

***Roundtable***  
**on "Enhancing Political Participation and Electoral Awareness among  
Citizens and Activating the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Monitoring  
Elections"**

***In joint cooperation between the National Council for Human Rights and the  
National Elections Authority***  
***Tuesday, April 22, 2025***

**Introduction:**

As part of national efforts to promote democracy and foster a culture of political participation, the roundtable titled "*Enhancing Political Participation and Electoral Awareness among Citizens and Activating the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Monitoring Elections*" was organized as a result of constructive cooperation between the **National Council for Human Rights** and the **National Elections Authority**. This initiative is part of a participatory vision aimed at empowering citizens to exercise their constitutional rights and reinforcing transparency and integrity in the electoral process.

The **National Council for Human Rights** believes that political awareness and active citizen participation in elections are the cornerstone of any genuine democratic transition. The significance of this event lies in supporting the citizen's right to freely choose their representatives, affirming the value of their vote as a tool for change and accountability, and enhancing the role of civil society organizations in monitoring and raising awareness. These efforts positively contribute to the path of political reform and the consolidation of good governance principles.

**Participants:**

As part of a cooperation program aimed at enhancing political participation—embodying the framework of constructive collaboration between the **National Elections Authority** and the **National Council for Human Rights**, pursuant to the partnership protocol signed by both parties—the first event under this program was convened.

The roundtable was chaired by **Ambassador Moushira Khattab**, President of the National Council for Human Rights, and **Judge Hazem Badawy**, President of the National Elections Authority, **Dr. Hany Ibrahim**, Acting Secretary-General of the Council, and **Mr. Essam Shiha**, a Council Member. **Mr. Abdel-Gawad Ahmed**, Council Member and Protocol Implementation Coordinator, moderator of the sessions.

The **National Elections Authority** was represented by a high-level delegation that included **Judge Mohsen Dardeer**, **Counselor Mahmoud Abdel Wahid**, **Counselor Hany Gadallah**, **Judge Ahmed Bendary** (Executive Director of the Authority), **Judge Shady Riyad**, and **Judge Sherif Seddik**.

The event was also attended by a large number of members of the National Council for Human Rights, alongside representatives from civil society organizations and NGOs engaged in electoral affairs—reflecting a scene of institutional and societal partnership and integration.

## Main Themes

The roundtable featured six rich and diverse discussion sessions, which focused on the following topics:

١. **Pillars of Electoral Awareness among Citizens and Its Impact on Political Participation.**
٢. **International Standards for Free and Fair Elections and Mechanisms for Their Local Implementation.**
٣. **The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Monitoring the Electoral Process and Ensuring Its Transparency.**
٤. **The Legal and Constitutional Framework Governing Elections in Egypt.**
٥. **Practical and Logistical Challenges Related to Organizing Elections and Ways to Address Them.**
٦. **Enhancing Trust Between Citizens and State Institutions Through Guarantees of Integrity and Independence.**

## Recommendations:

١. **Develop a comprehensive national electoral strategy** with the participation of the National Elections Authority, the National Council for Human Rights, and relevant stakeholders to ensure effective engagement from all segments of society.
٢. **Promote electoral culture** by integrating its concepts into educational curricula, intensifying awareness efforts through national media, and training journalists in professional electoral coverage.
٣. **Empower civil society organizations** to play an effective monitoring role by issuing observation permits early and providing the necessary logistical support.
٤. **Expand awareness campaigns to governorates and rural areas** through on-site meetings and workshops targeting citizens in villages and hamlets.
٥. **Facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities**, especially those with visual impairments, through accessible voting tools, and involve unions and representatives of community groups in awareness activities.
٦. **Improve the infrastructure of polling stations** by providing shading and comfortable waiting areas, and ensuring accessibility for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
٧. **Strengthen transparency and international communication** through reports by the National Council for Human Rights that reflect the electoral reality and the state's efforts in human rights.

## Conclusion:

The roundtable reflected the commitment of the **National Council for Human Rights** and the **National Elections Authority** to move forward in building a sustainable democratic environment that elevates the role of the citizen and fosters a culture of informed participation. The event embodied the two institutions' dedication to strengthening their partnership with civil society, activating its vital role in monitoring and oversight, and establishing the principles of transparency and integrity throughout all stages of the electoral process.

This roundtable marks the beginning of a comprehensive national path that embraces change through awareness and empowerment. It emphasizes that the future of democracy in Egypt is shaped by an informed citizenry and institutions that uphold and protect their rights. The issued recommendations represent a practical roadmap to enhance trust between citizens and state institutions, and to build an exemplary electoral model that reflects the popular will and reinforces the rule of law and institutions.