaint-handling systems, including the Prime Minister's Office complaints system and specialized national councils, to exchange experiences and establish institutional partnerships for the development of complaints reception and resolution mechanisms. The meeting concluded with practical recommendations, including linking electronic systems, enhancing coordination among national councils, concluding cooperation protocols while preserving the independence of each body, and preparing a service quality guide—measures aimed at strengthening institutional integration and supporting Egypt's human rights framework.

#### **NCHR's handling of incoming individual complaints:**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of 3,119 complaints and requests. These were categorized according to the type of rights as follows:

- Civil and political rights, including complaints related to prisoners: 2,103, of which 330 were requests for presidential pardon.
- Economic, social, and cultural rights: 329 complaints.
- Complaints from Egyptians abroad: 13 complaints.
- Complaints concerning “priority care” groups: 20 complaints.

All 3,119 complaints and pardon requests were addressed by the Council's Complaints Committee team. A total of 654 complaints and requests were archived as falling outside the Council's jurisdiction. Legal advice, guidance on required procedures, and referral to competent authorities were provided for hundreds of cases submitted either in person or via telephone.

Regarding the responsiveness of relevant authorities to complaints submitted to the Council, a total of 2,152 complaints and requests were officially referred during the reporting period. Responses were received for 1,485 cases, reflecting a 69% response rate from the concerned authorities.

The data indicate that, among all entities to which the Council referred complaints during the reporting period, the **Ministry of Interior** demonstrated the **highest level of responsiveness**, accounting for **82.49%** of total replies, followed by the **Ministry of Social Solidarity** with **7.27%**, and the **Public Prosecution** with **6.46%**.

Despite demonstrating the Council's capacity to handle large volumes of complaints and achieve relatively high response rates for priority cases, the complaints system continues to face challenges. These include lower response rates in critical sectors such as health and education, limited cooperation regarding issues affecting Egyptians abroad, and delays in responding to certain labour-related demands.

The Council continues to address these gaps by enhancing institutional coordination with relevant authorities, developing qualitative monitoring mechanisms, and expanding electronic access channels to improve the efficiency of the complaints system. In this context, the Council emphasizes that the complaints mechanism constitutes a core aspect of its mandate to protect rights and freedoms, and that its continuous development reflects the Council's commitment to the Paris Principles and the recommendations of the accreditation committee, while fostering an institutional culture grounded in transparency and accountability.

#### **Fifth: NCHR's activities and events:**

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) engaged in intensive activities at the international, regional, and national levels.

At the international level, the Council strengthened its active role in engaging with international and regional human rights mechanisms, reflecting its commitment to fostering cooperation with the United Nations system, regional partners, and peer institutions. In this context, the Council participated actively in Egypt's 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR), submitting a comprehensive national report based on diverse sources and conducting bilateral meetings with European and UN missions, underscoring its commitment to implementing recommendations and reinforcing its institutional independence.

Additionally, the Council continued its engagement with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the Arab Network of National Institutions, addressing substantive issues such as the rule of law, women, peace and security, and the promotion of Palestinian rights. It further strengthened partnerships with United Nations agencies, notably the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Refugee Agency, and the United Nations Population Fund, contributing to national capacity development and the prevention of discrimination and gender-based violence. The Council also expanded cooperation with the European Union and the Danish Institute for Human Rights through specialized training programs and dialogues, while hosting Arab and international delegations to exchange experiences and reinforce adherence to international standards.

At the national level, the NCHR continued to consolidate institutional partnerships to advance the human rights framework. Cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking was strengthened through the implementation of the “Migration Governance” project, capacity-building programs for personnel operating the Council’s hotline (15508), and awareness-raising seminars and activities targeting diverse groups. The Council also contributed to the preparation of the National Action Plan (2024–2026).

In parallel, the Council maintained an open dialogue with civil society organizations through a series of consultations and events, engaging a wide spectrum of organizations, including those holding UN consultative status. Discussions addressed the Universal Periodic Review, accession to international treaties, legislative reform, and field-level activities.

Furthermore, the Council implemented the first phase of the national campaign to promote a culture of human rights, conducting field visits to 14 governorates. This phase included 51 diverse activities reaching over 2,700 participants, including executive leaders, students, trade union representatives, and civil society actors, complemented by workshops, consultative meetings, and monitoring visits.

The Council also conducted a fact-finding mission regarding the sinking of the vessel “Sea Story.” In addition, it reinforced its oversight role through field visits in line with national and international standards, including visits to the juvenile correctional institution in Al-Marg, Al-Abbasiya Psychiatric Hospital, and the reform and rehabilitation centers in 10th of Ramadan and Badr.

Recognizing the importance of national coordination, the Council concluded a series of cooperation protocols, including with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to support institutional capacity building, the National Elections Authority to enhance democratic participation, and the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions to consolidate labour and social rights. A protocol was also signed with the Coptic Orthodox Church to promote citizenship values and peaceful coexistence.

The Council placed particular emphasis on training and capacity building, benefiting over 3,500 participants through programs targeting educators, local government personnel, trade unions, and civil society actors. Executive leaders and students were also trained on the principles of the International Bill of Human Rights and their integration into public policy.

In line with these national-level efforts, the NCHR devoted special attention to institutional development and strengthening its internal capacities, recognizing that effective performance of its mandate requires improvements in its administrative apparatus and organizational structure. Accordingly, the Council initiated a process to restructure the Secretariat in cooperation with a specialized advisory team. A supervisory committee was established, and reference criteria were prepared for selecting the team, which reviewed the existing organizational structure, internal regulations, and legislative framework, drawing on comparative models and international best practices, while conducting extensive consultations with Council members and Secretariat researchers. This process resulted in a revised organizational structure, updated departmental divisions and functions, precise job descriptions, and draft regulations for human resources and financial affairs, pending formal approval.

During the reporting period, significant institutional changes occurred in the membership and structure of the Council. The resignation of Ambassador Fahmy Fayad from the position of Secretary-General was accepted in April 2025, with Dr. Hani Ibrahim appointed to serve as Acting Secretary-General from 16 April to 7 May. The Council also approved the continuation of legal and administrative procedures to accept Dr. Hani Ibrahim's resignation from Council membership to assume the role of Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 10 of the founding law, which stipulates that the Secretary-General must be appointed from outside the membership.

On 31 May 2025, Ambassador Moushira Khattab submitted her resignation from the Chairpersonship of the Council. At its meeting on 4 June 2025, the Council took the necessary legal measures and announced the appointment of Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem as Acting Chairperson in accordance with the provisions of the law, until the end of the term of office.

### **Sixth: Recommendations:**

Drawing on its constitutional and legal mandate as an independent national institution, and based on its assessment of the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) offers the following key recommendations. These are intended to guide relevant stakeholders in strengthening national efforts to promote and protect human rights, in accordance with Egypt's constitutional framework and its obligations under international human rights instruments:

#### **I. Recommendations on National Policies and the Institutional Framework for Human Rights Protection**

- Update the National Human Rights Strategy and extend its implementation until 2030, adopting a comprehensive participatory approach in its review and revision. This should incorporate recommendations from the NCHR, treaty-based international mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review, special procedures, and UN mandate holders. The Council encourages the Permanent Supreme Human Rights Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework based on measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators, maintain transparency in reporting on implementation, and shorten intervals between follow-up reports.
- Expedite the establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Commission and implement relevant constitutional provisions through legislation, drawing on best international practices for similar institutions.
- Address recommendations from the NCHR and relevant international mechanisms regarding amendments to Law No. 197 of 2017 to strengthen the Council's independence and authority, particularly regarding unannounced visits to detention and rehabilitation facilities, ensuring legal protection for Council members, and adopting transparent procedures for the appointment of Council members.
- Enhance responsiveness of relevant authorities and law enforcement agencies to complaints and reports submitted to the NCHR, ensuring that responses provide clear evidence of investigative actions. Establish more effective joint mechanisms with relevant authorities to ensure thorough investigation and verification of complaints.

## **II. Recommendations on Civil and Political Rights**

- Review the scope of crimes punishable by death, limiting them to the most serious offenses, and consider a voluntary moratorium on executions pending this review.
- Align provisions on torture and ill-treatment in the Penal Code with the UN Convention against Torture, including expanding liability to those who attempt, participate in, or are complicit in acts of torture.
- Expand the use of presidential pardons, focusing on individuals detained for political participation or freedom of expression, and encourage the Public Prosecution to adopt mitigating measures and review pretrial detention practices.
- Respond promptly to complaints of enforced disappearances and continue Public Prosecution oversight of detention facilities, publishing detailed findings and corrective measures.
- Advance the Ministry of Interior's plan to modernize prisons and rehabilitate police detention facilities to meet required infrastructure standards and uphold detainees' rights.
- Expand juvenile correctional facilities and ensure access to education, vocational training, and complaint mechanisms, addressing gaps identified in NCHR missions.
- Review and, if necessary, amend the Asylum Law and its regulations to ensure fair treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, including interim protection and minimum rights pending decisions.
- Consider concerns regarding the new Criminal Procedure Law, particularly on defense rights and prosecutorial powers, and remain open to adjustments enhancing the justice system.
- Review counter-terrorism legislation to ensure proportionality and safeguard rights.
- Implement recommendations from the National Dialogue on legislative and institutional reforms to facilitate citizens' political rights, including timely enactment of the Local Councils Law and amendments to electoral laws to enhance political participation and competitiveness.
- Enact a Law on Access to Information to support freedom of opinion and expression.
- Review and update laws affecting press freedom, including Penal, Criminal Procedure, Anti-Terrorism, Cybercrime, and media regulation laws, ensuring inclusive public consultation with journalists and civil society.
- Facilitate licensing for digital media platforms, prevent arbitrary blocking, and support compliance of unlicensed platforms.
- Amend the Public Assemblies Law to ease restrictions on peaceful gatherings, taking into account Egypt's improved security context.
- Reform electoral laws and districting frameworks to enhance political representation, expand party participation, and restore local elections after a prolonged hiatus.

## **III. Recommendations on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**

- Address challenges in implementing the new Social Security Law, ensuring access for women in informal separations and informal workers, while adjusting cash support to reflect inflation.
- Accelerate implementation of universal health coverage, addressing delays from earlier phases.

- Develop solutions to address medical staff shortages and emigration, through consultation with healthcare professionals and stakeholders.
- Ensure the executive regulations under the Medical Liability Law clarify serious medical error, maintain healthcare quality, and guarantee the independence of oversight committees.
- Promote broad societal dialogue on education priorities, particularly at the secondary level, involving all stakeholders.
- Strengthen responsiveness of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education to complaints concerning the right to education.
- Address issues arising from the implementation of the Old Rent Law, ensuring access to adequate housing and safeguards for affected tenants.
- Apply labor law provisions to protect informal sector workers, ensure decent work standards, occupational safety, and prevent child labor.
- Develop a national strategy to enhance the competitiveness of Egyptian cultural production regionally and internationally, protect cultural heritage, and prevent misappropriation of identity and history.

#### **IV. Recommendations on Institutional Development and Strengthening the Role of the NCHR**

- Support amendments to the NCHR Law to enhance independence and broaden the Council's mandate in line with the Paris Principles.
- Develop digital complaint platforms and data analysis tools, and publish annual reports on recurring violations.
- Complete the institutional restructuring of the Secretariat, establish specialized units to monitor implementation of recommendations, and publish periodic reports on stakeholders' responses.
- Develop performance indicators to assess the impact of NCHR recommendations on legislation and public policy.
- Expand unannounced visits to detention facilities and publish findings to enhance transparency and alignment with international standards.
- Implement field monitoring to assess the impact of national initiatives, such as the “Decent Life – Haya Karima” initiative, on targeted groups’ economic and social rights.
- Issue an annual report on public budgets for health and education, analyzing compliance with constitutional obligations and human rights standards.
- Develop a joint national plan with specialized councils to protect vulnerable groups, including a monitoring system for care institutions.

This set of recommendations reflects the NCHR’s ongoing commitment to advancing human rights in Egypt and fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation.

# **Chapter I: The State of Civil and Political Rights in the Arab Republic of Egypt**

**(July 2024- June 2025)**

## **Preface**

The 2014 Egyptian Constitution enshrines an advanced framework of civil and political rights and freedoms, establishing a comprehensive legal and institutional basis for their exercise and protection. It articulates a broad set of obligations and guarantees designed to ensure that citizens can enjoy their rights within a coherent and clear constitutional framework. The National Human Rights Strategy, launched in September 2021, translates this commitment into concrete plans and programs, reflecting the State's ambition to strengthen these rights and ensure their effective implementation. In this context, in 2022, the President of the Republic initiated a national dialogue on political, economic, and social issues and challenges, which, following nearly two years of consultations, resulted in a set of recommendations submitted to the Presidency and the Government for consideration regarding their implementation.

During the period covered by the eighteenth report of the National Council for Human Rights (July 2024 – June 2025), the legislative and political landscape witnessed significant developments. Key milestones included the enactment of the Criminal Procedure Law, the Law Regulating the Status of Foreign Refugees, as well as legislation governing the parliamentary elections scheduled for the last third of 2025. In addition, Egypt underwent its fourth Universal Periodic Review before the United Nations Human Rights Council in November 2024, resulting in the government's acceptance of 281 recommendations, a substantial portion of which pertained to civil and political rights.

In monitoring these developments, the Council observes that certain legislation enacted during the reporting period has generated debate and divergent views. Some civil society and human rights actors have expressed the view that specific provisions do not fully reflect the outcomes of the national dialogue or its recommendations regarding the enhancement of civil and political rights. These concerns were also raised by professional associations, human rights organizations, and experts, which the Council has duly noted in its role as an independent national institution tasked with promoting and protecting human rights.

During the same period, the Council received a number of complaints alleging violations of civil and political rights. While the Public Prosecution continues to investigate several of these complaints, some responses from law enforcement agencies or official statements have yet to provide sufficient clarity. The Council therefore emphasizes the importance of completing the necessary procedures to ensure that these complaints are addressed fully. At the same time, the Council welcomes the continued issuance of presidential pardons and the release of certain detainees, recognizing these as positive steps. Nevertheless, the continued use of pretrial detention remains a concern, particularly as some individuals detained or sentenced in cases related to the exercise of civil and political rights remain outside the scope of these measures.

As the National Human Rights Strategy approaches its fifth and final year, and with the current legislative term (2020–2025) nearing its conclusion, several important legislative reforms remain pending. To date, no law regulating access to information has been enacted; a new law on local governance, which would organize local councils in line with constitutional provisions, has not been considered; and necessary reforms to the Penal Code and other legislation affecting freedom of opinion and expression remain outstanding. Moreover, despite the clear constitutional mandate in Article 53, legislation establishing an independent Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination has yet to be enacted, even though both the national dialogue and the Council have put forward comprehensive proposals in this regard.

The National Council for Human Rights, in its role as an independent national institution, emphasizes that constitutional guarantees require further implementation through a legislative framework that aligns more closely with both the text and the spirit of the Constitution. Such measures are essential to ensure that citizens can effectively exercise their civil and political rights and to reinforce confidence in the institutions responsible for their protection.

In terms of engagement with international mechanisms, Egypt submitted its periodic reports covering the twenty-third to the twenty-eighth cycles to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 12 June 2025. The reports addressed the constitutional, legislative, and institutional frameworks, as well as national efforts, with particular focus on challenges and initiatives in border regions. The Council participated actively in this process.

This chapter provides a detailed and analytical review of the state of civil and political rights in Egypt for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. It is based on the Council's monitoring and observations, reflecting its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of public policies in accordance with national and international standards.

### **The Right to Life**

The right to life is a fundamental human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a State party. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration provides that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person," while Article 6 of the Covenant stipulates that "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life."

The extensive scope of capital offences in Egypt remains one of the principal challenges to safeguarding the right to life. Since its establishment, the National Council for Human Rights has consistently called for a review of offences punishable by death, recommending their restriction to the most serious crimes. In its sixteenth and seventeenth reports, the Council further advocated for a voluntary moratorium on executions pending such legislative review. While the National Human Rights Strategy acknowledges the importance of reviewing capital offences, this review has not yet been undertaken. Nevertheless, the pace of executions has significantly declined during the reporting period.

The Council closely monitored the incident in Matrouh Governorate on 10 April 2025 involving the deaths of Youssef Al-Sarhany and Farag Al-Farazy, following security events that commenced on 9 April 2025. According to official statements by the Ministry of Interior, a security operation to apprehend a wanted individual resulted in the deaths of three police officers. The Ministry stated that the two deceased persons were wanted in connection with weapons and narcotics offences, and were killed during an armed confrontation with security forces; weapons were reportedly recovered in their possession. Conversely, alternative accounts reported by certain organizations alleged that Al-Sarhani and Al-Farazi had surrendered voluntarily, were not officially wanted, and were killed under unclear circumstances while being transported by security forces.

In light of these allegations and developments, the Public Prosecution initiated an investigation, requesting the Forensic Medicine Authority to examine the bodies, taking witness statements, and completing related security inquiries. Final results have not yet been disclosed. The Council emphasizes the importance of conducting comprehensive, transparent and independent investigations, with timely public disclosure of findings, to strengthen confidence in the justice system and the State's commitment to protecting rights and freedoms.

During the reporting period, the Council's Civil and Political Rights Committee issued a statement expressing concern regarding incidents in areas including Marsa Matrouh and Al-Warraq Island involving confrontations and acts of violence. The Council underscores that addressing such incidents requires thorough and credible investigations with public disclosure of outcomes to reinforce confidence in the rule of law.

Additionally, on 16 May 2025, in connection with Egypt's submission of its periodic report to the Committee against Torture, the Committee addressed a letter to the Permanent Mission of Egypt highlighting concerns regarding the application of the death penalty. The letter noted that Egypt had not taken substantial steps to amend domestic legislation—including the Penal Code, Counter-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015, Narcotics Law No. 82 of 1960, High Treason Law No. 247 of 1956, Military Judgments Law No. 25 of 1966, Civil Aviation Law No. 28 of 1981, Law on Order and Discipline on Board Ships No. 167 of 1960, and Organ Transplantation Law No. 142 of 2017—to ensure that the death penalty is never mandatory and is restricted to the most serious crimes, understood as offences involving intentional killing.

In this context, on 7 November 2024, the Council organized a national workshop on "The Application of the Death Penalty," convening civil society representatives, legal experts and academics. Participants examined ways to restrict the use of capital punishment and strengthen legal safeguards, particularly in cases of a political or economic nature. The workshop concluded with specific recommendations calling for amendments to relevant criminal legislation, enhanced judicial awareness, and ensuring transparency and proportionality in capital sentencing.

The Council also conducted a comprehensive review of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, issuing formal recommendations to reconsider provisions prescribing capital punishment, noting that the Penal Code currently provides for the death penalty for approximately seventy-seven offences. The Council further called for strengthened procedural safeguards in trials that may result in capital punishment.

At the regional and international levels, the Council participated in multiple conferences and meetings focused on limiting the application of the death penalty, including the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions conference in Jordan (October 2024), which examined human rights developments in the Arab region including capital punishment, and the Baku Declaration meetings on human rights and climate change (October 2024), which provided a platform for the Council to present its perspective on promoting the right to life and related safeguards.

### **Protection against torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment**

The Egyptian Constitution, in Article 51, recognizes dignity as a fundamental right of every individual, which must not be violated, and obliges the State to respect and safeguard it. Article 52 criminalizes all forms of torture, specifying that such acts are not subject to prescription. Article 60 affirms the inviolability of the human body, criminalizing assault, mutilation, or mistreatment, and prohibits organ trafficking. It also requires that no medical or scientific experimentation be conducted without the individual's documented, free consent, in line with established medical standards, as regulated by law.

During the period covered by this report, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) received 190 complaints alleging torture or ill-treatment. The majority—179 complaints—were submitted by or on behalf of detainees in rehabilitation centers, while 11 complaints related to alleged mistreatment in police stations or central prisons during detention.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) addressed official communications to both the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution, requesting that thorough investigations be conducted into complaints alleging torture and ill-treatment.

During the reporting period, the Council recorded a high level of responsiveness, with over 95% of these complaints receiving official replies. According to the information provided, the cases were investigated by the competent authorities, including the Human Rights Sector of the Ministry of Interior and the Technical Office of the Public Prosecutor.

The responses indicated that medical examinations were conducted for the detainees concerned to verify the presence or absence of any visible injuries, followed by individual interviews to document their accounts of the alleged violations and to identify those responsible. The competent authorities subsequently shared the findings of these investigations with the Council.

Most responses indicated no signs of torture were found. While many complaints were submitted by family members, official investigations and the statements of some detainees themselves denied the allegations. The Council notes that such discrepancies highlight the need for strengthened guarantees of independent and transparent investigations to ensure trust in the outcomes and protection of all parties' rights.

The Council also monitored allegations concerning the death of Mahmoud Mohamed Asaad (“Mika”) while in detention at Al-Khalifa Police Station. He was arrested on 6 March 2025 in connection with a narcotics case. Allegations emerged of severe torture and medical negligence. The Ministry of Interior issued an official statement attributing the death to a “psychological

disturbance” and related health complications. The Council emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive, transparent, and independent investigation to clarify the circumstances and maintain public confidence in justice.

Finally, the NCHR continues to advocate for the amendment of the Penal Code provisions on torture and ill-treatment to align with the definition in the UN Convention against Torture. It recommends revising Article 126 to ensure conformity with Article 1 of the Convention and extending the scope to include anyone who attempts, conspires, or participates in acts of torture, as provided in Article 4(1) of the Convention.

### **Right to Liberty and Personal Security**

Article 54 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees that personal liberty is a natural right that must be protected and cannot be infringed. Except in cases of *flagrante delicto*, no one may be arrested, searched, detained, or have their liberty restricted except by a reasoned judicial order. Any person whose liberty is restricted must be promptly informed of the reasons, provided with a written statement of their rights, allowed immediate access to family and legal counsel, and presented before the competent investigative authority within twenty-four hours.

During the reporting period, there was a notable decrease in reported or monitored cases of alleged or unlawful detention, as well as a reduction in arrests of activists for exercising freedom of expression or political rights. Several high-profile detainees were released, including former presidential candidate Ahmed Tantawy and his campaign director Mohamed Abu Eldiyar, who had faced custodial sentences related to allegations of falsifying mandates for presidential elections.

At the same time, the Council continued to monitor cases of pretrial detention of certain activists and journalists on various charges. Notable cases include cartoonist Ashraf Omar, arrested in July 2024 on charges of joining a terrorist group and publishing false news, who remains in pretrial detention; journalist Khaled Mamdouh of “Arabi Post,” arrested on 16 July 2024 on similar charges, whose detention prompted objections from the Journalists’ Syndicate and the International Federation of Journalists; and Yahya Hussein Abdelhady, arrested on 31 July 2024 on the same charges, who remains in pretrial detention. Political opposition figure and economic expert Abdelkhaleq Farouk was detained on 20 October 2024 and remains in pretrial detention. Complaints submitted by family members and legal representatives indicate concerns over the detainees’ health, particularly given their age.

The Council also received complaints alleging police entry into citizens’ homes during arrest operations, resulting in claimed abuses. Ten complaints concerning violations of the right to liberty and personal security were recorded, and responses were received for four. The majority of official responses indicated that investigations did not substantiate the allegations, confirming that actions taken were consistent with legal procedures, while also noting that some complaints appeared to hinder law enforcement activities.

Overall, the Council emphasizes the importance of balancing lawful enforcement with robust protection of personal liberty and ensuring transparent and accountable procedures in all detention cases.

During the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) addressed 25 cases of alleged enforced disappearance, most of which were reported between July 2024 and June 2025, in addition to several cases reported in previous periods for which the Council had not received information regarding the individuals' fate.

The Council received official updates from the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution concerning 14 cases, representing 56% of the reported disappearances. Among these, nine cases involved individuals who were detainees at rehabilitation centers or held in custody pending cases before the Public Prosecution or the judiciary; four cases involved individuals who had not been previously detained or charged; and one individual had been released. Eleven cases remain without clarification.

A case of particular concern during this period was that of **lawyer Hoda Abdel Moneim**, who served as a member of the NCHR from 2012 to 2013. She was detained on 21 November 2018 in connection with Case No. 1552 of 2018 before the Supreme State Security Prosecution, approximately five years after her tenure at the Council had ended. A final judgment sentenced her to five years' imprisonment. Currently, Ms. Abdel Moneim remains in pretrial detention in a separate case, Case No. 730 of 2020. The case files do not indicate any connection between the charges and her prior membership in the Council.

The NCHR formally addressed both the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution regarding the continued detention of Ms. Abdel Moneim after the completion of her sentence in the previous case. The Council expressed particular concern regarding her health and requested a field visit to her detention facility to assess her living and medical conditions and ensure compliance with relevant national and international standards. On 22 May 2025, a Council delegation visited the Tenth of Ramadan Rehabilitation Center, reviewed her medical file alongside others, and confirmed that she was receiving necessary healthcare. Additionally, a legal representative of the Council attended the court session on 14 May 2025 to monitor proceedings and ensure they conformed with guarantees of a fair trial.

### **Treatment of people deprived of their liberty**

Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution provides that: "*Everyone who is arrested, detained, or otherwise restricted in their liberty shall be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. No person shall be subjected to torture, intimidation, coercion, or physical or psychological harm. Detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated facilities that meet humane and health standards. The State shall provide accessibility measures for persons with disabilities. Any violation of these provisions constitutes a punishable offense under the law.*"

Article 56 further provides that: "*Prisons are institutions for correction and rehabilitation. Prisons and places of detention are subject to judicial oversight. Practices that violate human dignity or*

*endanger health are prohibited. The law shall regulate the correction and rehabilitation of convicts and facilitate their reintegration into society upon release.”*

The Council recognizes the Egyptian Ministry of Interior's efforts to replace outdated prisons lacking the necessary infrastructure for respecting human rights with modern correction and rehabilitation centers equipped with high-quality furnishings, healthcare, rehabilitation facilities, and living standards that allow for the application of human rights standards. These efforts have resulted in the establishment of five major rehabilitation centers distributed geographically: Wadi El Natrun (Beheira Governorate), Badr, 10th of Ramadan, and 15 May (Greater Cairo), and Akhmim (Sohag Governorate, Upper Egypt). The creation and operation of these centers have allowed the closure of 27 of the 42 old prisons.

During the reporting period, the Council received 1,862 complaints and requests relating to inmates of rehabilitation centers. These included 1,023 requests for conditional or medical release, 330 requests related to presidential pardon initiatives or release pending cases, 179 complaints alleging ill-treatment or torture, 164 requests for transfer to another rehabilitation center, and 145 requests for medical care.

Concerning the response of competent authorities, 67 inmates were released, 367 inmates meeting the conditions were scheduled for review by the relevant committee, and 245 inmates were deemed ineligible for release. Regarding allegations of torture and ill-treatment, the Ministry of Interior responded to 174 of the 179 complaints received.

In relation to transfer requests, 164 submissions were received from inmates' relatives requesting relocation to rehabilitation centers closer to their residence to facilitate communication. Responses were received for 72.6% of these requests; 35 inmates were successfully transferred, while logistical challenges or insufficient capacity prevented the execution of other requests.

Regarding presidential pardon initiatives and cooperation with the Public Prosecution on pretrial detention and the release of convicts in cases related to violations of laws regulating civil and political rights, 151 pretrial detainees were released by the Public Prosecution in September 2024, and Presidential Decree No. 581 of 2024 granted pardon to 54 convicts in Military Case No. 2023/80/811 in Ismailia, Northern Sinai.

During the reporting period, the Council monitored allegations of violations at Badr 3 Rehabilitation Center, including reports of hunger strikes and complaints of ill-treatment. Complaints were also received regarding the death of inmate Mohamed Hilal on 8 April 2025 at Kasr Al-Aini Hospital following health deterioration, with allegations attributing his death to neglect.

In this context, the Council notes that in September 2024, the Public Prosecutor, accompanied by a team, conducted an on-site inspection of Badr Rehabilitation Center, marking the first such visit by the Prosecutor to a rehabilitation center. Additionally, the Council monitored inspection visits by Public Prosecution members to 17 police stations, children's care and rehabilitation centers, and multiple correction and rehabilitation centers, including Borg El Arab, New Valley, 10th of Ramadan, Wadi El Natrun, Akhmim, Gamasa, Minya, and 15 May. The Council emphasizes that

these inspection visits—whose frequency increased significantly—are commendable and essential, given the Prosecution’s legal mandate to oversee rehabilitation centers and detention facilities.

Pursuant to Article 16 of its enabling law (Law No. 197 of 2017), the NCHR conducted two visits to rehabilitation centers during the reporting period: the 10th of Ramadan and Badr centers. The Council also visited juvenile correctional institutions, including the Al-Marj Juvenile Institution. During these visits, the Council assessed compliance with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and the Bangkok Rules for female inmates. Visits also evaluated community protection and reintegration procedures for rehabilitation and correctional facility inmates. The Council employed a rights-based methodology linking practical conditions to international standards, including evaluation of facilities and services, interviews with inmates and families, and review of procedures related to human dignity, healthcare, and rehabilitation.

Overall, the Council noted the availability of healthcare and educational services, including medical centers with attached psychiatric and addiction treatment units and early cancer detection units. Progress was observed in reintegration, education, and protection of juvenile inmates. However, the Council could not access inmates’ wards during visits to the 10th of Ramadan and Badr centers.

At the Al-Marj Juvenile Institution, challenges remain, including the presence of older children who cannot read or write and are excluded from literacy and adult education programs due to regulatory restrictions. Additionally, although a complaint box exists, inmates were generally unaware of its purpose or their right to submit complaints; the Council informed them of both. While a significant number of computers are available, there are no training programs on computer skills. Finally, as the only juvenile correctional facility in the country, Al-Marj hosts inmates from multiple governorates, imposing financial and logistical burdens on families wishing to visit.

### **Rights of Refugees and Lawfully Resident Foreign Nationals**

Article 59 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees that “every person has the right to a secure life,” obligating the State to ensure safety and security for its citizens as well as all persons residing on its territory. Article 91 further provides that the State may grant political asylum to any foreign national persecuted for defending the interests of peoples, human rights, peace, or justice, and that the surrender of political refugees is prohibited, in accordance with the law.

During the period covered by this report, the Egyptian House of Representatives enacted Law No. 164 of 2024 on the Regulation of Foreign Asylum, published in the Official Gazette on 16 December 2024. The law applies to refugees and asylum seekers, including those who acquired refugee status prior to its entry into force. Its objective is to establish a comprehensive legal framework balancing the rights of refugees with the obligations of the State, consistent with Egypt’s international commitments, notably the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) issued an opinion paper on the law, recognizing it as Egypt's first independent and comprehensive national legislation regulating refugees, distinct from the operational role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), while maintaining coordination with the UNHCR in a manner that does not affect national sovereignty in granting asylum. The Council emphasized the need for a clear executive regulation to ensure transparency and facilitate practical implementation, recommended strengthening the technical and legal capacity of the Permanent Committee established under the law, and urged awareness-raising programs to inform refugees of their rights and obligations.

The law introduces several notable features, including an institutional mechanism for managing refugee affairs and prioritization in the processing of asylum requests for persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, unaccompanied minors, and victims of human trafficking, torture, or sexual violence. It also guarantees a package of rights for recognized refugees, including the issuance of travel documents, protection against expulsion to their country of nationality or habitual residence, freedom of religious belief and practice, adherence to personal status laws of their home or host country, the right to legal recourse, the right to work, access to primary education for refugee children, recognition of foreign academic qualifications, and access to appropriate health care.

Despite these advances, the Council notes concerns requiring attention either through the executive regulations or revisions to certain provisions of the law. These include the broad discretionary powers of the Permanent Committee to reject asylum applications, revoke refugee status, and take undefined measures against applicants and recognized refugees, often citing national security or public order without precise legal definitions. While judicial appeal mechanisms exist, the law requires safeguards to ensure that affected individuals can exhaust judicial remedies without risk of deportation.

Concerns were also raised regarding the retroactive application of the law, which extends to current asylum seekers and refugees, necessitating clear transitional procedures to manage ongoing cases, which number in the hundreds of thousands. Additionally, the law limits rights solely to recognized refugees, excluding pending applicants, raising concerns given that the majority of foreigners in Egypt fall into this category and require minimal rights until their claims are processed.

During the period under review, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families issued its concluding observations on 15 January 2025 regarding Egypt's consolidated periodic reports (Second to Fourth). The Committee welcomed Egypt's ratification of significant international instruments, including the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (7 June 2024), the Arab Charter on Human Rights (24 February 2019), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (29 June 2017), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (14 April 2008). It also commended Egypt for legislative measures, including Law No. 82 of 2016 on Combating Illegal Migration and Human Smuggling, Law No. 64 of 2010 on Combating Human Trafficking, and related decrees, as well as policy measures such as the Fourth National Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Irregular Migration (2024–2026), the Third National Strategy to Combat and Prevent Human Trafficking (2022–2026), and initiatives for child protection and refugee assistance.

At the same time, the Committee expressed concern regarding reports of discrimination in accessing rights and services, barriers to remedies for migrant workers, including lack of resources, limited legal assistance, language obstacles, fear of deportation, and low legal awareness. Reports of hate crimes and speech, detention and pushback of asylum seekers, labor exploitation, and collective expulsions were also noted. The Committee further observed that some health services, including public health campaigns, are contingent on nationality and thus not universally accessible, and expressed concern over measures restricting financial transfers by migrant workers.

The Council notes that the situation of refugees, asylum seekers, and lawfully resident foreigners in Egypt is of increasing importance due to the substantial burden borne by the State resulting from regional conflicts, including in Sudan, Libya, and the ongoing escalation of hostilities by the Israeli occupation in Gaza since October 2023.

### **The Rights to Fair and Equitable Trial**

The Fourth Chapter of the Egyptian Constitution, entitled "*The Rule of Law*," regulates the rights and guarantees related to fair and equitable trial. Through seven comprehensive provisions (Articles 94 to 100), the Constitution affirms the principles of the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, the right to litigation, the right of defense, and the State's obligation to enforce judicial decisions. Furthermore, Article 198 explicitly safeguards the rights of lawyers and outlines their role as essential partners in the administration of justice.

The reporting period witnessed a significant legislative development with the House of Representatives' adoption of the new Criminal Procedure Code on 29 April 2025. As of the preparation of this report, no official confirmation or publication in the Official Gazette had been received indicating the President's ratification of the law.

The new law represents a cornerstone reform in procedural justice, given its substantive implications for human rights guarantees, litigation procedures, and the acceleration of judicial proceedings, while upholding the principles of fair trial and the right to defense.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) actively participated in discussions surrounding the draft law from its earliest stages, through position papers and interventions focusing on key issues affecting the justice system—most notably, the question of pre-trial detention. The Council has consistently identified this matter as a central pillar of its mandate, reiterating recommendations across successive sessions that emphasize the need for substantive legislative reform to ensure conformity with international standards.

In this context, the Chair of the Council, Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem, presented a specialized paper during the National Dialogue sessions outlining the Council's position on pre-trial detention and alternative measures. The Council also organized a series of consultative meetings and workshops involving experts and civil society organizations, dedicated substantial space to the issue in its forums and annual reports, and reaffirmed in its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submission the need for a comprehensive review of the relevant legislation. These efforts culminated in four specialized workshops convened by the Council's Legislative Committee,

which produced a set of recommendations underscoring the importance of aligning the new law with the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The new Criminal Procedure Code incorporates several long-awaited positive reforms, notably:

- The explicit protection of the inviolability of private dwellings, prohibiting entry, search, surveillance, or interception without a reasoned judicial warrant specifying time, place, and purpose.
- Restrictions on the powers of judicial enforcement officers concerning arrest and search.
- Affirmation of the exclusive competence of the Public Prosecution to investigate and initiate criminal proceedings.
- The regulation of pre-trial detention as a precautionary, not punitive, measure, setting a maximum duration, requiring justification, and establishing a right to moral and material compensation for wrongful detention. This includes the mandatory publication of final acquittals and orders of non-prosecution in two widely circulated daily newspapers at government expense, as well as a comprehensive framework for financial compensation.

The law also introduces new mechanisms consistent with the State's digital transformation agenda, including the use of electronic and telephonic notifications alongside traditional methods, the establishment of notification centers linked to the Civil Status Authority, and the obligation for enforcement officers to record national identification numbers of suspects upon verification of identity. Furthermore, the Public Prosecution is now required to record all personal data of defendants at first appearance to avoid identity confusion.

Additionally, the law places strict limitations on travel ban orders, confining their issuance to the Public Prosecutor or Investigating Judge, mandating that they be reasoned, time-bound, and subject to judicial appeal, with courts required to issue a ruling within 15 days.

Despite these positive developments, the law has generated substantive human rights debate regarding certain provisions that may affect fair trial guarantees. Chief among these are Articles 79 and 116, which authorize the Public Prosecution to monitor correspondence and telecommunications and conduct surveillance, raising concerns about the right to privacy. Additionally, provisions allowing the Prosecution to carry out investigations in the absence of the defendant, defense counsel, or legal representative could undermine the effectiveness of legal representation and restrict the defense's role, thereby posing challenges to the principles of fairness and due process.

In parallel with these legislative debates, the NCHR noted the issuance of significant judicial rulings by the Court of Cassation, which strengthened legal principles related to fair trial guarantees. Of particular note was the Criminal Chamber's ruling in Appeal No. 613/94 (15 February 2025), in which the Court affirmed that acquittals based on substantive grounds—such as the invalidity of evidence or falsity of the alleged act—extend their res judicata effect to all crimes arising from the same incident, provided that material connection, unity of cause, and identity of persons are established. The Court linked this principle to the unity of conduct and integrated criminal intent, concluding that retrial for acts previously adjudicated constitutes a violation of legal certainty, judicial stability, and fair trial guarantees.

Similarly, in its Civil Chamber ruling (Appeal No. 12174/93, 1 August 2024), the Court reaffirmed a fundamental tenet of the right to a fair hearing—namely, the duty of courts to comprehensively and impartially examine all material evidence and documents submitted by the parties. The Court held that a judgment may be invalidated for either misrepresentation of documentary evidence or failure to address it altogether, both constituting a breach of the right to defense and a serious legal error. The Court emphasized that although property rights pass to heirs upon the death of the decedent, the effects of such transfer against third parties require registration of inheritance rights. In the case at hand, despite the appellants having presented a duly registered inheritance deed proving ownership of the disputed land, the lower courts ignored this critical document, which the Court found could have altered the outcome of the case, thereby constituting a serious violation of justice and misuse of judicial discretion.

During the reporting period, the Committee against Torture (CAT) addressed a communication to the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 16 May 2025, following Egypt's submission of its periodic report. The Committee expressed concerns regarding counter-terrorism measures and the state of emergency, particularly the broad powers granted to the President under the Emergency Law, including the appointment of judges, suspension of investigations, ordering retrials, and confirming, amending, or annulling verdicts issued by State Security (Emergency) Courts. The Committee noted the continued jurisdiction of these courts over cases referred during the emergency period and expressed concern that defendants before such courts remain subject to exceptional procedures lacking the fundamental guarantees of due process and fair trial. The Committee further observed that, despite the lifting of the state of emergency, other legislative frameworks, notably Law No. 94 of 2015 on Combating Terrorism and Law No. 8 of 2015 on Terrorist Entities, continue to grant the government broad powers similar to those under the Emergency Law.

During the reporting period, the NCHR received 78 petitions concerning the implementation of judicial rulings, submitted by individuals claiming non-execution of final judgments rendered in their favor. Approximately 66.7% of these petitions received formal responses. The Council also received six petitions related to pre-trial detention, wherein applicants requested release pending investigation on health or humanitarian grounds.

Finally, the Council expressed its serious reservations regarding the imposition of new judicial fees under the designation of “automated service charges,” viewing them as a restriction on the constitutional right to access justice and a barrier preventing vulnerable groups from seeking judicial remedy. The introduction of these fees has been the subject of significant debate and objection among members of the Bar.

### **The Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion**

Article 53 of the Constitution provides that all citizens are equal before the law and are equal in rights, freedoms, and public duties, without discrimination on the basis of religion or belief. Article 64 further stipulates that freedom of belief is absolute, and that the freedom to practice religious rituals and to establish places of worship for followers of the heavenly religions is a right regulated by law.

Several years ago, the Egyptian Parliament enacted Law No. 80 of 2016 regulating the construction and restoration of churches in Egypt. The objective of this law is to organize the construction, restoration, and maintenance of churches and their affiliated buildings, taking into account the needs of Christian denominations and ensuring their ability to freely practice their religious rites. Since the adoption of this law, the regularization of the status of churches in Egypt has witnessed notable progress over the past eight years.

By the end of 2024, the legal status of 3,453 churches and affiliated buildings belonging to various Christian denominations had been regularized. This figure represents a significant acceleration compared to previous years and demonstrates the commitment of both the State and the churches to ensuring that places of worship are properly regulated in a manner that guarantees the rights of Christian citizens to practice their faith freely and safely.

The regularization process typically begins with a formal application submitted by the competent ecclesiastical authority, accompanied by the legal documents proving ownership of the land or building, or a valid lease agreement. The building must have existed prior to the promulgation of the Church Construction Law in 2016 or within the specified grace period, and must comply with the engineering and technical standards required to ensure public safety.

Before the enactment of the 2016 law, the construction and restoration of churches faced considerable bureaucratic and procedural obstacles, resulting in a large number of unlicensed churches. Following the adoption of the law, procedures were streamlined and specialized committees were established, which contributed to expediting the regularization process and creating a more stable legal environment. Nevertheless, some complaints persist regarding procedural complexities and difficulties in regularizing certain churches and affiliated buildings, particularly in rural areas.

In recent years, there has also been extensive public debate regarding the adoption of a Personal Status Law for Christians. However, the draft law has not yet been included on the agenda of the House of Representatives, despite its importance in light of recurring complaints concerning the existing regulatory framework.

On 25 August 2024, the National Council for Human Rights held a roundtable discussion on the U.S. Department of State's 2023 International Religious Freedom Report, focusing on the section pertaining to Egypt. The roundtable brought together intellectuals, writers, representatives of religious institutions, and members of the Council. The discussion concluded with recommendations emphasizing the need to expedite the issuance of the Personal Status Law for non-Muslims, to continue reviewing school curricula to ensure the integration of principles of religious freedom and respect for diversity, and to further strengthen the operational mechanisms of the committee responsible for regularizing the status of churches and affiliated buildings.

### **The Right to Freedom of Expression**

The Egyptian Constitution enshrines a comprehensive set of provisions safeguarding the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and guaranteeing the freedom of the press, publication, and media. Article 65 affirms that freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed, and that every person

has the right to express their opinion through speech, writing, imagery, or any other means of expression and dissemination.

Article 68 provides that “information, data, statistics, and official documents are the property of the people,” and that disclosure from their various sources is a right guaranteed by the State to every citizen. The State is obliged to ensure their provision and accessibility with transparency. The law regulates procedures for obtaining and accessing information, maintaining confidentiality, and establishing penalties for withholding information or deliberately providing false data.

Article 70 guarantees freedom of the press and of all forms of publication—print, audio-visual, and electronic—and grants Egyptians, whether natural or legal persons, public or private, the right to own and issue newspapers and establish media outlets, including digital platforms. Newspapers may be issued upon notification as regulated by law. The article prohibits any form of censorship, confiscation, suspension, or closure of Egyptian media outlets, and forbids custodial penalties for publication-related offenses, except in cases involving incitement to violence, discrimination, or defamation, for which penalties are determined by law.

Article 72 commits the State to ensuring the independence and neutrality of State-owned press and media institutions, enabling them to represent diverse opinions, political orientations, and social interests, while guaranteeing equality and equal opportunity in addressing public opinion.

Despite these strong constitutional safeguards, several challenges persist in the effective exercise of freedom of expression and media freedom. Chief among them is the absence of a specific law regulating access to and circulation of information—a long-standing demand of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), the Journalists’ Syndicate, and civil society organizations. The Council considers this legislation essential for giving full effect to the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

During the reporting period, the Journalists’ Syndicate convened its Sixth General Conference, which included extensive discussions on the current state and future of journalism in Egypt. The conference concluded with recommendations emphasizing the need to review and amend legislation affecting press freedom and journalistic practice—particularly those containing restrictive provisions—such as the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Anti-Terrorism Law, the Cybercrime Law, the Media Regulation Law, and the Personal Data Protection Law.

The NCHR observed a positive decline in the number of journalists and others detained or convicted in cases related to freedom of opinion and expression over the past two years. However, according to the Journalists’ Syndicate, approximately 24 journalists remain in detention, including 15 held in pretrial detention for more than two years, and some reportedly for up to five years. The Council therefore calls on the Public Prosecution to review the situation of journalists held in pretrial detention and to respond to the repeated appeals of the Syndicate in this regard. It also expresses the hope that presidential pardon mechanisms will extend to journalists convicted in cases related to the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression.

The Council has also received complaints from several online media platforms regarding difficulties in obtaining the necessary legal licenses, despite fulfilling procedural requirements. These include *Fekr Tani*, *Al-Manassa*, and earlier complaints from *Mada Masr*. The Council notes that such challenges underscore the need for greater transparency, consistency, and fairness in licensing procedures for independent digital media outlets.

Beyond regulatory issues, the NCHR draws attention to structural and professional challenges affecting journalists, including the situation of non-registered journalists and those working for extended periods under temporary contracts in national press institutions, as well as persistent concerns regarding low wages and challenging working conditions.

During the reporting period, the Supreme Constitutional Court issued a landmark judgment (Case No. 60 of Judicial Year 22, “Constitutional”) on 6 July 2024, affirming the constitutional protection of freedom of expression and, in particular, the right to criticize public performance. The Court held that such criticism constitutes one of the foundations of democratic governance and should not be constrained by legal instruments that undermine its essence, provided that it remains within the bounds of public interest and avoids insult or defamation. Constructive criticism aimed at addressing shortcomings in public performance, the Court emphasized, merits constitutional protection.

The NCHR recognizes the exceptional circumstances Egypt faced during its fight against terrorism—a period that necessitated certain restrictions on freedom of expression to prevent media platforms from being exploited by extremist organizations. Having achieved significant stability and security, the Council believes that the current context calls for a comprehensive review of laws and regulations that impose restrictions on civil and political rights in general, and on freedom of opinion and expression in particular.

In this regard, on 24 February 2025, the NCHR organized a roundtable discussion entitled “*Challenges Facing Independent Media Platforms and Ways to Address Them from a Human Rights Perspective*.” The event brought together representatives of human rights organizations, journalists, and civil society actors. Participants discussed legal and practical constraints on media freedom, including pretrial detention, website blocking, licensing challenges, limited financial resources, and restrictive legislative frameworks. The roundtable concluded with several recommendations, including the abolition of custodial penalties for publication-related offenses inconsistent with the Constitution; the repeal of vaguely worded legal provisions; amendments to Law No. 180 of 2018 on Press and Media Regulation and its sanctions regulation; a prohibition on the use of website blocking as a punitive measure; amendments to the Cybercrime Law; and the expedited issuance of the executive regulations of the Personal Data Protection Law No. 151 of 2020.

On 19 March 2025, the National Council for Human Rights held a roundtable discussion entitled “*The Role of Intellectuals and Opinion Leaders in Supporting and Advancing the Human Rights Situation in Egypt*.” The recommendations emphasized the importance of engaging with the cultural community and expanding channels for inclusive dialogue.

They proposed the establishment of a cultural forum as a platform for dialogue among human rights actors, intellectuals, State representatives, and members of Parliament, as well as the creation of a dedicated intellectual observatory within the Council to monitor and analyze social phenomena from a human rights perspective.

The roundtable further called for the release of all individuals detained in cases related to violations of laws regulating the exercise of freedom of expression, as part of broader efforts to improve the overall environment for public freedoms.

### **The Right to Peaceful Protest**

Article 73 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees citizens the right to organize public meetings, marches, demonstrations, and all forms of peaceful protest, provided participants are unarmed and that notification is given in accordance with the law. It also affirms that private meetings held peacefully do not require prior notification and that security authorities are not permitted to attend, monitor, or intercept such gatherings.

Law No. 107 of 2013 regulates the organization of public demonstrations and marches. While the law provides a framework for exercising this right, it also places certain restrictions on peaceful assembly and grants the Ministry of Interior broad authority to deny requests to hold demonstrations based on considerations that many human rights organizations view as overly broad. Calls have continued over the years for amending this legislation, as most applications to organize demonstrations have reportedly been declined.

During the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights observed a limited number of protest movements, primarily within companies and economic institutions, focusing on demands for better living and working conditions. The Council also noted several peaceful gatherings at the Journalists' Syndicate in solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as larger demonstrations organized by political parties and groups near the Rafah border crossing. These activities expressed support for the Palestinian cause and alignment with Egypt's official position opposing the forced displacement of Palestinians.

In June 2025, the Council monitored developments concerning a civilian initiative known as the *“Caravan of Resilience to Support Gaza,”* which included activists from different nationalities, among them Egyptian citizens, who sought to reach the Rafah crossing via Egyptian territory. Following communication with the relevant authorities, the Council was informed that the convoy had proceeded without prior coordination with official bodies, included foreign nationals entering on tourist visas, and advanced toward sensitive border areas requiring special security clearance.

The convoy was stopped at designated security checkpoints, and legal measures were taken, including the repatriation of foreign participants. In this context, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement emphasizing the importance of adhering to the established regulatory and security procedures governing access to border areas near Gaza, particularly around Al-Arish and the Rafah crossing. The Ministry clarified that requests for such visits must follow the procedures in place since the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza—through official applications submitted via Egyptian embassies abroad, foreign embassies in Cairo, or through representatives

of organizations accredited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It further noted that, within this framework, Egyptian authorities have previously facilitated visits by various official and non-governmental human rights delegations in full compliance with these regulations.

### **The Right to Freedom of Association**

The Egyptian Constitution provides advanced guarantees for the protection of the right to freedom of association.

Article 74 stipulates that citizens have the right to form political parties upon notification as regulated by law. It prohibits engaging in political activity or establishing political parties on a religious basis, or on grounds of gender, origin, sect, or geography. It also forbids activities contrary to the principles of democracy, secret in nature, or of a military or quasi-military character. Political parties may only be dissolved by a judicial ruling.

Article 75 affirms the right of citizens to establish associations and civil institutions on a democratic basis. Such entities acquire legal personality upon notification and are free to conduct their activities. Administrative authorities may not interfere in their affairs, dissolve them, or dissolve their boards of directors or boards of trustees, except by a judicial decision. The establishment or continuation of associations or institutions whose structure or activities are secret, or of a military or quasi-military nature, is prohibited, as regulated by law.

Article 76 guarantees the right to establish trade unions and federations on a democratic basis, as provided by law. These entities enjoy legal personality, exercise their activities freely, contribute to improving the professional competence of their members, defend their rights, and protect their interests. The State guarantees the independence of trade unions and federations, and their boards of directors may only be dissolved by a judicial ruling. The establishment of such organizations within State institutions is prohibited.

Article 77 provides that the law regulates the establishment and administration of professional syndicates on a democratic basis, ensuring their independence, defining their resources, membership criteria, and disciplinary mechanisms in accordance with ethical and professional codes of conduct. Only one syndicate may be established to regulate each profession. It is prohibited to impose guardianship on syndicates or for administrative authorities to interfere in their affairs, and their boards may only be dissolved by judicial ruling. Syndicates must also be consulted on draft laws relating to their respective professions.

During the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights observed the establishment and registration of two new political parties—the National Front Party and the Awareness Party—adding to the existing group of nearly 100 political parties in Egypt representing diverse ideological orientations. However, it was noted that most of these parties have very limited representation in the two chambers of Parliament (the House of Representatives and the Senate).

While the legal framework governing political parties provides, in principle, space for pluralism and participation, the practical experience of political parties in Egypt continues to face challenges related to their weak presence in the public sphere and limited capacity to attract broad segments

of citizens, which in turn affects their influence on political life. The Council underscores that strengthening the role of political parties and developing their institutional structures are essential steps toward broadening political participation and consolidating the foundations of pluralistic democracy.

Regarding civil society organizations, whose activities are governed by Law No. 149 of 2019, approximately 37,000 associations, foundations, and regional or sectoral unions have regularized their status or been newly registered under the law. The Council noted a significant increase in both the number and value of foreign grants approved by the Ministry of Social Solidarity for civil society organizations during the reporting period. In 2024, the Ministry approved 1,637 grants totaling over EGP 14.5 billion—representing a notable increase compared to 2023, when 1,186 grants were approved with a total value exceeding EGP 5.5 billion.

The reporting period did not witness major developments in the trade union sphere, as most unions had held their elections prior to this period, with the exception of the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate, which conducted its midterm elections in May 2025. The elections took place in a positive atmosphere, resulting in the re-election of the incumbent president, Mr. Khaled Al-Balshy, along with six members of the syndicate's board. The Council did not record any objections or disputes concerning the conduct or outcome of the electoral process.

The National Council for Human Rights signed a cooperation protocol with the Egyptian Trade Union Federation. The protocol focuses on strengthening the economic and social rights of workers by promoting human rights awareness in workplaces and supporting joint efforts to advance social justice and protect trade union rights, in line with national legislation and international standards.

### **The Right to Participate in Public Life, Elections, Candidacy, and the Management of Public Affairs**

Article 87 of the Egyptian Constitution affirms that participation in public life is a national duty. Every citizen has the right to vote, to stand for election, and to express an opinion in referendums. The exercise of these rights is regulated by law, which may also define specific circumstances under which exemption from this duty may be permitted. The State is required to automatically include all eligible citizens in the electoral register and to update it periodically in accordance with the law. It also guarantees the integrity, impartiality, and transparency of elections and referendums, and prohibits the use of public funds, government facilities, places of worship, public services, State-owned enterprises, or civil society institutions for political or electoral purposes.

During the reporting period, the Egyptian House of Representatives approved amendments to certain provisions of Law No. 46 of 2014 on the House of Representatives and Law No. 174 of 2020 concerning the delineation of parliamentary constituencies. It also endorsed amendments to Law No. 141 of 2020 regulating the Senate. Based on these revisions, elections for both chambers of Parliament are scheduled to take place in the last third of 2025.

The amendments maintained the closed-list electoral system for 50% of the seats in the House of Representatives and for 33% of the Senate seats. This approach differed from the

recommendations emerging from the National Dialogue initiated by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, which had proposed three possible alternatives: a mixed system combining closed-list, proportional-list, and individual components; a fully proportional-list system; or the continuation of the existing system without modification. In previous reports, the National Council for Human Rights had similarly recommended adopting an electoral system that provides greater opportunities for political parties to participate effectively in the electoral process.

In the discussions surrounding electoral reform, the Council observed that many political parties and opposition figures favored an electoral system that would enhance party representation in Parliament and encourage broader, more competitive participation. Such an outcome, in their view, could be achieved through a system combining proportional-list, closed-list, and individual seat mechanisms.

The Council notes that maintaining the current mixed system—combining closed lists and individual seats—has, in practice, limited competition in the Senate elections. In all constituencies designated for closed lists, only one list was submitted, comprising candidates from around twelve political parties. No competing lists were filed with the National Election Authority by the end of the reporting period (30 June 2025).

At the institutional level, the framework for public participation remains incomplete due to the continued absence of elected local councils. The Constitution had granted these councils extensive oversight powers over local executive bodies; however, since their dissolution following the January 2011 revolution, no concrete steps have been taken to regulate their functions or to hold new elections. This has persisted despite the National Dialogue's strong emphasis on the need to expedite the issuance of a Local Administration Law and initiate local elections, along with several practical proposals to support this process.

The Constitution also grants the legislative authority broad powers to oversee and hold the executive accountable. The Council observed that, during the reporting period and throughout the 2020–2025 legislative term, parliamentary committees were generally active and made use of oversight tools such as parliamentary questions and requests for clarification. However, more robust instruments, such as formal interpellations, were not employed, even in instances where certain government measures generated wide public debate. These issues are discussed further in the chapter addressing the state of economic, social, and cultural rights.

### **The Right to Freedom of Movement**

Article 62 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of movement, residence, and migration. It stipulates that no citizen may be expelled from the territory of the State or prevented from returning to it. Restrictions on leaving the country, the imposition of house arrest, or the prohibition of residence in specific areas may only be ordered by a reasoned judicial decision, for a defined period, and in circumstances prescribed by law.

During the reporting period, the Supreme Administrative Court, in its rulings on appeals Nos. 22369, 30967, 31214, 31215, 39084, 39199, and 38285 of Judicial Year 70 (August and September 2024), established key legal principles that strengthen constitutional guarantees for fundamental

rights and freedoms, particularly the right to privacy, data protection, freedom of movement, and human dignity. The Court held that the continued inclusion of citizens' names in security databases without legal basis constitutes a clear violation of the principles of legality and the rule of law and represents an unjustified restriction on the individual's freedom to travel, work, and move. It further determined that the authorities' refusal to delete such data from the criminal information records and the electronic database of the Ministry of Interior constitutes an unlawful administrative inaction subject to judicial review, amounting to an infringement of personal rights without legal justification.

These rulings underscore the commitment of the national judiciary to aligning administrative practices with Egypt's international obligations, particularly those arising under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the right to privacy, the right to freedom of movement, and the right to an effective remedy. The Court also emphasized the necessity of maintaining a fair balance between national security requirements and the obligation to respect and protect human rights.

It is also noteworthy that the Council followed up on the judicial decision issued in March 2024 ordering the closure of Case No. 17 of 2011, commonly known as the "Foreign Funding Case." Following this ruling, the names of activists who had been defendants in the case were removed from travel ban lists. During the reporting period, the Council noted the issuance of a decision in November 2024 lifting the travel ban on human rights lawyer Mr. Nasser Amin, marking the full and final closure of a case whose termination the Council had long advocated.

## **Chapter II**

### **The State of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights**

#### **(July 2024- June 2025)**

#### **Preface**

The Egyptian Constitution, adopted in 2014, guarantees a broad range of economic, social, and cultural rights, and places explicit obligations on the State to fulfill these rights and ensure their accessibility and enjoyment. Over the past decade, the Egyptian Government has implemented a substantial number of development projects, programmes, and initiatives directly related to economic and social rights. These efforts have aimed to improve basic infrastructure and the foundations of economic development, enhance the delivery of social services, and address structural imbalances that had long affected key sectors such as housing, health, transportation, energy, water supply, and sanitation. In addition, large-scale investments have been directed toward achieving food security through the reclamation and cultivation of vast desert areas and the enhancement of water-use efficiency for agricultural purposes.

In recent years, regional wars and conflicts in the Middle East have had a pronounced impact on Egypt. The country has received growing numbers of refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons fleeing armed conflict and dire humanitarian situations in neighboring states. The Egyptian

Government estimates that approximately 10 million refugees, asylum seekers, and residents are currently living in Egypt, exerting considerable pressure on the public services provided to citizens.

Regional instability has also had tangible economic and social repercussions, particularly by affecting key sources of foreign currency. Revenues from the Suez Canal have declined due to reduced security in the Red Sea region, and supply chains for imported goods have been disrupted, contributing to rising inflation and a subsequent decline in citizens' purchasing power.

Public debt continues to represent a major structural challenge for the State budget, as debt servicing—both interest and principal—absorbs the vast majority of fiscal resources. This situation constrains the Government's capacity to allocate sufficient funds for social services and increases the cost and complexity of implementing national development programmes. It also narrows the range of fiscal policy options available for structural reform, particularly given the need to maintain cooperation and financing arrangements with international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, persistently high inflation rates continue to weigh heavily on households, whose purchasing power has significantly declined, leaving many families struggling to meet basic living needs. Evidence suggests that multidimensional poverty levels have increased compared to previous years, though precise figures cannot be confirmed in the absence of updated official data. The most recent *Household Income, Expenditure, and Consumption Survey*, published by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in 2021, reported a decrease in poverty levels to around 29 percent of the population.

During the reporting period, the State successfully addressed the issue of electricity load shedding that had affected the previous year as a result of reduced natural gas shipments used to power generation plants. This challenge had significantly impacted citizen satisfaction and the operational efficiency of factories and production units. The Government was able to mobilize the necessary resources to secure adequate supplies of natural gas, which in turn led to a notable decline in complaints regarding power outages.

The State also continued the implementation of the first phase of its flagship rural development initiative, "*Decent Life*" (*Hayah Karima*), benefiting approximately 55 percent of Egypt's population. The project's investments intersect with a wide range of economic and social rights. According to official data, the implementation rate of the first phase—covering 1,477 villages—has reached nearly 90 percent. The Government has further announced its readiness to commence the second phase, which will target approximately 1,667 villages home to around 21 million citizens.

The reporting period also witnessed the issuance of new legislation regulating several economic and social rights, most notably the *Labor Law* and the *Old Rent Law*. The latter has generated—and continues to generate—broad public debate due to its direct impact on hundreds of thousands of families residing in long-term rented housing units.

In addition, a number of road accidents during the reporting period had a wide societal impact, the most recent of which occurred on the Regional Ring Road and resulted in the death of 18 young women employed in an agricultural project. This tragic incident reignited public discussion on road quality and public transport safety in Egypt—particularly in light of the significant public investments made in the transport and road sectors in recent years—as well as on the adequacy of decent work standards, occupational safety, and health conditions across various projects.

In 2025, Egypt underwent the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which concluded with the adoption of a substantial number of recommendations related to economic and social rights. In November 2024, Egypt had also submitted its combined fifth and sixth periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In these reports, the Government highlighted relevant constitutional provisions, legislative reforms, and institutional developments, as well as national policies and development programmes reflecting the State's proactive engagement in promoting human rights. These include the *Decent Life* initiative, public health programmes, and social protection schemes. The report further outlined progress achieved in areas covered by the Covenant, including the rights to work, social security, housing, health, and education, as well as measures to protect women, children, and persons with disabilities, and efforts to combat corruption and discrimination.

The following section presents the Council's assessment of key aspects of economic, social, and cultural rights in Egypt during the period from July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

### **The Right to a Decent Life and to Social Security and Insurance**

Article 8 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “Society is founded on social solidarity. The State shall ensure social justice and provide the means of social support, in a manner that guarantees a decent life for all citizens, as regulated by law.” Article 17 further provides that “The State shall ensure the provision of social insurance services. Every citizen who is not covered by the social insurance system has the right to social security that guarantees a decent life, if unable to support themselves and their family, in cases of incapacity, old age, or unemployment. The State shall work to provide an adequate pension for small-scale farmers, agricultural workers, fishermen, and irregular workers, in accordance with the law. Funds for insurance and pensions are private funds that enjoy all protections accorded to public funds, and their proceeds are a right for beneficiaries. These funds shall be invested safely and managed by an independent body in accordance with the law. The State guarantees the insurance and pension funds.”

In pursuit of ensuring a decent standard of living and achieving social justice—particularly in light of the ongoing economic challenges affecting all segments of society—the State has continued to implement a range of programs aimed at social protection, care, development, and economic empowerment. These efforts have taken place alongside a series of structural and economic reforms designed to reduce the fiscal deficit and restore macroeconomic stability, including the gradual removal of universal subsidies, the phasing out of energy subsidies, and the devaluation of the Egyptian pound.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, approximately 800,000 new households were enrolled in the *Takaful and Karama* cash transfer program, while 600,000 households exited the program. The

value of cash assistance provided to beneficiaries increased by 25%, bringing the total number of beneficiary households under *Takaful and Karama* during the current decade to 7.7 million, while around 3 million households have graduated from the program. The conditionality components related to health and education have contributed to the program's effectiveness, as beneficiary children maintained an attendance rate of at least 80% of the school year, while pregnant women and mothers with infants regularly attended primary healthcare units for medical services.

During the reporting period, the Council received 125 requests related to accessing State cash assistance programs, primarily *Takaful and Karama*. Approximately 86% of these requests received official responses. The majority of applications were submitted by women heads of households—particularly divorced women, widows, or women married to incarcerated individuals. The notable increase in such requests reflects the difficult socio-economic conditions faced by many families across the country.

As part of ongoing legislative reforms to strengthen human rights protection, the House of Representatives enacted Law No. 12 of 2025 issuing the new Social Security Law, replacing Law No. 137 of 2010. The new legislation aims to broaden the social protection framework for the most vulnerable groups in Egyptian society. It applies to every Egyptian who is not covered by the social insurance system and unable to support themselves or their families due to incapacity or old age. Its provisions also extend to nationals of other countries residing in Egypt on the basis of reciprocity, with the possibility of exemption by presidential decree.

The Council considers the new Social Security Law a positive development in enhancing Egypt's social protection system. It represents a significant step toward promoting social justice, providing a more inclusive and sustainable social safety net, and expanding eligibility to new categories that were previously excluded. The law introduces an improved targeting mechanism to assess household poverty levels through a proxy means test, ensuring that cash support reaches those most in need. It also provides for conditional cash transfers (*Takaful*) to poor families with dependent children and unconditional cash transfers (*Karama*) to the most vulnerable, such as persons with chronic illnesses, orphans, elderly women without family support, older persons, and individuals unable to work.

Nevertheless, the Council notes that certain aspects of the law require careful attention in implementation, particularly concerning the nature of conditional cash assistance. While the conditionality mechanism aims to encourage families to meet specific requirements (such as ensuring children's school attendance or compliance with healthcare visits), failure to meet these conditions may lead to reductions or suspension of benefits. This could disproportionately affect the poorest families who may be unable to fulfill such conditions due to factors beyond their control. Furthermore, the provision that the value of cash support shall be reviewed every three years may be too infrequent given the current pace of economic change, potentially resulting in the erosion of the real value of benefits and their adequacy in meeting basic needs.

Despite the expansion of the beneficiary base, some groups remain only partially covered or face barriers in accessing support—such as women in informal marital separations not legally recognized as divorced, and segments of irregular workers unable to meet the requirements for obtaining the “Aman” insurance certificate.

## The Right to Health

Article 18 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “Every citizen has the right to health and to comprehensive health care of high quality. The State shall preserve public health facilities that provide services to the people, support them, and work to enhance their efficiency and ensure equitable geographical distribution. The State is committed to allocating a share of government expenditure to health of no less than 3% of the Gross National Product, which shall gradually increase to align with global rates. The State shall establish a comprehensive health insurance system for all Egyptians covering all diseases. The law shall regulate citizens’ contributions to its premiums or their exemption based on income levels. Refraining from providing treatment in any form to any person in cases of emergency or life-threatening conditions is prohibited. The State shall improve the conditions of physicians, nursing staff, and all health sector workers. All health facilities, products, materials, and health-related advertisements are subject to State supervision. The State shall encourage the participation of the private and civil sectors in the provision of healthcare services, in accordance with the law.”

Despite this strong constitutional foundation, the enjoyment of the right to health continues to face significant challenges amid persistent inflationary pressures. These include insufficient or unevenly distributed financial resources for the health sector, shortages in qualified medical personnel, disparities in healthcare access across regions, and inadequate infrastructure in many hospitals, particularly in poor and remote governorates. Additionally, the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and the rising costs of treatment further strain the system.

For the fiscal year 2024/2025, public health allocations increased by 24.9%, reaching EGP 496 billion, compared to EGP 397 billion in 2023/2024. The State has also continued to implement the “Treatment at the Expense of the State” scheme, with its budget increasing by 16.1% to EGP 10.1 billion in 2024/2025, up from EGP 8.7 billion in the previous year.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, approximately 66% of the population—around 77 million people—are covered by the public health insurance system. However, this legacy system requires major reforms to align with international standards. To address these challenges, Egypt began implementing the Universal Health Insurance System in accordance with Law No. 2 of 2018. By mid-2025, the first phase had been rolled out in six governorates—Port Said, Luxor, Ismailia, South Sinai, Suez, and Aswan—covering more than 5 million registered citizens as of June 2024. Preparations are underway to launch the second phase in July 2025 across the governorates of North Sinai, Damietta, Minya, Matrouh, and Kafr El Sheikh, aiming to cover 12.8 million citizens at a total estimated cost of EGP 115 billion.

Egypt’s public health system currently provides 1.4 hospital beds per 1,000 population—well below the global average of 2.9 beds per 1,000. The country has 1,809 hospitals, including 664 public and 1,145 private facilities. The growing share of private hospitals—63.3% of the total in 2025, up from 59% in 2011—illustrates the expanding role of the profit-oriented private sector, which has contributed to rising healthcare costs.

A notable challenge remains the shortage of healthcare professionals, with an estimated nine physicians per 10,000 population. Many doctors and healthcare workers continue to migrate

abroad in search of better living and professional conditions, leading to shortages of skilled staff, particularly in public hospitals. This trend has spurred calls to increase medical school admissions and strengthen recruitment in the public healthcare sector.

During the reporting period, the Council received 20 complaints related to the right to health. These included requests for treatment at State expense, medical referrals, allegations of medical negligence, and concerns over the availability of medical resources. Only three responses were received from the relevant authorities, reflecting a low level of institutional responsiveness to such grievances.

From a legislative perspective, Law No. 13 of 2025 on Medical Liability and Patient Safety was enacted during the reporting period. The law generated extensive public debate and professional concern, particularly from the Egyptian Medical Syndicate. The government stated that the law seeks to regulate the relationship between healthcare providers and patients, balancing the protection of patient rights with the need to ensure a fair and safe working environment for medical professionals.

The National Council for Human Rights participated actively in the discussions on the draft law, organizing two specialized workshops with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the President of the Medical Syndicate, and a range of experts. These consultations contributed to the adoption of a more balanced law that upholds both patient rights and medical practitioners' safeguards, in line with international human rights principles. The Council reflected the outcomes of these discussions in its reports, public statements, and parliamentary submissions, emphasizing the importance of embedding legal and institutional guarantees for mutual protection of patients and healthcare workers.

The Council welcomed the enactment of the law and its ratification by the President, recognizing it as an important step forward in advancing health rights and commending the participatory approach that characterized its development. The final version incorporated several key amendments reflecting the results of broad-based consultations. It guarantees patients' right to safe and effective medical care, compensation for harm resulting from medical errors, and informed consent prior to any medical intervention. The law clearly defines cases in which medical liability does not apply, thereby protecting healthcare providers from prosecution for unavoidable medical complications or for harm arising from patient refusal of treatment or non-compliance with medical advice. These provisions are expected to reduce malicious litigation and foster a more stable working environment for doctors.

The law also establishes a *High Committee on Medical Liability and Patient Protection* as a specialized technical body for assessing medical errors. One of the major outcomes of the dialogue process was the removal of imprisonment penalties for non-gross medical errors and the clear differentiation between ordinary and gross negligence, limiting criminal penalties to the latter.

Nevertheless, the Council underscores the need to address certain implementation challenges through executive regulations and operational mechanisms. These include the precise definition and scope of "gross medical error," potential over-cautious medical practices driven by fear of liability (which may increase costs and affect care quality), sustainability and funding mechanisms

for the insurance fund, accessibility of compensation procedures, and ensuring the independence and impartiality of the High Committee.

## **The Right to Education**

Article 19 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “Education is a right for every citizen. Its purpose is to build the Egyptian character, preserve national identity, promote scientific thinking, nurture talent and innovation, reinforce civilizational and spiritual values, and foster the principles of citizenship, tolerance, and non-discrimination. The State shall ensure that these objectives are reflected in educational curricula and methodologies, and that education is provided in accordance with international quality standards. Education shall be compulsory until the end of the secondary stage or its equivalent, and the State shall guarantee its provision free of charge at all levels within State educational institutions, in accordance with the law. The State shall allocate a government expenditure share to education of no less than 4% of the gross national product, to be gradually increased until it reaches international standards. The State shall supervise education to ensure that all public and private schools and institutes adhere to its educational policies.”

Despite this constitutional provision, the right to education continues to face a number of challenges—particularly those related to the quality of education and the rising financial burden borne by Egyptian households seeking to compensate for issues such as classroom overcrowding and deficiencies in teaching quality. Families increasingly resort to private tutoring, with unofficial estimates placing related annual expenditures at approximately EGP 50 billion. Manifestations of “learning poverty”—defined as the inability to read and understand an age-appropriate text by the age of ten—remain significant, while illiteracy rates continue to be relatively high, affecting around 16% of individuals over the age of ten.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) observed a notable increase in the number of classrooms during the 2024/2025 academic year compared to 2023/2024. The number of classrooms in public schools grew by approximately 20.8%, representing an unprecedented rise compared with previous years, while classrooms in private schools increased by about 12% over the same period.

This substantial expansion led to a relatively noticeable reduction in classroom density; however, class sizes remain high, averaging between 44 and 50 students per classroom. A further challenge persists regarding the number and adequacy of teachers—currently estimated at around 876,432 teachers, with an average of 1.2 teachers per classroom, which remains below global standards.

The Council also monitored the public and parliamentary discussions surrounding the introduction of the proposed “Egyptian Baccalaureate System” as a potential alternative to the current General Secondary Education framework. While the Council supports efforts to reform secondary education, it emphasizes the importance of subjecting any new system to broad-based societal dialogue, informed by expert input, and pilot testing prior to nationwide implementation.

Article 21 of the Constitution provides that “The State shall guarantee the independence of universities and scientific and linguistic academies, and ensure that higher education is provided in accordance with international quality standards. The State shall work to develop higher

education and guarantee its free provision in State universities and institutes, in accordance with the law. The State shall allocate a government expenditure share for higher education of no less than 2% of the gross national product, to be gradually increased until it reaches international standards.”

During the 2024/2025 academic year, Egypt’s higher education system—which serves approximately 3.7 million students—comprises 27 public universities, 35 private universities, 20 national (non-profit) universities, 10 technological universities, 9 international branch campuses, 181 institutes, and 10 universities established through special agreements or legislative frameworks.

The State has expanded its support for establishing non-profit national universities; however, these institutions remain similar to private universities in that they require high tuition fees. The Council noted an increase in enrollment in private and national universities. According to the Minister of Higher Education, approximately 441,000 students are enrolled in public universities in 2024/2025, compared with around 151,000 in private and national universities, and 42,000 in other types of universities. These figures do not include approximately 450,000 students enrolled at Al-Azhar University, nor those studying in other public and private institutes.

Overall, there are clear indicators of a marked increase in enrollment in fee-based private and national education—both at university and pre-university levels—over recent years, accompanied by a slower rate of increase in public education enrollment (despite absolute growth in numbers). This trend reflects a growing preference among Egyptian families for educational options that offer higher quality and more diverse programs than those available in the public system.

On the fiscal front, government allocations for education and scientific research in the 2024/2025 national budget reached approximately EGP 998 billion, according to data from the Ministry of Finance.

The Council received a limited number of complaints related to the right to education, alongside a noticeable lack of responsiveness from certain official entities. This underscores the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for more effective handling and resolution of education-related grievances.

### **The Right to Adequate, Safe, and Healthy Housing**

Article 78 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “The State shall ensure the right of citizens to adequate, safe, and healthy housing, in a manner that preserves human dignity and achieves social justice. The State shall develop a national housing plan that respects environmental specificities and ensures the contribution of individual and cooperative initiatives to its implementation. It shall regulate the use of State land, provide it with basic utilities, and pursue comprehensive urban planning for cities and villages as part of a population distribution strategy that serves the public interest, improves the quality of life for citizens, and safeguards the rights of future generations. The State shall also develop a comprehensive national plan to address informal settlements, including re-planning, the provision of basic infrastructure and public utilities, and the

improvement of living conditions and public health, while ensuring the allocation of necessary resources within a specific timeframe.”

In light of the ongoing economic crisis, structural reforms, currency devaluation, and inflationary pressures, real estate prices in Egypt have risen sharply in recent years, rendering home ownership or rental increasingly unaffordable for large segments of the population. Despite these challenges, the State continues to implement social housing projects and presidential initiatives aimed at expanding access to housing for citizens.

As of 2024, a total of **725,000 housing units** had been completed under the National Housing Project. Cumulative investments in the real estate sector reached approximately **EGP 376 billion** from the public sector and **EGP 460 billion** from the private sector by the same year.

With regard to infrastructure and road quality, Egypt has recorded notable progress in international road quality indices—ranking **18th globally in 2024**, compared to **118th in 2015**. Nevertheless, the country’s **road fatality rate stands at 12.8 per 100,000 inhabitants**, exceeding the global average. Recent years have witnessed several road accidents attributed to weaknesses in the overall road safety system—which encompasses roads, vehicles, and users. According to data from the **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)**, road accidents in 2024 resulted in **5,260 fatalities** and **76,362 injuries**, compared to **71,016 injuries in 2023**, marking a **7.5% increase**.

In the legislative domain, the **House of Representatives** approved on **2 July 2025** the long-awaited amendments to the **Old Rent Law**, following years of public debate and postponement. The law seeks to regulate the long-standing tension between landlords and tenants and address one of the most complex real estate and social issues in Egypt. It applies to residential and non-residential units rented to natural persons under **Law No. 49 of 1977** and **Law No. 136 of 1981**, but excludes contracts concluded after 1996 or those governed by **Law No. 4 of 1996** (the current rent law).

The **Old Rent Law** represents a key factor influencing the right to housing in Egypt, as it provides for the termination of existing tenancy contracts following a **transitional period of seven years for residential units and five years for non-residential units**.

The deliberations surrounding the law were marked by extensive debate and opposition from several members of parliament as well as tenant associations. Although the Government committed before Parliament to ensuring adequate alternative housing for tenants required to vacate their homes—and the law grants them **priority access to public housing projects** at least one year before the end of the transitional period—there remain **serious concerns** about the potential **social and economic impacts** of the law on vulnerable households, particularly in the current economic climate.

The **National Council for Human Rights (NCHR)** played an active role in the discussions on the draft law, underscoring the need to ensure that the legislation aligns with **human rights principles** and achieves a fair balance between the interests of landlords and tenants. The Council organized a **roundtable discussion on 19 May 2025**, resulting in several key recommendations.

Chief among them was the call for the law to uphold **equity and fairness** among all parties, taking into account the **socioeconomic conditions of low-income groups** and adhering to the rulings of the **Supreme Constitutional Court**, which found the indefinite fixation of rental values unconstitutional but did not mandate the eviction of tenants.

While the law is expected to help **revitalize the rental market**—which had been stagnant for decades due to the freezing of thousands of residential and commercial units and landlords' inability to reclaim their properties—it could nonetheless have **adverse implications** for the **right to adequate housing**, especially for **low-income groups**. Many of these households may struggle to secure alternative housing at prices commensurate with their income after the **seven-year transitional period**, which many observers consider insufficient. Moreover, the law does not clearly specify **mechanisms for ensuring access to alternative housing** during the transition phase.

During the reporting period, the Council also received continued complaints regarding **government expropriations of land and housing** or **evictions of occupants from informally held properties**, carried out in the context of urban redevelopment and national infrastructure projects. While these measures are generally grounded in legal provisions—namely, the **Law on Expropriation for Public Benefit** and legislation governing the **recovery of State lands**—the Council expressed concern over certain **negative practices** accompanying implementation, notably the **inadequacy of compensation amounts** provided to affected persons and **delays in compensation payments** resulting from administrative and bureaucratic obstacles within the responsible authorities.

## **The Right to Work**

Article 12 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “Work is a right, a duty, and an honor guaranteed by the State. No citizen may be compelled to work except by virtue of a law, for the purpose of performing a public service, for a limited period, and in return for fair remuneration, and without prejudice to the fundamental rights of those assigned to such work.”

Article 13 further provides that “The State shall safeguard workers’ rights, seek to establish balanced labor relations between the parties to the production process, guarantee mechanisms for collective bargaining, and protect workers from occupational hazards by ensuring conditions of safety, security, and occupational health. Arbitrary dismissal is prohibited, all in accordance with the law.”

According to official statistics, the total labor force in Egypt reached **33.124 million persons** in the fourth quarter of 2024—an increase of **2.8%** over the previous quarter. The number of employed persons stood at **30.994 million**, reflecting an expansion in employment opportunities. The overall **unemployment rate** declined to **6.4%** in the same period, compared to **6.7%** in the preceding quarter, with **2.13 million persons** recorded as unemployed.

The **National Council for Human Rights (NCHR)** notes that, despite the marked decline in unemployment rates, significant challenges remain concerning **employment sustainability** and the **enjoyment of legal rights** related to **social security and health insurance**. The Council

reiterates its previous observations, as stated in its **sixteenth and seventeenth annual reports**, that the **informal sector**, which accommodates the majority of Egypt's workforce, generally fails to uphold the standards of **decent work** as defined by international norms.

During the reporting period, the Government raised the **national minimum wage to EGP 7,000 per month**, effective **July 2025**, as part of a social protection package aimed at mitigating the impact of rising living costs and inflation. While the **National Council for Wages** extended the minimum wage requirement to private sector establishments, challenges persist in ensuring that **casual, seasonal, and informal workers** benefit from this increase.

With regard to complaints handled by the NCHR concerning the **right to decent work** and the **provision of a safe and suitable work environment**, the majority pertained to **allegations of workplace discrimination, mistreatment, transfers, and arbitrary dismissals**—amounting to **35 complaints** in total, with approximately half receiving official responses. The second most frequent category of complaints related to **unpaid wages or other financial entitlements**, numbering **25**, with a notably low rate of response. The final category involved **requests for transfers** to workplaces closer to family residences for **humanitarian or economic reasons**, totaling **23 requests**, mostly submitted by conscripts and police personnel. The Council received **positive responses** to most of these cases.

In terms of **legislative reform**, the **Egyptian Parliament** enacted **Labour Law No. 14 of 2025**, representing a significant milestone in regulating the relationship between employers and workers. The NCHR had previously recommended the adoption of a new labor law that strengthens the protection and promotion of **human rights**, particularly in combating **child labor** and enhancing the **rights of migrant workers**.

The new law introduces several provisions that expand workers' protections beyond those provided under the **previous Labour Law (No. 12 of 2003)**. Notably, it enshrines the principle that **no worker may be dismissed except by a decision of the competent labor court**, thereby restricting employers' authority to terminate employment arbitrarily. It also establishes that **open-ended contracts shall constitute the norm**, allowing fixed-term contracts only under specific conditions—thus reinforcing **job security**. The law provides for **faster mechanisms** for resolving labor disputes, mandates an **annual increment of not less than 3% of the insurable wage**, and explicitly prohibits **discrimination, bullying, and harassment** in the workplace.

For the first time, the law grants **paternity leave of three days** for male workers upon the birth of a child and extends **maternity leave for female workers** from **three to four months**. Furthermore, it addresses emerging forms of employment, including **remote work, digital platform work, part-time and flexible arrangements**, and **job-sharing structures**.

While the law was generally welcomed and not met with substantial opposition, certain **civil society organizations** expressed concerns regarding **restrictions on the right to strike**. These include the requirement to exhaust all avenues of amicable settlement prior to striking, and the **broad prohibition of strikes in vital facilities** providing essential services or during exceptional circumstances—without a precise definition of such facilities. Other reservations concerned the

**minimum annual increment**, which some observers suggested should be indexed to **annual inflation rates**.

The law also reinforces the principle of **shared parental responsibility**, recognizing men and women as equal partners in family duties by extending maternity leave and introducing paid paternity leave.

During the reporting period, the **Supreme Constitutional Court**, in **Case No. 99 of Judicial Year 43 (Constitutional)**, in its session of **8 March 2025**, established an essential principle concerning **equality of opportunity** and **non-discrimination** in access to public office based on **merit and fairness**. The Court declared **unconstitutional** paragraph (6) of Article 69 of **Civil Service Law No. 81 of 2016**, which denied employees—whose service had been terminated due to unexcused absences—the right to submit justifications retroactively. The Court found that the provision **violated constitutional guarantees of equality and due process**, as it foreclosed avenues for appeal and redress. The ruling reaffirmed that disciplinary measures must adhere to the principles of **proportionality and fairness**, and must not serve as a tool for exclusion from public employment without an objective assessment of conduct.

The Council also followed the judgment issued by the **Supreme Administrative Court** in **Appeal No. 2834 of Judicial Year 70**, delivered on **8 September 2024**, which reaffirmed the **right to equal access to public employment** in line with approved staffing plans and the public interest. The Court annulled **Resolution No. 668 of 2020** by the President of **Sadat City University**, which had denied the appointment of graduates from the Faculty of Physical Education under the assignment system, deeming the decision **unjustified and contrary to the State's recruitment plan**. The Court emphasized that the **discretionary authority** of administrative bodies in recruitment **is not absolute**, and must be exercised with **transparency, fairness, and adherence to the principle of equal opportunity**.

## **The Right to Healthy and Safe Environment**

**Article 46** of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that “*Every person has the right to a sound and healthy environment; its protection is a national duty. The State shall take the necessary measures to preserve it, prevent harm to it, and ensure the rational use of natural resources in a manner that guarantees sustainable development and safeguards the rights of future generations therein.*”

Egypt has adopted a **National Climate Change Strategy 2050**, setting forth ambitious goals for mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The State has also adopted **biodiversity conservation strategies**, and continues to implement the **Environmental Law of 1994**, which provides robust guarantees for environmental protection.

During the reporting period, the Council observed **progress in several climate action indicators**, most notably in promoting investment in renewable energy projects, improving waste management systems, and enhancing biodiversity conservation. Egypt ranked **20th globally in the 2025 Climate Change Performance Index**, compared to **22nd in 2024**. Nevertheless, the country recorded a **12% increase in carbon emissions**, according to Egypt’s **First Transparency Report** submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Despite this increase, Egypt contributed only **0.6% of total global greenhouse gas emissions in 2025**.

Throughout the reporting period, Egypt continued to **support and implement sustainable transport projects** aimed at reducing the national carbon footprint and improving air quality. These projects seek to promote environmentally friendly modes of transport and provide sustainable mobility alternatives in urban and newly developed areas. Approximately **50% of public green investments** in the **2024/2025 investment plan** were allocated to green transport projects, including **monorail and electric train lines**.

The State also pursued projects to **improve water supply and sanitation services**, particularly in rural and underserved areas. According to the most recent statistics, **drinking water coverage** across the country reached **99% in 2024**, while **urban sanitation coverage** rose to **96%**, and **rural sanitation coverage** increased to approximately **48%** of the total rural population. During 2024, **1,408 projects** were implemented in the field of drinking water and sanitation, with a total cost of approximately **EGP 138.2 billion**. Additionally, the first phase of the **“Sustainable Cities – Egyptian Cities Atlas”** initiative was launched during the **World Urban Forum**, held in Cairo from **4 to 8 November 2024**. The Council received calls to intensify efforts toward **urban greening** in older neighborhoods across all governorates to ensure environmental sustainability.

According to data from the **New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA)**, Egypt's **total renewable energy production capacity** reached **8.3 gigawatts** during the **2024–2025 fiscal year**, marking a **22.1% increase** from **6.8 gigawatts** in the previous year, with plans to raise the share of renewables to **42% by 2035**. Egypt ranks **second in Africa** in solar energy production, with an **installed solar capacity of 707 megawatts** as of the end of 2024. Moreover, the **use of alternative fuels** in cement factories increased from **850,000 tons annually in 2023** to **1.4 million tons by the end of 2024**.

### **Cultural Rights:**

**Article 48** of the Egyptian Constitution provides that *“Culture is a right for every citizen. The State shall guarantee and support this right, and shall ensure access to cultural materials of all kinds for all segments of the population, without discrimination on grounds of financial capacity, geographical location, or otherwise. The State shall pay special attention to remote areas and to the most vulnerable groups, and shall encourage translation from and into Arabic.”*

Cultural rights encompass the rights of individuals and groups to participate in cultural life, to develop their cultural identity, and to preserve their cultural heritage. Despite the State's ongoing efforts to promote cultural rights, significant challenges persist that affect the ability to fully enjoy participation in cultural life. Chief among these are rising poverty rates and difficult socio-economic conditions, which limit individuals' capacity to engage in cultural activities—often perceived as a luxury rather than a priority.

During the reporting period, the Council observed several initiatives announced by the **Ministry of Culture** that could contribute to advancing cultural rights. Notably, the Ministry launched the **“Cultural Human Rights Platform”** to highlight cultural issues and foster dialogue on the role

of culture in building more inclusive societies. It also established a **Human Rights Unit** within the Ministry to promote a human rights-based approach in cultural policy.

The Ministry implemented a range of cultural and artistic projects offered free of charge or at nominal prices, such as the “**Cinema for the People**” initiative and the **Citadel Festival for Music and Singing**. Furthermore, the **Supreme Council of Culture** launched a **National Strategy for the Culture of Law, Citizenship, and Human Rights**, in cooperation with the **National Center for Social and Criminological Research**. This strategy includes diverse initiatives to promote public awareness of human rights principles, respect for the rule of law, equality, and equal opportunities, as well as to foster comprehensive and sustainable community development.

The Council also noted several initiatives by various governmental entities—including the **Ministry of Social Solidarity**, **Ministry of Local Development**, **Ministry of Industry**, and the **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Agency**—aimed at **supporting and reviving traditional crafts**. Major exhibitions such as “**Turathna**” (Our Heritage) and “**Diarna**” continue to provide important platforms for artisans to showcase their traditional products.

Additionally, the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** launched programs focusing on **enhancing young Egyptians' digital literacy and technological capacity**, particularly through specialized training initiatives for children and youth in programming and information technology applications.

Despite these commendable efforts, the Council observed growing evidence that **cultural rights in Egypt continue to face structural challenges**, particularly in relation to other rights that remain subject to certain restrictions—most notably, the **right to freedom of expression**. These limitations have been accompanied by chronic issues affecting cultural institutions, such as the **decline in the role of public cultural centers**, and an **uneven distribution of cultural opportunities**, with most cultural activities concentrated in Cairo and major urban centers to the detriment of rural and remote areas.

In recent years, **Egyptian cultural production has weakened significantly**, largely due to limited financial resources and increasing monopolization of the cultural sector. As a result, cultural output has fallen short of Egypt's long-standing regional influence and its historical role as a cross-border hub of culture and creativity.

There are also indications of **marginalization in key cultural sectors**—including the visual arts, theater, publishing, and translation—which were once vibrant and internationally recognized.

Finally, the Council draws attention to the growing phenomenon of **identity and heritage appropriation**, manifested in external movements falsely claiming authorship or custodianship of Egyptian heritage. The Council stresses that current **policies and measures adopted by the Ministry of Culture and other competent authorities** to counter such misappropriation and to ensure the **registration and protection of Egypt's tangible and intangible cultural heritage** remain **below the required standards**.



## Chapter III

### **NCHR's Activities in the Period from July 2024- June 2025**

#### **Preface**

During the reporting period (July 2024 – June 2025), the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) remained active across local, national, and international levels, continuing the role it has played since its establishment in 2004. Throughout the year, the Council pursued a constructive and inclusive approach to human rights issues in Egypt, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, contributing to discussions on legislation relevant to its mandate, and providing input aimed at strengthening the human rights dimensions of several laws adopted by Parliament during the period.

The Council's complaints mechanism continued to serve as a key channel of communication between citizens and the NCHR, through its headquarters and regional offices across the governorates. The Council received and reviewed complaints through various platforms, referred them to relevant authorities, and followed up to facilitate redress. It also continued to develop and upgrade its digital complaints system, introducing improvements to make it more accessible to the public, alongside the full activation of the mobile complaints application, which is now functioning efficiently.

In 2025, the NCHR submitted its Statement of Compliance to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), as part of ongoing efforts to address previous observations and maintain its “A” status accreditation. The Council engaged constructively with the SCA's recommendations, reflecting its commitment to transparency, responsiveness, and continuous institutional development within the framework of its long-standing cooperation with GANHRI.

Building on the SCA's recommendations, the Council initiated steps to update its enabling law to align with the Paris Principles General Observation document, most notably the 2018 updated version. It held coordination meetings with the Human Rights and Legislative Committees of the House of Representatives, the Cabinet's Advisory Board, and the Legislative Affairs Sector of the Ministry of Justice to discuss a draft law addressing the SCA's key observations. The draft includes provisions to ensure diverse and independent representation, adopt a code of conduct grounded in human rights principles, and reinforce transparency, pluralism, and institutional independence. It also proposes measures to enhance functional immunity for Council members, grant the NCHR authority to conduct unannounced visits to all places of detention and closed facilities, and explicitly empower it to advise the State on ratification or accession to international human rights treaties.

The Council also engaged with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) during Egypt's fourth cycle, submitting a comprehensive report outlining its analysis of recommendations aimed at improving

the human rights situation. During the UPR session, the Council delivered an oral statement presenting its assessment and reaffirming its commitment to objective, evidence-based monitoring and follow-up.

At the international level, the NCHR maintained cooperation with UN agencies and international and regional partners, organizing activities with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, among others. The Council's representatives also met with international experts and diplomatic missions to exchange experiences and strengthen collaborative efforts to promote human rights.

At the national level, the NCHR conducted numerous dialogues, workshops, and training programmes covering diverse human rights topics. It expanded its field visits to various governorates to raise public awareness, follow up on complaints and allegations of violations, and assess the performance of relevant authorities and institutions in fulfilling their human rights obligations.

At the institutional level, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) undertook a series of comprehensive reform measures, including the development of a revised organizational structure for the General Secretariat designed to align with evolving institutional needs and enhance overall operational efficiency. In implementing this reform, the Council relied on qualified and independent experts to manage the restructuring process, adopting an inclusive and participatory approach that engaged Council members, researchers, and administrative staff. This approach aimed to ensure that the new structure responds effectively to institutional development priorities, while also safeguarding the rights and status of the Council's experienced personnel—thereby promoting institutional stability and continuity of high performance.

During the reporting period, the Council also witnessed significant institutional changes within its membership and leadership. In April 2025, the resignation of Ambassador Fahmy Fayed from his position as Secretary-General was accepted, and Dr. Hany Ibrahim was appointed to act in that capacity. The Council subsequently endorsed the necessary legal and administrative procedures related to his resignation from Council membership, in accordance with Article (10) of its founding law, which stipulates that the Secretary-General shall not be selected from among Council members.

On 31 May 2025, Ambassador Moushira Khattab submitted her resignation as President of the Council. At its meeting held on 4 June 2025, the Council decided to take the required legal measures and announced that Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem would serve as Acting President, in accordance with applicable legal provisions, until the end of the current term.

In line with these developments, the Council voted—by majority—to appoint Dr. Hany Ibrahim as Secretary-General of the Council, granting him the full powers vested under Law No. 94 of 2003 and its amendments. He was also tasked with preparing a comprehensive administrative development plan aimed at strengthening institutional efficiency and embedding the principles of good governance in the Council's management practices.

At the national level of cooperation with human rights protection mechanisms, the Council continued to strengthen its partnerships with the Parliament, including both the House of Representatives and the Senate, through numerous joint meetings and events. It also maintained constructive and ongoing dialogue with the Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and engaged in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the judicial institutions, as well as the Ministry of Interior, through the activation of a cooperation protocol. Moreover, the Council pursued collaboration with trade union institutions and dialogue with Egyptian civil society organizations on various human rights issues and challenges.

The following chapter presents an overview of the main activities undertaken by the Council, its standing committees, and specialized units during the reporting period, with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture of the Council's overall performance in promoting and advancing human rights in Egypt.

### **Pillar I: NCHR's Handling of Complaints and Allegations of Human Rights Violations**

The complaints mechanism of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) remains one of the key instruments through which the Council carries out its mandate to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Egypt, in line with the Paris Principles. During the reporting period, the Council continued to strengthen its procedures to ensure that all individuals can easily access and benefit from its services.

To facilitate communication with citizens and simplify the submission of complaints, the Council expanded the work of its mobile units, designed to reach individuals who face difficulties in contacting the Council directly or who may not be familiar with its functions. These units aim both to raise awareness of the Council's role and to ensure outreach to remote or underserved communities.

Throughout the reporting period, the Council conducted field visits in eight governorates, meeting with governors, executive officials, and local authorities responsible for handling citizens' complaints. These visits also served to review the quality of public services, engage with municipal and village councils, and hold discussions with representatives of public institutions such as hospitals, social welfare offices, care homes, and educational directorates. The visits further provided opportunities to present the work of the Council's Complaints Committee and to exchange experiences and good practices with local stakeholders.

As part of its institutional development, the Council continued to improve the efficiency and accessibility of its complaints system. The electronic complaints platform was upgraded to make it more user-friendly and to improve data analysis, enabling the Council to generate more detailed and accurate thematic reports.

The Council also completed the enhancement of its mobile application (NCHR Android: NCHR-APP), which now operates at full capacity and allows complaints to be submitted 24 hours a day. In addition to the online complaints portal (<https://admin.nchreg.org/>), the Council continues to receive complaints through in-person submissions, postal mail, fax, WhatsApp, email, and through its eleven regional offices across Egypt.

Furthermore, the NCHR monitors and responds to citizens' concerns through its official social media channels, including Facebook (nchregypt), X/Twitter (@nchregypt), Instagram (nchregypt), and LinkedIn (National Council for Human Rights).

The following sections will provide a more detailed overview of these mechanisms and their role in enhancing access to remedies and strengthening the protection of human rights.

The Council relies on a comprehensive institutional approach in handling complaints, beginning with registration and classification, followed by initial review to determine jurisdiction, then referral and follow-up with the relevant authorities, and culminating in case closure, provision of legal advice, or redirection of matters falling outside the Council's mandate. The Council places particular emphasis on documenting all complaints and requests, and on analyzing the data objectively, geographically, and by type, enabling it to monitor trends, identify performance gaps, and develop plans for continuous improvement.

The Council is committed to ensuring the confidentiality of complainants' information and protecting them from any form of retaliation. Internal controls define access rights to files, restricting information sharing to the specialized complaints team. The Council also relies on presenting its data in numerical and percentage formats to facilitate clear comparisons and trend analysis, thereby enhancing transparency and enabling effective evaluation.

Key challenges include low response rates in critical sectors such as health and education, limited cooperation in matters concerning Egyptians abroad, and delays in responses to certain labor-related claims. To address these challenges, the Council is working to strengthen coordination with relevant authorities, enhance follow-up mechanisms, and expand the use of electronic platforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of complaint handling.

This section of the report is particularly important in providing a comprehensive overview of the volume and nature of complaints received, the level of responsiveness of relevant authorities, and the impact of the Council's interventions in achieving practical solutions. It highlights progress made, identifies ongoing challenges, and outlines measures undertaken to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the complaints system going forward.

## **General Classification of Complaints and Requests Received by the Council**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of **3,119 complaints and requests**. An analysis of these submissions according to the channels through which they were received is as follows:

- **In-person complaints** at the Council's offices in Giza and the Fifth Settlement: **1,768 complaints**
- **Online submissions: 451 complaints**
- **Complaints via regular postal mail: 358 complaints**
- **Complaints received through the Council's regional branches: 284 complaints**
- **Complaints via fax: 180 complaints**
- **Complaints via WhatsApp: 50 complaints**

- **Complaints submitted via email and the NCHR mobile application (NCHR-App): 14 complaints each**

This classification provides an overview of the accessibility and utilization of the Council's various complaint channels during the reporting period.

In-person	Post	Fax	Email	Online	WhatsApp	Mobile Application	NCHR branches	TOTAL
1768	358	180	14	451	50	14	284	3119

*Table no.1 highlighting complaints according to access methods*

### **Classification of Complaints by Type of Rights**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of 2,103 complaints alleging violations of civil and political rights, including persons deprived of their liberty, of which 330 requests were related to the Presidential Pardon Initiative. Moreover, the Council received 239 complaints and requests concerning alleged violations of economic and social rights.

The Council did not receive complaints concerning Egyptians abroad, with only 13 submissions recorded in this category. Regarding complaints and requests related to vulnerable and priority groups, the Council received 20 submissions. All complaints and requests were carefully reviewed, with those falling within the Council's mandate being referred to the relevant authorities and their follow-up monitored.

During the same period, 654 complaints and requests were closed for falling outside the Council's mandate, while the Council provided legal advice, guidance, and redirection to hundreds of complainants through in-person consultations or by telephone.

Development (economic-social-labour)	Freedoms (civil and political, prisoners, pardon requests)	Egyptians abroad	Vulnerable groups	Outside scope of jurisdiction	TOTAL
329	2103	13	20	654	3119

*Table no.2 highlighting complaints according to classification of rights*

### **Geographical Distribution of Complaints**

In terms of the geographical origin of complaints, Giza Governorate ranked first with 649 complaints, followed by Cairo Governorate with 611 complaints, Gharbia Governorate with 160 complaints, and Qalyubia Governorate with 148 complaints. Collectively, these four governorates accounted for 50.3% of the total complaints and requests received by the Council during the reporting period.

Conversely, the lowest number of complaints originated from New Valley, Matrouh, Red Sea, and North Sinai Governorates, with 2, 5, 10, and 13 complaints and requests, respectively.

<b>Governorate</b>	<b>Number of Complaints</b>
Giza	٦٤٩
Cairo	٦١١
Gharbiyah	١٦٠
Qalyoubiyah	١٤٨
Alexandria	١٣٥
Menoufiyah	١٢٧
Sharqiyah	١٢٤
Minya	١٢٤
Beni Suef	١١٦
Daqahliyah	١١١
Luxor	١٠٣
Suez	٩١
Assiut	٩٠
Beheira	٨٥
Kafr El Sheikh	٨١
Sohag	٧٥
Qena	٥٨
Fayoum	٤٨
Ismailiyah	٣٩
South Sinai	٢٩
Damietta	٢٦
Aswan	٢٣
Port Said	٢٢
North Sinai	١٣
Red Sea	١٠
Matrouh	٥
El Wadi El Gadid	٢
Unspecified	١٤
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>٣١١٩</b>

*Table no.3 highlighting complaints according to geographical distribution*

### **Classification of Complaints by Gender**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of 2,622 complaints submitted by male complainants, while complaints submitted by female complainants amounted to 478. Moreover, there were 19 collective complaints submitted on behalf of groups of citizens, commonly referred to as grouped complaints.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Complaints</b>
Male	٢٦٢٢

Female	٤٧٨
Combined	١٩
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>٣١٩</b>

Table no.4 highlighting complaints according to gender

### Reports Submitted by the Council and Response of Competent Authorities

Regarding the level of response from relevant authorities to reports submitted by the Council concerning citizens' complaints and requests, the Council submitted a total of 2,152 reports to the competent authorities during the reporting period. Responses were received for 1,485 reports, reflecting a response rate of 69%.

Additionally, 330 requests related to the Presidential Pardon Initiative were referred to the Presidential Pardon Committee for consideration of release. It should be noted that some complaints required notification to more than one authority (e.g., the Public Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior), and some reports included multiple requests.

The following table illustrates the distribution of reports and responses received by the Council from relevant authorities during the reporting period.

Competent Authorities	Number of NCHR's reports	Number of responses from authorities	Percentages of responses to reports
Ministry of Interior	١٥٨٤	١٢٢٥	%٧٧,٥
Minister of Social Solidarity	١٢٢	١٠٨	%٨٨,٥
Public Prosecution	٢٩٩	٩٦	%٣٢,١
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	١٣	٤	%٣٠,٨
Ministry of Health	١٦	٣	%١٨,٧
Ministry of Education	٧	١	%١٤,٣
Ministry of Manpower	٩	-	-
Ministry of Supply and Local Trade	٧	٤	%٦٦,٧
Ministry of Electricity	٤	١	%٢٥
Ministry of Water Resources	٨	٥	%٦٢,٥
Other Ministries	١٧	٧	%٤١,٢
Governorates	٤٢	١١	%٢٦,٢
Other Authorities	٢٩	٢٠	%٦٨,٩
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>٢١٥٢</b>	<b>١٤٨٥</b>	<b>%٦٩</b>

*Table no.5 highlighting number of NCHR's reports and competent authorities responses*

The data indicate that, among all entities to which the Council referred complaints during the reporting period, the Ministry of Interior demonstrated the highest level of responsiveness, accounting for 82.49% of the total replies, followed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity with 7.27%, and the Public Prosecution with 6.46%.

It is further noted that certain service-oriented ministries, whose functions directly affect broad segments of the population — such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education — exhibited limited responsiveness, notwithstanding the relatively small number of communications addressed to them.

### **Complaints and Requests Related to Civil and Political Rights**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of 2,103 complaints and requests related to civil and political rights, including requests for inclusion in the Presidential Pardon Initiative and release pending investigation, of which 330 requests were specifically submitted for pardon or release. These requests were referred to the Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior, and the Presidential Pardon Committee, to be addressed within the legal authority of each entity.

The allegations against the individuals in these requests varied, including joining a banned group, damaging public property, displaying force, blocking roads, assembly, and protest, often connected to incidents of violence that occurred following major events such as the dispersal of the Rabaa and Nahda sit-ins and subsequent events after the June 30 Revolution.

The political leadership and the Public Prosecution responded positively to the pardon requests submitted through the Council, as well as those referred to the Presidential Pardon Committee from other authorities. This resulted in the release of hundreds of detainees, whether held in pretrial detention or those with final judgments. For example, 151 individuals held in pretrial detention were released in September 2024, and Presidential Decree No. 581 of 2024 granted a pardon to 54 convicts in Case No. 2023/80/811, Military Criminal Court, Ismailia Branch, Northern Sinai.

Category	Males		Females		TOTAL	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
In pretrial detention	100	92.3	13	7.7	168	100
Convicted	161	99.4	1	0.6	162	100

*Table no.6 highlighting Statistical and Categorical Distribution of Requests for the Presidential Pardon*

### **Complaints and Requests Concerning Inmates in Correctional Facilities**

During the reporting period, the Council received **1,532 complaints and requests** from inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centers, excluding requests for presidential pardons and release on bail, which were addressed previously. These complaints and requests were categorized into several subgroups:

- **Requests for conditional or medical release** of convicted persons constituted the largest category, with the Council receiving responses for **67.3%** of these submissions.
- **Complaints related to torture and ill-treatment** accounted for another significant portion, with responses received for approximately **95%** of cases.
- **Requests from relatives for transferring inmates** to correctional facilities closer to their residence received responses in **72.6%** of cases.
- **Requests concerning the provision of healthcare** for inmates were addressed with a response rate of **71%**.
- Additional complaints and requests, though smaller in number, included **requests regarding the treatment of inmates' relatives during visits** and **requests from inmates seeking to continue their education**.

Sub-classifications	Number of complaints/requests	Number of responses
Health and conditional release requests	1023	688
Torture and ill-treatment complaints	179	174
Movement to other facilities requests	164	119
Healthcare requests	140	103
Other	21	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>1094</b>

*Table no.7: Classification of Complaints Concerning Inmates in Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers and Pre-Trial Detainees*

### **Additional Civil and Political Rights Complaints and Requests**

The Council also received complaints and requests covering other matters within the civil and political rights domain during the reporting period, including:

- **Non-implementation of issued judgments:** 78 complaints concerning failure to execute court rulings in favor of complainants.
- **Inaction by law enforcement agencies:** 41 complaints regarding the failure of competent authorities to take necessary measures.
- **Abuse of authority or influence:** 28 complaints alleging misuse of power.
- **Arbitrary exercise of authority:** 14 complaints concerning unlawful or unjustified exercise of official powers.

- **Right to personal liberty and security:** 10 complaints addressing violations of personal freedom and safety.

Additionally, the Council received several individual complaints, including requests for:

- **Release of pre-trial detainees** due to social or health circumstances.
- **Reduction of supervision periods**, scheduling of appeal hearings, or combining periods of detention.
- **Residence renewals for foreign nationals** residing in Egypt.

Sub-classifications	Number of complaints	Number of responses
Verdicts implementation	٧٨	٥٢
Abuse of authority	٢٨	١٩
Police and legal procedures implementation	٤١	١٨
Arbitrary exercise of authority	١٤	٨
Personal freedom and security	١٠	٤
Right to physical integrity	١١	٧
Other	٣٤	١٠
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>٢١٨</b>	<b>١١٨</b>

*Table no.8 highlighting Complaints Submitted to the Council Concerning Other Issues Related to Civil and Political Rights*

During the reporting period, the Council dealt with **25 cases alleging enforced disappearance**, including some cases reported prior to the current reporting period. To date, the Council has received information clarifying the fate of **14 cases**, representing **56% of the total cases**.

Response classification	Number of cases	Percentage
Alleged detainee currently held in a prison or detention facility pending a case	٩	%٣٦
Alleged individual not previously arrested or charged	٤	%١٦
Alleged individual released and not re-arrested	١	%٤
No response received regarding the individual	١١	%٤٤
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>٢٥</b>	<b>%١٠٠</b>

*Table no.9 highlighting Cases of Alleged Enforced Disappearance Addressed by the NCHR During the Reporting Period*

### **Economic and Social Rights Complaints and Complaints from Egyptians Abroad**

During the reporting period, the Council received a total of **349 complaints and requests** related to economic and social rights, including the rights of vulnerable and priority groups such as children and persons with disabilities.

- Complaints related to **economic rights** ranked first, totaling **146 complaints** (41.8% of all complaints in this category).
- Complaints concerning **social rights and access to public services** came second, with **100 complaints** (28.7%).
- Complaints regarding **labor rights and conditions** for employees in various public and private entities were third, amounting to **83 complaints** (23.8%).
- Finally, complaints concerning **vulnerable groups** accounted for **20 complaints** (5.7% of the total complaints in this category).

Main classifications	Sub-classifications	Number of reports	Number of responses
Economic rights	Requests for inclusion in the cash assistance programme.	120	108
	Applications for employment.	9	-
Labour rights	Complaints of workplace persecution, arbitrary dismissal or transfer, and demands for adequate working conditions.	30	17
	Claims for financial entitlements owed by the employer.	20	7
	Transfer requests	23	14
Social rights	Public services and facilities complaints	19	14
	Right to health	20	3
	Right to education	10	1
	Right to issue documents	11	3
Vulnerable groups	Requests for the issuance of the “Comprehensive Services Card.”	8	3

	Applications for employment under the 5% quota for persons with disabilities.	7	-
<b>Other</b>	<b>Other</b>	8	10

*Table (10): Distribution of complaints related to economic, social, and cultural rights, and the responses received thereto.*

With regard to economic rights, complaints related to applications for inclusion in State cash assistance programmes represented the largest share, accounting for 35.8% of all submissions within this category. Corresponding responses constituted 60.3% of all replies received in the area of economic and social rights. The majority of applications for enrolment in the *Takaful* and *Karama* programmes were submitted by women-headed households, particularly widows, divorced women, and women whose spouses are currently incarcerated. A notable number of submissions also concerned the suspension of pension payment cards, resulting in numerous requests for reactivation, as well as applications for medical assessments to verify disability status required for pension eligibility.

In relation to labour rights, the most frequently reported issues concerned workplace persecution, ill-treatment, arbitrary dismissal or transfer, and requests for adequate working conditions. The relevant authorities responded to approximately half of the cases referred to them. Complaints related to unpaid financial entitlements ranked second; however, the level of response in these cases was very low, not exceeding 25% of the total communications sent. Lastly, transfer requests constituted the smallest category. The majority of these were submitted by conscripts and police personnel affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, seeking reassignment to locations nearer to their family residences for humanitarian and economic reasons. The Ministry generally demonstrated a positive level of responsiveness, approving a number of such requests, while noting that transfer decisions for conscripts are governed primarily by the Ministry's internal deployment policies.

With respect to social rights, the largest proportion of complaints received by the Council concerned public services, infrastructure, and administrative violations, representing more than half of all submissions. These were followed by complaints related to the right to health, including requests for treatment at public expense, referrals to medical committees, allegations of medical negligence, and concerns about the availability and adequacy of healthcare facilities. Complaints related to the right to education and issuance of official documents ranked third. Overall, the level of engagement from relevant authorities remained extremely limited—for instance, the Council received only three responses to complaints related to health rights and a single response concerning the right to education—despite the critical nature of these issues, many of which directly affect citizens' well-being.

Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, most submissions pertained to applications for the Comprehensive Services Card, including complaints of rejection or prolonged delays in

processing. Other submissions requested employment opportunities within the 5% employment quota for persons with disabilities, in addition to a limited number of cases related to the procedures for obtaining specially equipped vehicles. The Council engaged with the competent authorities regarding these matters; however, response rates were low, with only three replies received across this category.

With respect to complaints concerning the rights of Egyptians abroad, the Council received 13 submissions during the reporting period. The majority related to Egyptian nationals whose families sought assistance in securing their return to Egypt. In most cases, the individuals had either lost contact with their families after travelling abroad or had reportedly been detained, with their fate remaining unknown.

For instance, the Council received a complaint from several families whose sons had travelled to Libya in search of employment through Borg El Arab Airport. The individuals were reportedly residing on Al-Zawiya Street near the Emergency Hospital in Tripoli before all communication with them was lost. Another complaint concerned the disappearance of seven Egyptian nationals in Sudan, in the context of the ongoing conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces. The Council referred these cases to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but had not received a response at the time of reporting.

Other complaints concerned legal challenges faced by Egyptian citizens abroad, including cases of detention or deportation, where families requested the Council's assistance in facilitating legal support to safeguard their rights and ensure due process.

### **General Observations on the Performance of the Complaints Mechanism**

In light of the complaints received by the Council, the responses and levels of engagement from executive authorities, and the accompanying statistical analysis, several key observations can be drawn regarding the performance of the complaints mechanism of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR):

- Civil and political rights complaints, including requests for pardon and release, constituted the largest share of total complaints, accounting for 67.4%. This reflects the trust placed by citizens in the Council as a channel for addressing issues related to personal freedoms. At the same time, it indicates the continued existence of structural challenges within the criminal justice system, particularly concerning the duration of pretrial detention and the length of judicial proceedings.
- The 97.2% response rate to complaints related to torture and ill-treatment demonstrates the priority accorded to these issues within the Council's work and the existence of institutional cooperation with the relevant authorities. However, it underscores the need for continued monitoring to ensure that remedial measures are implemented in practice, rather than relying solely on written responses.
- Response rates varied significantly among ministries, revealing gaps in institutional cooperation and highlighting the need for more effective coordination mechanisms.
- Although complaints related to economic and social rights represented only 10.5% of total submissions, the limited responses received in areas such as health, education, and labour

rights point to the necessity of developing dedicated follow-up mechanisms, particularly since many of these issues have a direct and tangible impact on citizens' daily lives.

- The low number of complaints from Egyptians abroad (0.4%) does not indicate an absence of problems; rather, it may reflect limited awareness of the Council's capacity to address such cases or difficulties in accessing the complaints mechanism from outside Egypt. The absence of any response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlights the need to strengthen coordination channels with diplomatic missions abroad.
- Approximately 21% of the complaints received fell outside the Council's mandate, which, while reflecting the broad public trust in the NCHR as a national human rights institution, also points to the importance of raising awareness about the Council's mandate and simplifying referral procedures to the competent authorities in order to optimize time and effort.
- More than half of all complaints originated from only four governorates (Giza, Cairo, Gharbia, and Qalyubia), underscoring the need to enhance outreach and accessibility in border and Upper Egypt governorates, where complaint numbers are lower but rights-related needs may be more significant.
- During the reporting period, the complaints follow-up system focused primarily on quantitative indicators, particularly response rates from relevant authorities, without sufficient assessment of the qualitative impact of those responses or their effectiveness in resolving complainants' issues. Recognizing the importance of this dimension, the Council has initiated steps to strengthen qualitative follow-up, including the development of a standardized assessment model for measuring the outcomes of interventions, the introduction of indicators to assess satisfaction levels and resolution rates, and the establishment of a centralized database to track the status of complaints post-closure. These measures respond to recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Accreditation and form part of a broader plan, developed in collaboration with international partners, to improve response quality and ensure that solutions provided have a tangible and sustainable impact on complainants' situations.

The National Council for Human Rights affirms that the complaints and redress mechanism lies at the core of its protection mandate. The Council reiterates that the continuous development of this mechanism reflects its commitment to the Paris Principles and to the observations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. Data from the reporting period reaffirm the Council's capacity to handle a large volume of complaints from diverse governorates and population groups, achieving high response rates in priority areas—most notably in cases concerning personal freedoms and protection from torture. At the same time, the Council acknowledges areas requiring further improvement, particularly in enhancing response rates in certain sectors and strengthening the qualitative monitoring of case outcomes.

The Council has already begun implementing practical measures to address these gaps, including improved institutional coordination, expanded outreach channels, and the integration of impact measurement indicators to assess the effectiveness of interventions. Through these efforts, the NCHR seeks to consolidate a transparent and accountable institutional culture dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights.

## **Pillar II: The NCHR's Engagement with International and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and Its Activities at the International Level**

During the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continued to engage actively with international and regional human rights mechanisms, maintaining dialogue and the exchange of expertise with peer institutions and implementing joint initiatives with international development partners. The period also witnessed the review of the Council's accreditation status by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), during which the Council presented its efforts to fulfill its mandate with independence and effectiveness, in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/134 (1993) on national institutions—known as the Paris Principles. The following outlines the main activities and engagements undertaken by the Council between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025:

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### **Participation in Egypt's 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) constitutes a fundamental mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council, pursuant to which Member States undertake a systematic examination of the human rights situation in each country at regular intervals of approximately five years. The review process is premised upon three principal documents: (1) a national report submitted by the State under review; (2) a compilation of United Nations information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), drawing upon inputs from relevant UN entities; and (3) a summary of stakeholder information, encompassing contributions from national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt submitted its fourth national report for the UPR in January 2025, represented by a delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Egyptians Abroad, who concurrently serves as Chair of the Standing Supreme Committee for Human Rights. During the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Egypt presented its position on the recommendations received, which were subsequently adopted alongside the Government's voluntary pledges and commitments.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) engaged throughout the UPR process, submitting an independent report founded upon a comprehensive national consultation process. The Council further participated, through its delegation, in both the forty-eighth session of the UPR Working Group in January 2025 and the adoption session convened on 2 June 2025 during the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The Council's submission to the UPR examined the human rights situation in Egypt during the period from 2019 to 2024, in accordance with established procedural frameworks and timelines. The report drew upon the Council's monitoring mechanisms, including analysis of complaints, surveys, field observations, and community consultations. Three regional consultative meetings were convened with stakeholders, bringing together more than 70 civil society organizations representing Greater Cairo, the Nile Delta, and Upper Egypt. In addition, a dedicated meeting was

held with Egyptian non-governmental organizations holding consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), attended by 12 organizations.

The report documented progress achieved by Egypt over the preceding four-year period in implementing the commitments undertaken during the 2019 UPR cycle, and formulated specific recommendations to the State across categories encompassing civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

A total of 137 States submitted 343 recommendations, addressing a comprehensive spectrum of human rights concerns. These included recommendations pertaining to the abolition of the death penalty, accession to optional protocols to international human rights conventions, measures to combat violence against women, and the establishment of a national commission to address discrimination. Several States further recommended continued enhancement of the independence and effectiveness of the NCHR.

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On the margins of Egypt's UPR review session in January 2025, the NCHR organized a panel discussion at the United Nations Office in Geneva titled "*The Human Rights Situation in Egypt 2019–2024: Achievements and Challenges.*" The event was attended by representatives of international diplomatic missions, Egyptian civil society organizations, and human rights advocates based abroad.

During its presence in Geneva, the NCHR delegation held a series of bilateral meetings with the heads and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, aimed at fostering international cooperation and exchanging views on issues of mutual concern. Discussions highlighted the Council's ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights in Egypt, and outlined its positions on various key issues. Meetings were held with the diplomatic missions of the Netherlands, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, and the Danish Ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

The NCHR also participated in the adoption session of Egypt's UPR report during the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2025. In his address, Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, Chairperson of the NCHR, expressed appreciation for the recommendations submitted to Egypt, emphasizing the importance of their effective implementation and recognizing the UPR as a genuine opportunity to reinforce Egypt's commitment to the human rights system and to deepen a culture of transparency and accountability.

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The Council underscored that legislation governing public freedoms, particularly those concerning freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, should continue to evolve in line with constitutional provisions and relevant international standards. It further emphasized the need to ensure that journalists and media professionals are able to operate freely within a safe civic space, consistent with the Constitution and the law, guaranteeing free access to information and fostering a climate of diversity and pluralism.

The Council also reiterated its position on the death penalty, advocating for a comprehensive review to ensure that it is applied only in the most serious crimes, with full respect for fair trial guarantees. It further called for a thorough review of the Code of Criminal Procedure, with a view to adopting a more holistic approach to allegations of torture, thereby reinforcing a culture of accountability and non-impunity.

The Council highlighted the need to strengthen the criminal justice system, notably by reducing the duration of pretrial detention and activating available legal alternatives—a position previously presented by the NCHR during sessions of the National Dialogue. It also stressed the importance of effective judicial oversight of detention facilities and ensuring accountability for any violations committed therein.

The Council recommended extending the National Human Rights Strategy until 2030, with a second phase incorporating clear implementation mechanisms, quantitative and qualitative indicators, and broad-based partnerships involving the government, parliament, judiciary, and civil society, to ensure continuous evaluation and institutional development.

The Council also underscored the importance of amending its founding law to further strengthen its independence and address the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA). It noted that a comprehensive report had already been submitted outlining the steps taken to preserve the Council's independence and effectiveness as a fully autonomous national institution.

The NCHR renewed its call for the establishment of an independent national commission to prevent discrimination, consistent with its long-standing proposal aimed at promoting equality and justice and ensuring that marginalized groups can exercise their rights on an equal footing.

In his statement, Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Chairperson of the NCHR, reaffirmed the Council's commitment to advancing the legislative and institutional frameworks for human rights in line with Egypt's international obligations. He emphasized that the Council would continue to provide evidence-based recommendations and to cooperate with national and international partners to advance this process. He concluded by noting that Egypt's engagement in the Universal Periodic Review represents a constructive opportunity to consolidate a national human rights culture and to build upon progress achieved in this vital area.

### **Cooperation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)**

During the reporting period, the Council participated in the 25th Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), held from 10 to 12 March 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The event brought together over 300 participants, including representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), United Nations bodies, and civil society organizations. The Council's delegation actively engaged in the meeting's key activities, including:

- The General Assembly of GANHRI;
- Regional Networks' meetings of NHRIs;

- The Annual Conference titled “*Human Rights of Women and Girls and the Promotion of Gender Equality: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions*”;
- Experience-sharing sessions among NHRIs on issues relating to the rights of persons with disabilities and the accreditation process for national institutions.

In its interventions throughout these sessions, the Council underscored several key points, notably the reaffirmation of the rule of law as the fundamental safeguard for protecting the rights of women and girls. It highlighted how contemporary global challenges—such as climate change, cybersecurity threats, and armed conflicts—have significantly impacted the rule of law, citing ongoing conflicts in regions such as Ukraine and the Middle East.

The Council also drew attention to the grave humanitarian situation faced by women and girls in Palestine as a result of the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip, and emphasized the relevance of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security agenda in addressing such crises.

Additionally, the Council took part in a workshop organized by the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, held on the margins of the GANHRI meeting, under the theme “*National Human Rights Institutions’ Response to the Threats of Forced Displacement in Palestine.*”

In its keynote statement, the Council stressed that the ongoing war against the Palestinian people constitutes an unprecedented violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, noting that 78% of the victims are women and children and that 85% of schools have been deliberately destroyed, depriving 260,000 children of their right to education.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of empowering National Human Rights Institutions to enable them to work effectively with their respective governments toward the implementation of international human rights and humanitarian law obligations.

### **The NCHR Accreditation Process**

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) received a preliminary recommendation from the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) proposing the downgrading of its accreditation status from “A” to “B”. The SCA’s assessment identified a number of observations concerning aspects of the Council’s independence, human rights protection and promotion mandate, and institutional functioning. The SCA granted the Council a period until June 2025 to provide a written response and supporting documentation prior to the final consideration of the accreditation outcome in October 2025.

The NCHR received the SCA’s recommendation with full understanding of the concerns expressed and has taken a constructive and transparent approach to addressing them. The Council reiterated its continued commitment to upholding the Paris Principles (1993), which have guided its work since its initial accreditation in 2006, and emphasized its determination to demonstrate full and sustained compliance with the standards governing National Human Rights Institutions.

In May 2025, the Council submitted to the SCA a comprehensive compliance report, prepared in accordance with the SCA's reporting framework. The report provided detailed information on the NCHR's activities to promote and protect human rights, including:

- Legislative engagement, through the review and submission of recommendations on draft laws and regulations relevant to human rights;
- Complaints handling, including the receipt, investigation, and follow-up of individual and collective complaints;
- Monitoring and field visits, particularly to places of detention, to assess conditions and document observations;
- Community engagement, by strengthening cooperation with civil society organizations, professional syndicates, and academic institutions; and
- International cooperation, through active participation in United Nations mechanisms, regional networks, and peer exchanges with other NHRIs.

The Council's submission further outlined its ongoing efforts to amend Law No. 97 of 2017, with a view to enhancing transparency, pluralism, and merit-based selection in appointment procedures, as well as reinforcing financial and administrative autonomy.

Moreover, the report included a dedicated section addressing the Council's initiatives to encourage the State's ratification and accession to international human rights treaties, an area previously highlighted by the SCA. The NCHR underscored that the proposed amendments to its founding legislation explicitly expand its mandate in this regard, enabling it to play a more proactive role in supporting and monitoring the State's engagement with the international human rights system.

Overall, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to constructive dialogue with the SCA, to the progressive alignment of its institutional framework with the Paris Principles, and to ensuring the effective, independent, and credible discharge of its mandate in accordance with international standards.

### **Engagement with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI)**

The Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) serves as a regional cooperative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights within the Arab region. During the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) actively participated in several events and initiatives organized by the Network, including the following:

- The Regional Forum on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Planning and Monitoring the Implementation of National Visions Related to Human Rights, held from 24–25 July 2024 in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. The event was jointly organized by the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar, the Arab Network of NHRIs, and the Omani Human Rights Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights.

- The Annual International Conference of the Arab Network of NHRIs, convened in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 26 October 2024, under the theme: *“Reviewing and Unifying Regional and International Efforts to Support National Human Rights Institutions in the Arab World.”* The conference coincided with the 23rd General Assembly of the Network, and was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Jordan. Taking place amid grave regional developments—particularly the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese territories since 7 October 2024—the NCHR emphasized, in its intervention, the vital role of national institutions in exposing grave violations of international law, especially those arising from the Israeli occupation in Gaza and its policies of forced displacement.
- Participation in training sessions organized by the Arab Network, including a training course on monitoring economic, social, and cultural rights held on 9 November 2024, and the Mohamed Fayek Training Programme on *“Deepening the Understanding of the Role and Position of National Human Rights Institutions to Facilitate Cooperation in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,”* held on 16 December 2024.
- Organization of an International Conference against the Forced Displacement of the Population in the Occupied State of Palestine, held in Cairo on 27 February 2025, in partnership with the Arab Network of NHRIs, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. The conference sought to reject forced displacement, promote reconstruction efforts, enable Palestinians to remain on their land, and advance accountability and justice, while reaffirming the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.
- Participation in the Opening Dialogue on Business and Human Rights: *“Towards a Path for Responsible Trade in the Arab Region,”* held from 28–29 October 2024 in Doha, State of Qatar. The event was co-organized by the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar, the Arab Network of NHRIs, and the UNDP, in cooperation with the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and UNICEF. The dialogue brought together experts, representatives of NHRIs, the private sector, civil society, and government officials from across the Arab region. The NCHR was represented by Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim, who presented a policy paper on regulatory frameworks supporting responsible trade.
- Joint Celebration of the Arab Human Rights Day, organized in March 2025 at the NCHR headquarters in Cairo, in collaboration with the Arab Network of NHRIs and the Arab Charter Committee of the League of Arab States. The event underscored the importance of collective Arab efforts to strengthen regional human rights frameworks and enhance cooperation among national and regional institutions in addressing emerging challenges.
- Participation in the Arab–African Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, from 24–25 June 2025. The forum was jointly organized by the Moroccan Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Arab Network of NHRIs, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF. It brought together international experts and representatives of human rights institutions and the private sector from across the Arab region and Africa. The NCHR presented a working paper on the impact of adherence to international human rights and sustainability standards on economic competitiveness indicators.

## **Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

A delegation from the National Council for Human Rights met with the Deputy High Commissioner and several representatives of the OHCHR on the margins of Egypt's Universal Periodic Review session held in Geneva in January 2025. The meeting took place within the framework of institutional cooperation and focused on the Council's ongoing efforts to align with the Paris Principles, as well as on prospects for joint training programmes to strengthen the capacity of Council staff—particularly in supporting journalists' knowledge and reporting on human rights issues.

In February 2025, the Council, in cooperation with the OHCHR, the United Nations Center for Training and Documentation, and the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt, organized the third training course on "*The Human Rights-Based Approach in Journalism in Egypt.*" The course brought together 22 journalists from various media institutions and addressed fundamental concepts of human rights, constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression, relevant international mechanisms, and the role of media in advancing transparency and accountability.

The Council also participated in several events organized by, or in collaboration with, the OHCHR, including:

- A workshop on "*Enhancing National Legislative Guarantees against Torture and Ill-Treatment,*" held in November 2024 by the National Human Rights Council of Morocco in cooperation with the OHCHR;
- A panel discussion on "*National Human Rights Institutions and Emerging Digital Technologies in the Middle East and Africa,*" convened in Amman, Jordan, in December 2024, jointly organized by the National Center for Human Rights and the OHCHR;
- A training programme on monitoring and documentation principles, organized in collaboration with the European Union and the OHCHR in June 2025.

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## **Cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

The Council participated in the first ministerial meeting on the National Roadmap for the Transition of Asylum Management to the Egyptian State, held on 20 January 2025 at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the participation of UNHCR. Discussions focused on mechanisms for transitioning from the UNHCR-managed system to a comprehensive national system encompassing capacity building, legislative harmonization, and institutional framework development.

During the meeting, participants emphasized the importance of including the National Council for Human Rights in the transition committee to ensure transparency and rights-based protection in line with Egypt's international obligations under refugee law.

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## **Cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Between May and December 2024, the Council implemented a joint programme with the UNFPA aimed at promoting the right to health and reproductive rights. The programme included a series of activities with the participation of representatives from relevant ministries, specialized national councils, civil society organizations, and independent experts. Key activities included:

- A workshop on legal provisions and proposed legislation to combat violence against women and monitor the implementation of national and international commitments, as well as a workshop on integrating human rights and reproductive health into educational curricula;
- A consultative expert meeting on legislative amendments to criminalize child marriage through revisions to the Child Law, the Civil Status Law, and the Penal Code;
- A consultative expert meeting on supporting the rights of marginalized and at-risk women and girls;
- A consultative meeting on “*Legislation Related to the Promotion of Reproductive and Sexual Rights*” and a workshop on integrating reproductive health and human rights into school curricula;
- Three training sessions for teachers and staff from the Ministry of Education focusing on reproductive health education.

## **Cooperation with the European Union**

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continued its constructive cooperation with the European Union. The Delegation of the European Union to Egypt approved the extension of the joint cooperation project entitled “*Support to the National Council for Human Rights*” for the period from January to June 2025. This extension placed particular emphasis on strengthening mechanisms for engagement with civil society organizations, fostering dialogue and partnership with various human rights actors, and promoting a culture of human rights. The initiative also aimed to address the observations and recommendations issued by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), as part of the Council’s ongoing efforts to enhance its compliance with relevant international standards and complete its re-accreditation process.

Within this framework, cooperation included the following activities:

- A consultative meeting on “*Exchange of Experiences among Systems Handling Citizens’ Complaints in Egypt*” (including the Complaints Mechanism of the Cabinet of Ministers, the National Council for Women, and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood) held on 26 February 2025;
- A roundtable discussion on “*Challenges Facing Media Platforms and Ways to Address Them from a Human Rights Perspective*” held on 24 February 2025;
- A roundtable on “*Challenges Facing Civil Society Organizations and Human Rights Defenders*” held on 9 March 2025;
- A roundtable on “*The Role of Intellectuals and Opinion Leaders in Advancing Human Rights*” held on 19 March 2025;

- Four broad-based dialogue meetings bringing together representatives from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to discuss “*The Importance of Adopting a Human Rights-Based Approach and Integrating Human Rights Principles into National Legislation*,” accession to international conventions, alignment with United Nations standards, and the removal of reservations;
- A training programme on the “*Principles of Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting in the Field of Human Rights*” aimed at strengthening the capacities of NCHR researchers in the areas of human rights monitoring and documentation.

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### **Cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)**

During the reporting period, the NCHR maintained active cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Key activities included:

- A side event held on the margins of the 59th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in January 2025, focusing on “*The Human Rights Situation in Egypt from 2019 to 2024*”;
- A workshop for NCHR researchers on “*Responding to Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Questionnaires and Implementing the Recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation*”;
- Participation in the regional training workshop on “*Interaction between National and International Human Rights Systems*,” organized by the DIHR in Tunis from 11 to 16 November 2024;
- Participation in the regional workshop “*Beijing+30 Regional Review*,” organized by the DIHR in cooperation with the National Center for Human Rights in Jordan and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), held in the Sultanate of Oman from 9 to 10 December 2024.

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### **Meetings with Foreign and Arab Delegations**

The National Council for Human Rights received a delegation from the National Bureau for Human Rights of the State of Kuwait on 9 July 2024. The Council also hosted a delegation of representatives from the embassies of European Union member states in Cairo, including political and human rights officers from the embassies of Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, and Germany, as well as representatives of the Political Section and the Human Rights Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt.

### **The NCHR’s Actions in Response to Israeli Violations Against the Palestinian People**

The Palestinian issue remains a central factor in regional stability and continues to have profound implications for the human rights situation across the region. Alongside its participation in and

organization of conferences addressing the protection of Palestinian rights and condemning Israeli violations—such as the Cairo conference on the crime of forced displacement held in cooperation with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions—and its interventions in several international forums, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continues to use various platforms to express its solidarity with the Palestinian people and to advocate for international action to uphold human rights and humanitarian law.

In this regard, the NCHR reaffirmed its steadfast support for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in a statement issued on the occasion of the *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, observed annually on 29 November. The Council voiced its deep concern regarding the ongoing violations and large-scale civilian suffering in the occupied territories and called for full respect for international humanitarian law, along with the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions to achieve a just and lasting peace.

In a related statement, the Council expressed its strong condemnation of remarks attributed to former U.S. President Donald Trump advocating the takeover of the Gaza Strip and the forced displacement of its residents. The Council urged the international community to denounce such rhetoric as a threat to peace and security and to reinforce accountability mechanisms against any party promoting or implementing forced displacement policies. It further underscored the importance of supporting the International Criminal Court's role in ensuring accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations committed in the occupied Palestinian territories.

### **Pillar III: NCHR Cooperation with National Mechanisms and Civil Society Organizations to Promote Human Rights, and Field Visits to the Governorates**

**During the reporting period**, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) sought to broaden its cooperation with national mechanisms, including both chambers of Parliament—the House of Representatives and the Senate—as well as judicial and executive bodies. The Council also maintained constructive dialogue with civil society organizations and human rights defenders in Egypt, while engaging in interactive discussions with activists based abroad. In parallel, the Council intensified its field visits to the governorates, each encompassing a wide range of complementary activities, as detailed below:

#### **Cooperation with Parliament**

In its continued efforts to strengthen institutional collaboration with the legislative branch, the NCHR participated between July 2024 and June 2025 in 23 meetings of the Human Rights Committees in both parliamentary chambers. These meetings addressed several key issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights and included the review of draft laws such as the new Criminal Procedure Code, the Law on Asylum for Foreigners, the Social Security Law, and two draft laws on old rental arrangements.

The Council also took part in preparatory discussions for Egypt's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2025, as well as deliberations on amending the NCHR Law in light of the observations made by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, in coordination with the Cabinet's Advisory Body.

Additionally, the Council contributed to discussions regarding its budget proposal and economic and social development plan for fiscal year 2025/2026, and presented its Seventeenth Annual Report and Special Report on Accreditation Status to Parliament.

### **Cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons**

The NCHR continued its close institutional cooperation with the Committee through several joint initiatives, most notably the “Migration Governance Project”, which aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration and promote knowledge of human rights. The project included awareness sessions targeting various groups, including university students, executive officials in governorate headquarters, and members of local human rights committees.

The Council also implemented a series of capacity-building programs in cooperation with the Committee, including the “Capacity Development Program for Hotline 15508 Staff”—dedicated to receiving complaints related to irregular migration and trafficking—which targeted staff from NCHR’s regional offices, members of local protection committees, and key personnel in priority areas.

Furthermore, the Council and the Committee jointly conducted training programs to raise public awareness about irregular migration, focusing on communities most affected by the phenomenon. Two training sessions were also held in Minya Governorate, benefiting 50 participants from local directorates of youth and sports, manpower, social solidarity, education, and local development, as well as representatives from religious institutions, civil society organizations, rural outreach workers, and social specialists.

The Council also contributed to developing the National Action Plan 2024–2026, submitting its strategic vision for the final phase of the plan, which included practical recommendations to strengthen protection, prevention, and coordination among key stakeholders.

Lastly, the NCHR organized a national awareness symposium on “Combating Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons,” which brought together 40 participants from relevant civil society organizations, academia, and research institutions, including the State Information Service, the National Center for Strategic Planning, and the National Research Institute. The symposium emphasized the vital role of civil society in protecting youth from the dangers of irregular migration, exploring topics such as community intervention mechanisms for prevention and awareness, challenges facing NGOs in this field, and the importance of raising awareness among migrants and their families about potential risks.

### **Cooperation and Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations**

During the reporting period, the Council organized a series of activities aimed at fostering dialogue and engagement with Egyptian civil society organizations to discuss key human rights issues and challenges in Egypt. The Council sought to ensure broad participation by including a diverse range of human rights organizations—among them entities holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)—as well as human rights defenders based both inside and outside Egypt. These engagements were integrated across most of the Council’s core

programmes, including those related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), advocacy for the ratification of and withdrawal of reservations to international human rights instruments, legislative reform and amendments to laws governing rights and freedoms, field visits to governorates, and human rights awareness initiatives.

Among the most notable activities undertaken by the Council in this regard were the following:

- **Dialogues and Thematic Discussions:** The Council organized seven broad-based dialogue sessions and panel discussions involving representatives of civil society organizations, human rights defenders, intellectuals, and opinion leaders. These discussions addressed key issues related to civil and political rights, including the U.S. Department of State's report on international religious freedom, challenges facing civil society organizations and human rights defenders, and the role of intellectual and public figures in supporting human rights in Egypt. They also explored the importance of adopting a rights-based approach and integrating human rights values and principles into national legislation, assessing Egypt's possible accession to relevant international treaties and protocols, and lifting certain reservations. Moreover, participants emphasized the need to reflect these values within political parties' electoral platforms to entrench a culture of human rights in public and political life.
- **Dialogue with Human Rights Defenders Abroad:** In November 2024, the Council's President, Vice-President, and Council Member Mr. Anwar El-Sadat held a groundbreaking dialogue session in Geneva with Egyptian human rights defenders residing abroad. The meeting launched a framework for sustained engagement and dialogue between the Council and the diaspora of human rights defenders. A follow-up session was held in Cairo on 9 March 2025, under the title "*Challenges Facing Civil Society Organizations and Human Rights Defenders.*" The session, attended by domestic and overseas participants (via videoconference), represented a major step toward expanding civic space and supporting human rights advocacy.
- **Engagement in Preparation for the UPR:** The Council held three consultation events with representatives of approximately 70 civil society organizations as part of the preparation of Egypt's national submission to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.
- **Field-Based Consultations:** During its field missions across various governorates, the Council convened 12 interactive dialogues with local civil society organizations to identify region-specific human rights priorities and strengthen local engagement.
- **Annual Civil Society Forum:** The Council organized the Annual Forum for Civil Society Organizations, which brought together more than 150 Egyptian NGOs to discuss collaborative strategies for advancing human rights protection and promotion nationwide.

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## Field Visits to Governorates

Throughout the reporting period, the Council conducted field visits to 12 governorates. These missions, comprising members of the Council's committees and researchers from its General Secretariat, aimed to assess the performance of relevant authorities in implementing human rights standards, raise awareness about the Council's mandate and mechanisms, and hold consultations

with local civil society actors and authorities. The visits also included inspections of public service facilities relevant to human rights, academic institutions, care homes, and other establishments.

The following table presents the details of the Council's field visits conducted during the reporting period.

Activity	Date
Field visit to Suez governorate	19-22 August 2024
Field visit to Kafr El- Sheikh governorate	30 September- 3 October 2024
Field visit to Suez governorate	11-14 November 2024
Field visit to Red Sea governorate	25-29 November 2024
Field visit to Fayoum governorate	8-12 December 2024
Field visit to Sohag- El Wadi El Gadid governorates	3-10 February 2025
Field visit to Qena governorate	23-27 February 2025
Field visit to Assiut governorate	25-26 December 2024
Field visit to Aswan governorate	21-23 January 2025
Field visit to Red Sea governorate	18-20 February 2025
Field visit to Luxor governorate	20-22 May 2025
Field visit to Beni Suef governorate	25-27 May 2025

Several of the field visits included fact-finding missions concerning specific incidents that arose during the reporting period. Notably, the Council dispatched a fact-finding mission following the sinking of the tourist vessel "*Sea Story*" on 24 November 2024. The mission aimed to gather verified information, assess the possibility of violations of the right to life and physical integrity, and engage with survivors, witnesses, local authorities, and relevant entities.

### **Visits to Places of Detention, Rehabilitation Centers, and Mental Health Facilities**

On 8 May 2025, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) conducted a field visit to the Juvenile Correctional Institution in El-Marg. The mission observed notable improvements compared to its previous visit, including enhanced occupational health and safety standards in vocational workshops, facilitated communication between juveniles and their families, increased re-enrolment rates in formal education, and the recruitment of additional psychologists and social supervisors. Furthermore, medical screenings for communicable diseases—such as hepatitis and HIV—had been initiated, with results duly recorded in individual medical files. These developments represent a partial implementation of the Council's earlier recommendations.

Nevertheless, the institution continues to face significant structural and operational challenges, including groundwater leakage, deterioration of residential and sanitary facilities, and reliance on outdated vocational equipment that does not comply with modern training standards. The mission also noted that several juveniles who had dropped out of school had yet to be re-enrolled, with some remaining illiterate. Additionally, the institution lacks basic technological training programs, including computer literacy.

The NCHR emphasizes that achieving substantive progress in the field of juvenile justice in Egypt requires comprehensive structural reforms that prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration over

punitive measures. The Council reaffirms its commitment to ongoing monitoring and cooperation with the relevant authorities to ensure full compliance of juvenile care institutions with international human rights standards, particularly those set out in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Paris Principles* governing national human rights institutions.

Visits to prisons, rehabilitation centers, and other places of detention constitute a core mechanism through which the NCHR exercises its mandate to monitor conditions of detention and assess their conformity with national and international human rights standards. In this context, during the reporting period, the Council updated a specialized manual entitled "*Places of Detention and the Role of Oversight Mechanisms in Protecting the Rights of Detainees and Prisoners*." This initiative formed part of an internal reform process to modernize the NCHR's detention-visit framework, in response to recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, and to ensure that visit reports adhere to international best practices—particularly the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)* and the *Principles on Monitoring and Investigation* adopted by the SubCommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT)*.

The Council formally requested the Ministry of Interior to resume visit permissions, which was subsequently approved. As a result, the Council conducted field visits in May 2025 to the rehabilitation centers in 10th of Ramadan and Badr, as detailed in Chapter I of this report.

In the exercise of its monitoring mandate and as part of its ongoing efforts to assess mental health care conditions across Egypt, an NCHR delegation also carried out a field visit to *El-Abbasiya Mental Health Hospital*—one of the largest national institutions specializing in psychiatry and addiction treatment. The hospital constitutes a key component of Egypt's national mental health system and operates under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment, which manages an extensive network of hospitals and centers across the governorates.

During the visit, the delegation held meetings with hospital management and officials from the General Secretariat, reviewing data on patient capacity, admission procedures, medicine availability, and the distribution of patients between voluntary and court-mandated admissions. The mission also inspected several departments serving different demographic and clinical categories, including women's wards (for both voluntary and judicial admissions), a newly established ward for elderly women, men's wards, and the addiction treatment unit.

The visit assessed living conditions, staffing levels, availability of medical equipment and supplies, procedures for periodic psychological evaluation, and the range of social and psychological support provided to patients. Random reviews of medical records were conducted, and several patients were interviewed directly to obtain their feedback on the quality of services, admission procedures, and periodic assessments conducted by specialized committees. The delegation paid particular attention to the addiction treatment unit, especially concerning follow-up mechanisms, family counseling, and community reintegration support—despite the operational difficulties that unit faced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to medication shortages.

The mission identified a number of systemic and structural challenges, including the absence of identity documentation for some patients—hindering their release and reintegration; insufficient budget allocations, which adversely affect infrastructure and treatment quality; shortages of essential medications, occasionally necessitating the use of less effective alternatives; the continued institutionalization of medically recovered patients due to a lack of coordination with social care institutions to provide housing; a deficit in medical and nursing staff amid growing patient numbers and a hiring freeze; and limited attention to outpatient services compared to inpatient departments.

### **Cooperation Protocols with Other National Institutions**

In line with its mandate to strengthen the human rights framework in Egypt, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continues to build strategic partnerships with relevant national bodies, with the aim of supporting institutional efforts and developing joint mechanisms to promote a culture of human rights and entrench the principles of participation and social justice. This approach reflects the Council's commitment to its coordinating and facilitative role in fostering synergy among national actors, thereby contributing to a society more aware of its rights and responsibilities and institutions more committed to the principles of dignity, equality, and the rule of law.

Within this framework, the NCHR concluded the following cooperation protocols during the reporting period:

#### **1. Cooperation Protocol with the Ministry of Interior**

The reporting period witnessed the activation of the Cooperation Protocol concluded between the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) and the Ministry of Interior, reflecting a constructive institutional partnership between the two entities aimed at promoting and strengthening the respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights within the criminal justice system.

A key objective of this protocol is the implementation of specialized training programmes designed to enhance the capacities of 300 officers responsible for the management of correction and rehabilitation centres.

#### **2. Cooperation Protocol with the Danish Institute for Human Rights**

This protocol aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of the NCHR by enhancing its operational mechanisms in line with international standards. It also seeks to support the establishment of an effective national system for the protection and promotion of human rights through institutional assessment, networking, and the exchange of technical expertise.

#### **3. Cooperation Protocol with the National Elections Authority**

The protocol seeks to promote electoral awareness and enhance democratic participation through joint initiatives that foster a culture of free and responsible voting. It also provides

for technical and awareness-raising support to ensure transparent and inclusive electoral processes.

**4. Cooperation Protocol with the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions**

This agreement focuses on promoting the economic and social rights of workers by raising awareness of human rights principles in the workplace and supporting joint efforts to achieve social justice and protect trade union rights in accordance with national and international standards.

**5. Cooperation Protocol with the Coptic Orthodox Church – Papal Projects Office**

The protocol emphasizes the importance of promoting and embedding the values of citizenship and human rights within Egyptian society, recognizing them as fundamental pillars for building a modern democratic state grounded in justice, equality, and respect for human rights.

**Pillar IV: The NCHR's Role in Training, Capacity-Building, and Promoting a Culture of Human Rights**

The Council's activities related to capacity building and the promotion of a human rights culture during the reporting period were diverse, reflecting its commitment to expanding the reach and impact of its programs across different sectors. More than 3,500 individuals directly benefited from these activities, including education professionals, students, executive officials in various governorates, employees of the Ministry of Finance and its affiliated entities, as well as representatives of labor unions, youth organizations, and civil society groups. The main activities conducted in this regard included:

- **Training for education professionals:** Training was provided to 27 officials from the Ministry of Education and 128 teachers, educational personnel, and social workers on human rights values and practices, followed by sessions benefiting 630 students in the same schools across the governorates of Minya, Ismailia, Beni Suef, Damietta, and Alexandria.
- **Capacity building for local administration officials:** Training programs were conducted to support the integration of human rights standards into the work of local executive authorities. A total of 340 officials and executive leaders from the governorates of Cairo, Kafr El-Sheikh, Port Said, Ismailia, New Valley, Damietta, Luxor, and Aswan participated in these programs.
- **University-level training:** A total of 150 students from universities and higher institutes (Helwan University, Badr University, the Information Technology Institute, and Aswan University) received training on the international human rights charter and the mandate and roles of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR).
- **Awareness seminars for Ministry of Finance personnel:** Awareness-raising sessions were held for 307 employees and officials from financial directorates, tax authorities, and customs offices affiliated with the Ministry of Finance in the governorates of Assiut, Aswan, the Red Sea, Qena, and Luxor.
- **Human rights awareness for youth and labor entities:** Awareness seminars were organized for 480 members of youth organizations, labor unions, and local civil society organizations in the governorates of Luxor, Beni Suef, the Red Sea, and Aswan.
- **Educational sessions on the national human rights framework:** A total of 1,120 officials, staff, and employees from local administration bodies in the governorates of Suez,

Kafr El-Sheikh, the Red Sea, Fayoum, Sohag, Qena, and the New Valley participated in sessions highlighting the national human rights system and the Council's roles within it.

In a related context, and as part of its ongoing efforts to promote a culture of human rights through soft power, the Council continued its long-standing tradition of honoring outstanding dramatic productions addressing human rights themes. During the reporting period, the Committee on Cultural Rights established an evaluation panel composed of leading art critics to assess drama series broadcast during the month of Ramadan 2025.

- The series "**Lam Shamsiya**" illuminated the crime of child molestation as one of the most severe violations of children's rights. It presented a bold artistic treatment calling for breaking the barrier of silence and strengthening mechanisms of prevention, protection, and societal care, in alignment with the State's commitments under international conventions on the rights of the child.
- The series "**Awlad al-Shams**" (Children of the Sun) offered a dramatic treatment of the reality of orphanages and the violence, neglect, or authoritarian exploitation to which some children are subjected. It emphasized the right to dignified alternative care while highlighting the protection gap in closed institutions, thereby stimulating discussion regarding societal and legislative oversight.
- The series "**80 Bako**" presented female characters resisting poverty and marginalization while striving to preserve their families, embodying a form of social and economic empowerment of women. The work reflects how art can highlight the rights to dignity, employment, and social protection, particularly in the absence of institutional support.
- The series "**Qalbi wa Miftahuh**" (My Heart and Its Key) focused on the problematic practice of "marriage of convenience" (tahleel marriage) as a practice that violates women's dignity and undermines freedom of choice. It also addressed patterns of domestic and societal violence resulting from repeated divorce, emphasizing the necessity of reviewing certain customs and traditions that contradict the essence of human rights.
- The series "**Zulm al-Mastaba**" (Injustice of the Bench) addressed the paradox of resorting to customary councils instead of official judiciary, demonstrating its impact on weakening the rule of law and perpetuating tribal values that contradict justice and equity. It presented a dramatic vision that elevates the concept of the civil state and principles of justice.

This year also witnessed the conferral of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Excellence Award, which are presented to artistic figures who have contributed works of artistic value. The distinguished members of the Cultural Rights Committee agreed to grant the Lifetime Achievement Award to the esteemed artist Mr. Mohamed Sobhi, and the Excellence Award to the name of the late distinguished artist Fouad El-Mohandes.

A total of **40 drama productions** were reviewed. Following the initial screening, **16 works** were excluded due to their limited engagement with human rights issues. The remaining productions underwent detailed monitoring and analysis. The committee subsequently selected **five outstanding works** for recognition.

These productions were honored during the **Human Rights Drama Awards Ceremony** held on **31 May 2025**, where the Council’s Shield was presented to the winning productions in recognition of their creative use of dramatic tools to address human and social issues that touch the essence of human rights, shed light on marginalized groups, and reflected societal realities with sensitivity and depth.

#### **Pillar V: NCHR’s Institutional Development:**

As part of the Council’s commitment to strengthening its institutional framework, particularly with regard to the Technical Secretariat, an important step was undertaken to design and implement an enhanced organizational structure through collaboration with a specialized consultancy team. The restructuring process aims to improve the Council’s technical performance and strengthen its capacity to monitor, follow up on, and address human rights challenges using its legal and constitutional tools.

To achieve this objective, the Council established a committee composed of its members to oversee the restructuring process of the Technical Secretariat. Terms of reference for the consultancy assignment were developed, and proposals were solicited from experts. Based on a comprehensive evaluation, the consultancy team that submitted the best technical and financial proposal was selected. Subsequently, a series of coordination and consultative meetings were held between the designated oversight committee and the consultancy team to monitor and guide the implementation process.

In accordance with the terms of reference, the consultancy team conducted all required steps to determine the optimal structure. This included a review of the existing organizational structure of the Technical Secretariat and the availability of job descriptions; an examination of the Council’s internal regulations (executive, human resources, financial, and administrative); an analysis of the legislative framework governing the Council (Constitution and relevant laws); a review of international conventions and standards applicable to national human rights institutions, including the 1993 Paris Principles; and a benchmarking study of successful organizational models that could inform the Council’s restructuring. The process also involved extensive consultations with Council members, researchers, and staff across supporting departments.

The main deliverables of the restructuring process have been completed, and implementation is currently underway. The developed structure includes the agreed departmental framework, clearly defined mandates for each unit, detailed job descriptions for all positions, and a draft Human Resources Regulation.

#### **Analysis and Follow-up on the Implementation of Previous Recommendations of the National Council for Human Rights**

As part of its ongoing commitment to the Paris Principles and its role as an independent national human rights institution, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) continued, during the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, its efforts to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued in its previous annual reports—particularly those contained in its

Seventeenth Annual Report. This review was undertaken in direct response to observations made by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which highlighted the need to develop systematic mechanisms to measure the impact of recommendations and to monitor progress in their implementation at both legislative and practical levels.

The Council adopted a review approach based on an objective analysis of its five principal areas of work: public policy; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; the rights of specific groups; and the institutional strengthening of the Council itself. The analysis seeks to highlight progress achieved and identify areas requiring further improvement, ensuring a balanced and evidence-based assessment.

- **Public Policy:**

The Council actively contributed to national dialogue sessions and submitted important legislative and procedural recommendations. However, the absence of a permanent institutional framework to monitor the implementation of these outcomes from a human rights perspective remains a challenge. The Council therefore plans to establish a dedicated follow-up mechanism to ensure the sustainability of impact.

- **Civil and Political Rights:**

The Council continued its field visits to places of detention, issued reports and statements on pretrial detention, and submitted legislative proposals. Nonetheless, several key recommendations—such as revising the definition of torture, adopting the Code of Criminal Procedure, and establishing an Anti-Discrimination Commission—remain under discussion and have yet to be implemented. The Council is strengthening its engagement with the legislative authority to ensure more effective progress on these issues.

- **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:**

The Council noted positive engagement with some of its recommendations, including the review of the Labour Law, follow-up on expropriation cases, and the establishment of a specialized unit on these rights. However, the lack of regular reports assessing the direct impact of national policies—such as the *Decent Life* initiative—constitutes a gap that the Council aims to address through enhanced field monitoring and the publication of thematic reports.

- **Rights of Specific Groups:**

The reporting period saw legislative progress, such as the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Older Persons and the expansion of initiatives to combat violence against women. Yet, there remains a need to strengthen institutional coordination with specialized national councils and to develop a periodic monitoring system for care institutions to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable groups.

- **Institutional Strengthening of the Council:**

The Council made progress in preparing a proposal to amend its founding law to align with the Paris Principles and began the digitalization of the complaints system. However, finalizing these amendments and activating new mechanisms for following up on economic and social rights complaints remain key priorities for the coming period.

This balanced assessment reflects the Council's awareness of the importance of combining achievement with constructive self-review. It demonstrates both the Council's ability to influence key human rights issues and its commitment to identifying areas for further development. Looking ahead, the Council plans to establish an independent unit to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations, issue periodic progress reports, and expand institutional and community partnerships to ensure that its recommendations continue to serve as an effective tool for advancing human rights in Egypt.

**Table Summarizing the Key Findings of the Follow-up on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Seventeenth Report of the NCHR:**

Pillars	Pillar-related recommendations	Analysis and follow up
<b>Public Policy</b>	Implementation of the outcomes of the National Dialogue – Update of the National Human Rights Strategy – Integration of human rights principles into local policies	<p><b>Strengths:</b> The Council officially participated in the National Dialogue sessions and presented several interventions containing legislative and procedural recommendations.</p> <p><b>Gaps:</b> The Council has not issued a follow-up report assessing the extent to which government entities have implemented these recommendations.</p>
<b>Civil and Political Rights</b>	Amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure; reduction of the duration of pretrial detention; activation of the presidential pardon mechanism; revision of the legal definition of torture; review of counter-terrorism legislation; improvement of prison conditions and visitation procedures;	<p><b>Strengths:</b> The Council issued periodic statements and reports on pretrial detention, conducted visits to several places of detention, and submitted legislative proposals. It also participated in the process leading to the adoption of the new Code of Criminal Procedure.</p>

	<p>adoption of a law on witness protection; review of the death penalty; establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Commission; reform of the electoral process; promotion of media freedom; safeguarding the right to access information; facilitation of the issuance of civil documentation; and improvement of the operating environment for civil society organizations.</p>	<p><b>Gaps:</b> The legal definition of torture has not yet been amended in line with the Convention against Torture. There is no mechanism in place to monitor the legislative authority's response to the Council's recommendations, and the Anti-Discrimination Commission has not yet been established. While the Council operates a complaints mechanism that records individual violations, it does not issue follow-up reports on complaints that constitute serious human rights violations.</p>
<p><b>Economic, social and cultural rights</b></p>	<p>Amendment of the Labour Law to ensure greater protection for workers; expansion of poverty reduction programmes; allocation of adequate budgets for health and education; promotion of local industrialization; development of rural areas; and respect for the right to private property while preventing the misuse of expropriation for public benefit.</p>	<p><b>Strengths:</b> The Council engaged with the new draft for Labour Law through formal submissions to Parliament, which subsequently enacted the law. It also followed up on several expropriation cases and monitored the notable increase in budget allocations for education and health, as well as the continued implementation of the <i>Decent Life</i> programme for rural development.</p> <p><b>Gaps:</b> The Council has not issued periodic assessments of spending indicators in the health and education sectors in comparison with its recommendations, and no systematic field monitoring has been conducted to evaluate the impact of the</p>

		<i>Decent Life</i> initiative on economic and social rights.
<b>Rights of Vulnerable Groups</b>	Adoption of policies for the protection of ageing persons; combating violence against women; elimination of child labour; and improvement of social care institutions.	<p><b>Strengths:</b> The Council participated in the drafting of the Law on the Rights of Ageing Persons and issued thematic reports on women's rights. It also contributed to the adoption of the new Labour Law, which introduced safeguards against child labour, and conducted visits to social care institutions and juvenile facilities.</p> <p><b>Gaps:</b> The number of reports issued to date remains limited, highlighting the need for the Council to establish a regular monitoring mechanism for the situation in care institutions. Coordination with the National Council for Women and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood could also be strengthened, particularly with regard to issuing joint statements and consolidated reports.</p>
<b>Strengthening NCHR's mandate</b>	Amendment of the NCHR's enabling law to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles; ensuring the provision of an independent and adequate budget; activation of a permanent coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution	<p><b>Strengths:</b> A draft amendment to the Council's enabling law has been submitted to Parliament, including provisions to enhance the Council's independence and strengthen its mandate. The Council has also begun developing its digital channels for receiving</p>

	<p>regarding complaints; and establishment of a follow-up mechanism for complaints related to economic and social rights.</p>	<p>complaints and expanding their public accessibility.</p> <p><b>Gaps:</b> The amendments have not yet been adopted, which limits the Council's ability to claim full compliance with the Paris Principles.</p>
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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In line with its constitutional and legal mandate as an independent national institution, and based on its assessment of the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period, the National Council for Human Rights presents a set of key recommendations. The Council encourages relevant stakeholders to implement these recommendations in the forthcoming period, in order to strengthen national efforts to uphold and respect human rights, and in accordance with the constitutional framework and the international instruments to which Egypt is a party.

### **I. Recommendations on National Policies and the Institutional Framework for Human Rights Protection**

- **Updating the National Human Rights Strategy:** The Council recommends that the National Human Rights Strategy be updated and its implementation extended until 2030, ensuring a comprehensive participatory approach that incorporates recommendations from the National Council for Human Rights, relevant international treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, special rapporteurs, and other UN human rights mandate-holders. The Council further encourages the Permanent High Committee for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to adopt a monitoring and evaluation framework based on both quantitative and qualitative indicators, maintain transparency in reporting on implementation, and reduce the intervals between follow-up reports.
- **Establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Commission:** The Council urges the prompt establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Commission and the activation of the relevant constitutional provisions through the adoption of legislation regulating its mandate and operations, drawing on international best practices and the experience of comparable institutions.
- **Amendment of the National Council for Human Rights Enabling Law (Law No. 197 of 2017):** The Council recommends revising its enabling law to strengthen its independence and mandate. Key measures should include unrestricted access to rehabilitation, detention, and penal institutions, legal protection for Council members in the performance of their duties, and the adoption of a transparent and inclusive process for the selection and appointment of Council members.
- **Enhancing the Response to Complaints and Allegations of Human Rights Violations:** The Council calls on relevant authorities and law enforcement agencies to strengthen their response to complaints submitted to the Council, ensuring that responses are accompanied by clear evidence of investigative and remedial actions. The Council further recommends establishing more effective coordination mechanisms with competent authorities to guarantee comprehensive assessment and substantiation of reported human rights violations.

### **II. Recommendations on Strengthening Civil and Political Rights**

- **Review of the Death Penalty Framework:** The Council recommends accelerating the review of offences punishable by death, limiting it to the most serious crimes. It also encourages the adoption of a voluntary moratorium on executions pending the completion of this necessary legal review.
- **Amendment of Torture and Ill-Treatment Provisions:** The Council calls for the revision of criminal provisions on torture and ill-treatment in the Egyptian Penal Code to ensure compliance with the definition contained in the UN Convention against Torture. In particular, it emphasizes amending Article 126 of the Penal Code to align the definition of torture with Article 1 of the Convention and to extend its scope to include any person who attempts, conspires, or participates in acts of torture, in accordance with Article 4(1) of the Convention.
- **Expansion of Presidential Clemency:** The Council encourages the President to exercise constitutional clemency powers, with particular attention to individuals imprisoned for violations related to political participation and freedom of opinion and expression. It also calls on the Public Prosecution to adopt mitigating measures and end pretrial detention for certain detainees, especially journalists, political activists, and individuals whose detention has exceeded the legal limit, while addressing the practice of re-detaining individuals on new charges after completing pretrial detention.
- **Addressing Enforced Disappearances:** Authorities are urged to respond promptly to complaints of enforced disappearances received by the Council, including 11 cases pending from the reporting period and previous periods.
- **Enhancing Oversight of Detention Facilities:** The Council supports ongoing Public Prosecution efforts to visit correctional and detention centers, and encourages the issuance of detailed reports on findings, violations identified, and corrective measures taken.
- **Improvement of Prison Infrastructure:** The Council calls for the completion of the Ministry of Interior's plan to replace outdated prisons with modern rehabilitation centers and to expedite the upgrading of police detention facilities to meet basic infrastructure standards that safeguard the rights of detainees.
- **Development of Juvenile Correctional Facilities:** The Council recommends expanding and improving juvenile detention facilities beyond the existing institution in Al-Marg, addressing issues identified during Council visits, including ensuring access to education, computer skills training, awareness programs, and accessible internal complaints mechanisms.
- **Refinement of the Law on Asylum for Foreigners:** The Council urges addressing challenges in the recently adopted asylum law, either through executive regulations or legislative amendments. This includes clarifying the powers of the Permanent Committee over refugee status determination, ensuring fair and proportionate treatment of asylum-seekers, resolving retroactive application issues affecting potentially hundreds of thousands, and guaranteeing minimum rights pending the outcome of asylum applications.
- **Safeguarding Rights under the New Criminal Procedure Code:** The Council recommends careful consideration of concerns raised by human rights actors regarding the impact of the new Code on guarantees of the right to defense and prosecutorial powers. Authorities are encouraged to remain open to constructive input and consider necessary amendments to reassure all elements of the criminal justice system.
- **Review of Counter-Terrorism Legislation:** The Council calls for a review and amendment of the Counter-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015 and the Law on Terrorist Entities

No. 8 of 2015 to ensure that excessively broad powers, which may replicate emergency powers, are appropriately limited.

- **Advancing Political Participation:** The Council emphasizes the need to implement the outcomes and recommendations of the National Dialogue concerning the legal and institutional frameworks governing citizens' political rights. Priority should be given to the swift adoption of the law regulating local councils, timely elections, and amendments to the Political Rights Act to enhance the use of modern technology in the electoral process.
- **Freedom of Information:** The Council recommends adopting a law regulating access to information, given its direct impact on freedom of opinion and expression by enabling stakeholders to obtain relevant information.
- **Legislative Review Affecting Press Freedom:** The Council urges comprehensive review of laws affecting press freedom and journalistic work, including the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Counter-Terrorism Law, Cybercrime Law, Media Regulation and the Supreme Council for Media, and the Personal Data Protection Law. This review should be accompanied by meaningful public dialogue and active involvement of the journalistic community in discussions on legislative amendments.
- **Support for Digital Platforms:** Authorities should address challenges faced by online platforms in obtaining legal licensing, end arbitrary blocking of platforms, and facilitate the regularization of unlicensed platforms.
- **Amendment of Law No. 107 of 2013 for Organizing the Right to Peaceful Public Meetings, Processions, and Protests:** The Council recommends revising this law to reduce restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, particularly in light of Egypt's improved security situation and progress in countering terrorism.
- **Electoral Law Reform and Local Governance:** The Council calls for a review of laws governing political participation, including electoral districts and systems, to ensure broader political representation and competitive elections. It stresses the urgency of enacting the new Local Administration Law to create the legal framework for holding local council elections, a constitutional entitlement that has been suspended for nearly fourteen years.

### **III. Recommendations on Strengthening Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**

- **Ensuring Effective Access to Social Security:** The Council recommends reviewing potential challenges that may prevent certain eligible groups from benefiting from the new Social Security Law No. 12 of 2025, particularly women separated informally without formal divorce and certain categories of informal workers who may be unable to meet the requirements for obtaining the "Aman" certificate. The Council further advises that inflation rates be taken into account when reviewing the value of cash support through the Cabinet.
- **Accelerating Universal Health Insurance Implementation:** Authorities are urged to expedite the full implementation of the comprehensive health insurance system and to address the delays experienced during the first and second phases.
- **Addressing Physician Shortages and Brain Drain:** The Council recommends adopting effective measures to address the shortage of doctors and their migration in search of better opportunities, ensuring that solutions are developed through consultation and dialogue with medical professional associations, physicians, and other health sector stakeholders.

- **Implementation of the Medical Liability Law:** The Council emphasizes the need to address challenges arising from the executive regulations of Medical Liability Law No. 13 of 2025. Key considerations include clearly defining the concept and scope of gross medical error, ensuring that concerns over financial penalties do not negatively affect medical staff performance or healthcare costs, addressing funding and sustainability challenges of the insurance fund, streamlining compensation procedures, and safeguarding the independence and impartiality of the Supreme Committee.
- **Strengthening Dialogue on Education Reform:** The Council encourages expanding societal dialogue on priorities for the development of the education system, particularly secondary education, ensuring broad participation of all stakeholders in the educational process.
- **Responding to Education Complaints:** The Council stresses the need for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education to give greater attention to addressing complaints submitted to the Council regarding the right to education.
- **Addressing Concerns Related to the Implementation of the Old Rent Law:** The Council calls for careful consideration of issues arising from the implementation of the Old Rent Law, ensuring guarantees that provide decent housing options for tenants while taking into account their economic and social circumstances. Authorities should also establish mechanisms to mitigate adverse effects on affected groups.
- **Ensuring Effective Implementation of the New Labour Law:** The Council recommends that executive regulations and procedures under the new Labour Law be applied to address core challenges facing workers in the informal sector and to ensure they fully benefit from the rights and protections provided by the law.
- **Promoting Decent Work and Occupational Safety:** Authorities should ensure adherence to decent work standards and occupational health and safety regulations in workplaces, including safe commuting routes, and take decisive action to prevent child labour, particularly in agricultural and agro-industrial sectors.
- **Strengthening Egypt's Cultural Sector:** The Council encourages the adoption of a national strategy and actionable implementation plans to enhance the competitiveness of Egyptian cultural production regionally and globally, restore momentum in historically competitive cultural sectors, combat attempts to appropriate Egypt's identity and history, and ensure proper registration and protection of Egypt's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

#### **IV. Recommendations on Institutional Development of the NCHR and Strengthening Its Mandate:**

- **Adoption of Amendments to the Council's Enabling Law:** Ensure the approval of amendments to the Council's enabling law to enhance its independence and expand its mandate in alignment with the Paris Principles.
- **Development of Digital Complaint Platforms:** Enhance the Council's digital platforms for receiving and analyzing complaints, and issue annual reports highlighting recurring patterns and violations.
- **Completion of Institutional Restructuring:** Finalize the development of the institutional structure of the Council's Secretariat, establish specialized departments and units to

monitor the implementation of its recommendations, and publish periodic public reports tracking the responsiveness of relevant authorities.

- **Development of Performance Indicators:** Establish quantitative and qualitative performance indicators to measure the actual impact of the Council's recommendations on legislation and public policy.
- **Expansion of Unannounced Detention Visits:** Increase the scope of unannounced visits to detention facilities and publish the findings of these visits to enhance transparency and align with international standards.
- **Activation of Field Monitoring Mechanisms:** Implement mechanisms to assess the impact of national policies, such as the *Decent Life* initiative, on the economic and social rights of target groups.
- **Annual Specialized Budget Reports:** Issue an annual specialized report analyzing the general budgets of the health and education sectors and assessing their compliance with constitutional obligations and human rights standards.
- **Joint National Plan for Vulnerable Groups:** Develop a national plan in coordination with specialized national councils to protect the most vulnerable groups, including a regular monitoring system for the conditions of social care institutions.

