

On Reproductive Health and Rights and Egypt's National and International Obligations

February 27, 2024

The meeting aims to review Egypt's efforts to protect and promote reproductive health and rights, in order to fulfill its national and international obligations. The meeting was attended by the National Council for Human Rights, the United Nations Population Fund, the Ministry of Health and Population, and a select group of experts, academics, and civil society representatives specializing in population issues, health, and reproductive rights.

The meeting concluded with a set of recommendations, including:

- Establishing an independent body with legal personality and technical, financial, and administrative independence, affiliated with the President, to ensure its strength, independence, and stability. It will replace the National Population Council, and the responsibilities of the Population Sector at the Ministry of Health and Population and all population and development-related projects undertaken by various ministries will be transferred to it.
- Governing the family planning file by implementing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism at the local level, and enacting laws that provide positive incentives for young families committed to using family planning methods in late reproductive years.
- Eliminating school dropouts and reducing child labor, especially for girls.
- Expand reproductive health and family planning programs to reach rural areas, and develop an integrated package of reproductive health materials for women.
- Ensure access to modern family planning methods, in accordance with approved World Health Organization standards, in all health facilities.
- Incorporate comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education into national educational curricula, and secure the necessary resources for its effective implementation.
- Provide comprehensive health insurance and reproductive health services at all levels of primary, secondary, and tertiary care (referral system). Civil society organizations can play a role in this system as service providers, as well as in raising awareness and persuading people to change negative perceptions.