



Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

The File of Human Rights

Observance of Reality and Vision for the Future

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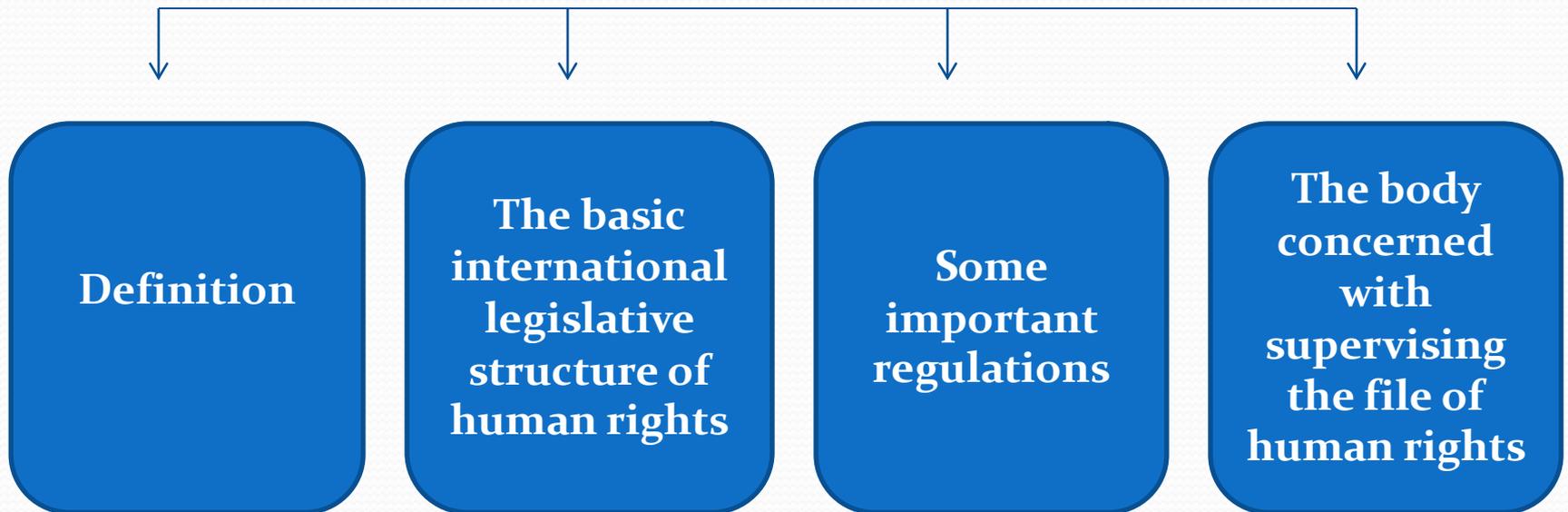
Observance of reality and a vision for the future

- Egypt is among the most time-old countries that agreed on and was member of international declarations on human rights since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed and adopted by the United Nations in 1948. This reflects a full respect to the values and principles of human rights.
- The vision, in hand, sets out the frameworks necessary to understand, support and protect human rights, while abiding by the stipulations of the Constitution and Egypt's established commitments by virtue of international agreements and charters, taking into account national values and axioms, and adopting a gradual approach, in accordance to available potentials, needs and priorities which are essential prerequisites for this vision.

This presentation includes three axes:

- **First:** What are Human Rights
- **Second:** Components of the proposed vision
- **Third:** Recommendations

First: What are Human Rights



1- Definition of human rights

- According to the definition of the United Nations, all humans are entitled to human rights, irrespective of their nationalities, place of birth, national or ethnic origin, race, color, sex, language, and religion. All these rights are gained without distinction and on equal footing. These rights are enshrined in national legislations or international pacts. The International Human Rights Law obliges governments to work accordingly (in this respect) or to avoid certain actions in a bid to enhance and protect human rights and basic freedoms of individuals and groups.

2- The basic international legislative structure for human rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed and adopted by the United Nations adopted in 1948
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted in 1965-Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 369/1967
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted in 1966- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 536/1981
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted in 1966-Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 537/1981
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 434/1981
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted in 1984- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 154/1986
- Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 260/1990.
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families adopted in 1990- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 446/1991.
- Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons adopted in 2006- Egypt became a member by virtue of Presidential Decree No 400/2007.
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted in 2006 (Egypt is not a member).

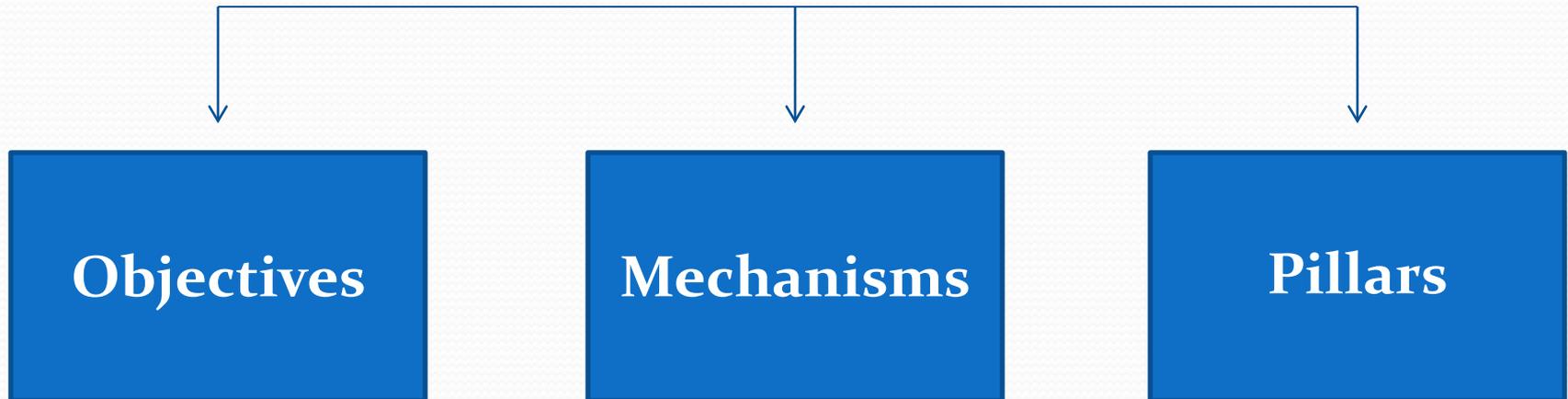
3- Some important regulations

- Human rights are not absolute; rather they are exercised in a manner that is regulated by the law, in order to protect the rights of the others.
- It usually is a must to heed balance while exercising human rights and basic freedoms, so that exercising any of the human rights shall not result in a breach of another.
- There is a disparity between a given community and another when it comes to exercising rights and freedoms, in accordance to norms, traditions, and values that prevail in each community.
- Heeding balance between the interest of a citizen in exercising his/her rights and freedoms and that of a community, with the latter being given due care and attention if a conflict (of interest) erupts.
- Regulating the exercise of human rights and freedoms does not mean making them null and void or prevention of exercising them at all.

The body concerned with supervision of the file of human rights

- On, Decree No 1476/2014 was issued by the Prime Minister which entitled for the first time the file of human rights in Egypt to the Ministry of Transitional Justice and to the House of Representatives.
- On 20/4/2017, Decree No 884/2017 was issued by the Prime Minister on the competencies of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, entitling it to the supervision of the file of human rights, and being cognizant of important international reports, responding to any remarks herewith, in coordination with concerned ministries, bodies and authorities.

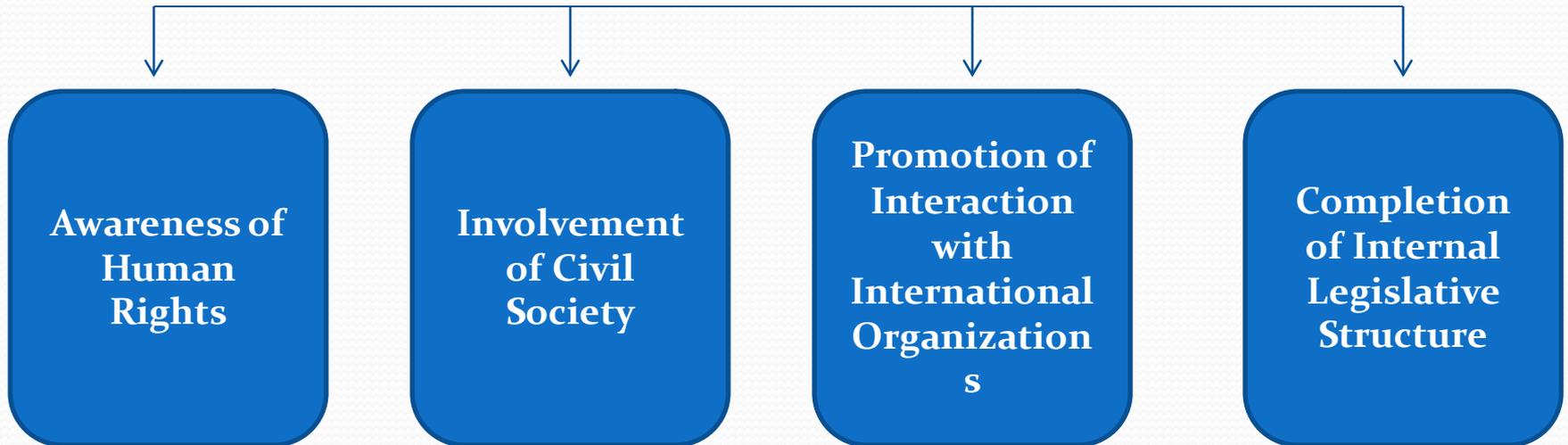
Second: Components of the proposed vision



A - Objectives

- Promoting the respect of human rights and safeguarding human basic freedoms, given that they are national axioms. Commitment to those axioms serves as a basis for a community built on the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunity for all citizens.
- Providing means and guarantees necessary to empower the citizen to exercise his/her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- Consolidating the correct exercise of human rights to the behavioral attitude of citizens through the continued awareness of how to exercise them.

B- Mechanisms



Awareness of Human Rights

- Spreading human rights culture among citizens and civil servants, and that's to have them all aware of its importance and benefits. Enhancing and developing human rights inside the Egyptian society through:
 - A- Teaching human rights in different educational stages as per the nature of each stage and its curriculum.
 - B- Developing training programs for civil servants on how to respect human rights.
 - C- Activating the role of political parties, syndicates, clubs and other bodies in spreading human rights culture and how to exercise it in the legal framework.
 - D- Stressing importance of media participation in spreading human rights culture in accordance with the governing laws thereto.

Involvement of Civil Society

- Given the importance of the Civil Society in its two wings (independent national councils – non-governmental associations and foundations), which represents a solid addition in the human rights field thus helping the government to accelerate implementation of its aspired objectives, it was envisaged to:

A- Develop clear mechanisms for serious communication with the legitimate entities of civil society while considering their human right-related proposals and reports with the aim of benefiting from their potentials in this field.

B- Promote means of non-governmental organizations' involvement in providing activities and services to citizens thanks to their expanded footprint nationwide as there are 47580 bodies operating in nearly 21 activities, the matter which achieves quick communication with citizens. In this regard, the Prime Minister has approved the proposal made by the Ministry of State for House of Representatives Affairs on appointing head of the Regional Union of Non-Governmental Associations and Foundations in each governorate to its executive council. Minister of Local Development sent letters to the governors in order to take the necessary procedures to activate the proposal.

Promotion of Interaction with International Organizations

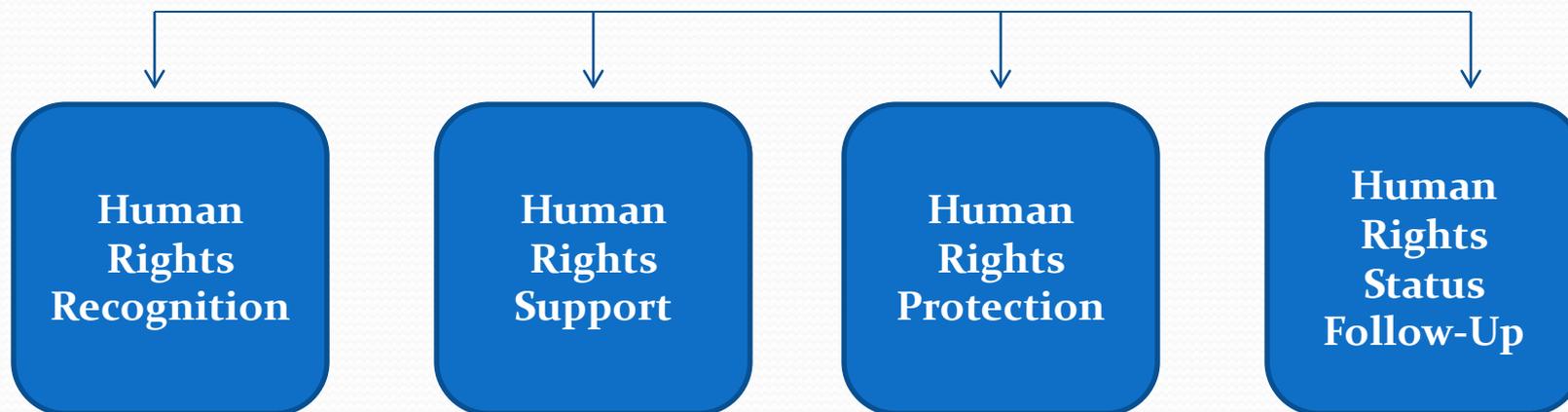
- Egypt became a member of several international agreements, which resulted in establishment of mechanisms to follow up their enforcement, where each country submits periodical reports thus showing how it is committed to its pledges. However, this necessitates:
 - A- Taking all necessary measures to promote communication with the United Nations and international organizations concerned with the human rights, through participation in their activities, finalizing preparation of pledge reports at due dates so as to gain confidence and show the country's seriousness in supporting and enhancing human rights.
 - B- Considering the remarks in the international reports prepared about human rights in Egypt while replying to such remarks in a timely manner based on coordination among the competent ministries, bodies and authorities, the matter which shows to the international circles how the government is serious in paying attention to human rights and basic freedoms.

Completion of Internal Legislative Structure

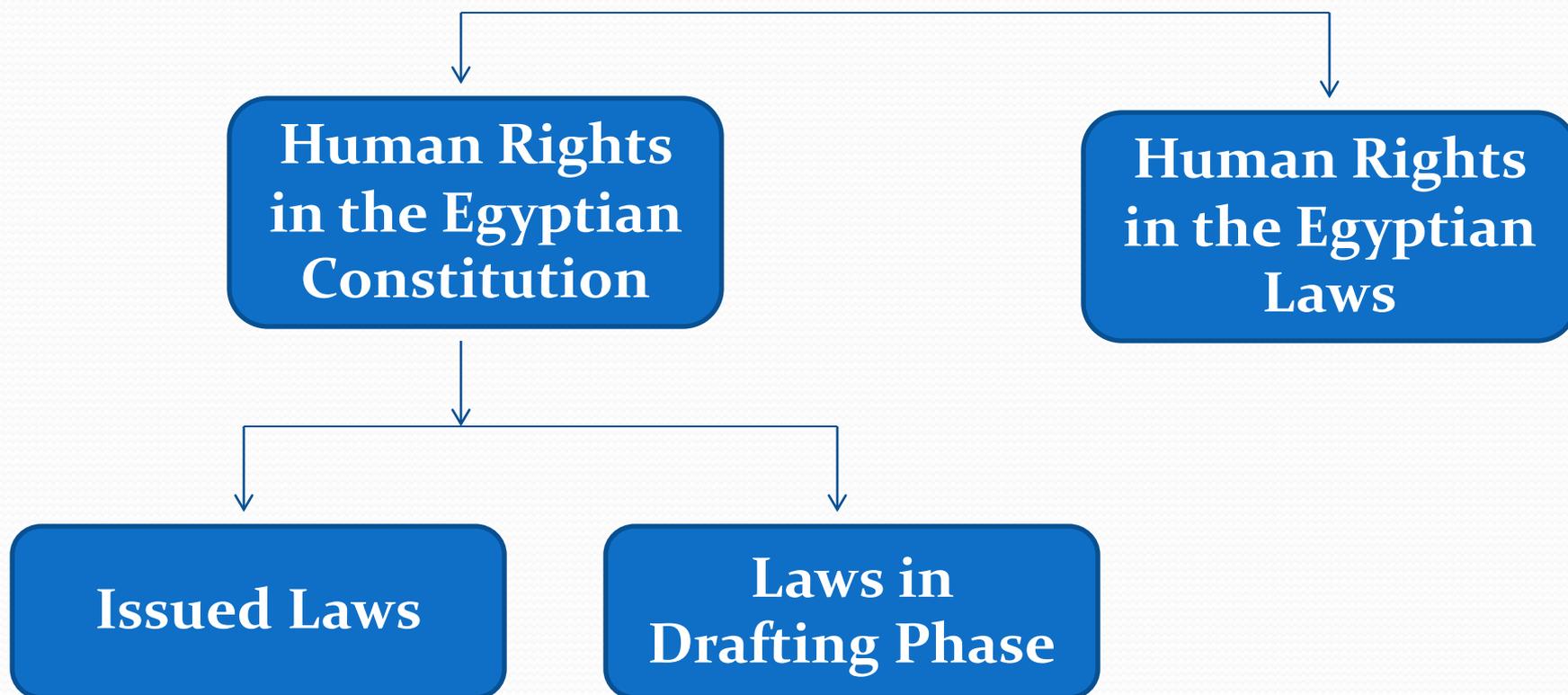
- **The human rights regulating laws are among the most important mechanisms for implementation of the government's policy in this field, where they represent an activation of the principles stipulated by the Constitution. However, they are binding on all State institutions and individuals.**
- **A set of laws have already been promulgated thus regulating a number of human rights enshrined in the Constitution, while few laws still being in the drafting phase.**
- **The laws are in a usual need of constant review so as to keep abreast of the latest developments witnessed by the society or treat the deficiencies as this will enable the law to achieve its aspired objective.**

C - Pillars

* Based on the existence of the solid and serious political will to safeguard the dignity of the Egyptian citizens, protect and promote their basic freedoms and rights, and promote the international status of Egypt in the human rights fields, it was envisaged to adopt an integrative approach based on four main pillars namely;



(1) Human Rights Acknowledgment



Human Rights in the Egyptian Constitution

The Constitution, in many articles, has explicitly stipulated the safeguarding and protection of human rights. For the first time, Article No. (93) of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates “The State shall be bound by the international human rights agreements, covenants and conventions ratified by Egypt, and which shall have the force of law after publication in accordance with the prescribed conditions”.

Following is a statement of rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution:

- The Right to Nationality (Article 6)
- The Right to Equality and Equal Opportunities (Articles 9, 11, 53)
- Women’s Rights (Article 11)
- Labor Rights (Articles 12, 13, 14)
- The Right to Peaceful Strike (Article 15)
- The Right to Pension, Social Insurance and Social Security (Article 17)
- The Right to Health (Article 18)
- The Right to Education and Freedom of Scientific Research (Articles 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 66)
- The Right to Ownership/Property (Articles 33, 34, 35, 37, 40)
- The Right to Sound Healthy Environment (Article 46)
- The Right to Culture (Article 48)
- The Right to Dignity (Article 51)
- Prohibition of Torture (Article 52)
- The Right to Personal Freedom (Articles 54, 55)
- The Right to Privacy (Articles 57, 58)
- The Right to Safe Life (Article 59)
- Human Body Inviolability (Article 60)
- The Right to Human Organs Donation (Article 61)

- **Freedom of Movement, Residence and Emigration (Article 62)**
- **Freedom of Belief and Practicing Religious Rituals (Article 64)**
- **Freedom of Thought and Opinion (Article 65)**
- **Freedom of Artistic and Literary Creativity (Article 67)**
- **The Right to obtain Information, Data, Statistics and Official Documents (Article 68)**
- **Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (Article 69)**
- **Freedom of the Press (Articles 70, 71, 72)**
- **The Right to Organize Public Meetings, Marches and Demonstrations (Article 73)**
- **The Right to Private Assembly (Article 73)**
- **The Right to Formation of Political Parties (Article 74)**
- **The Right to Formation of Non-Governmental Associations and Foundations (Article 75)**
- **The Right to Establishment of Syndicates and Federations (Article 76)**
- **The Right to Establishment of Professional Syndicates (Article 77)**
- **The Right to Adequate, Safe and Healthy Housing (Article 78)**
- **The Right to Healthy Food and Clean Water (Article 79)**
- **Children's Rights (Article 80)**
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Dwarves (Article 81)**
- **Rights of Youth and Youngsters (Article 82)**
- **Rights of Elderly People (Article 83)**
- **The Right to Exercise Sports (Article 84)**
- **The Right to Address Public Authorities (Article 85)**
- **The Right to Vote, Run for Elections and Express Opinion in Referendums (Article 87)**
- **The Right to Political Asylum (Article 91)**
- **The Right to Litigation and Defense (Articles 97, 98)**

Human Rights in Egyptian Laws

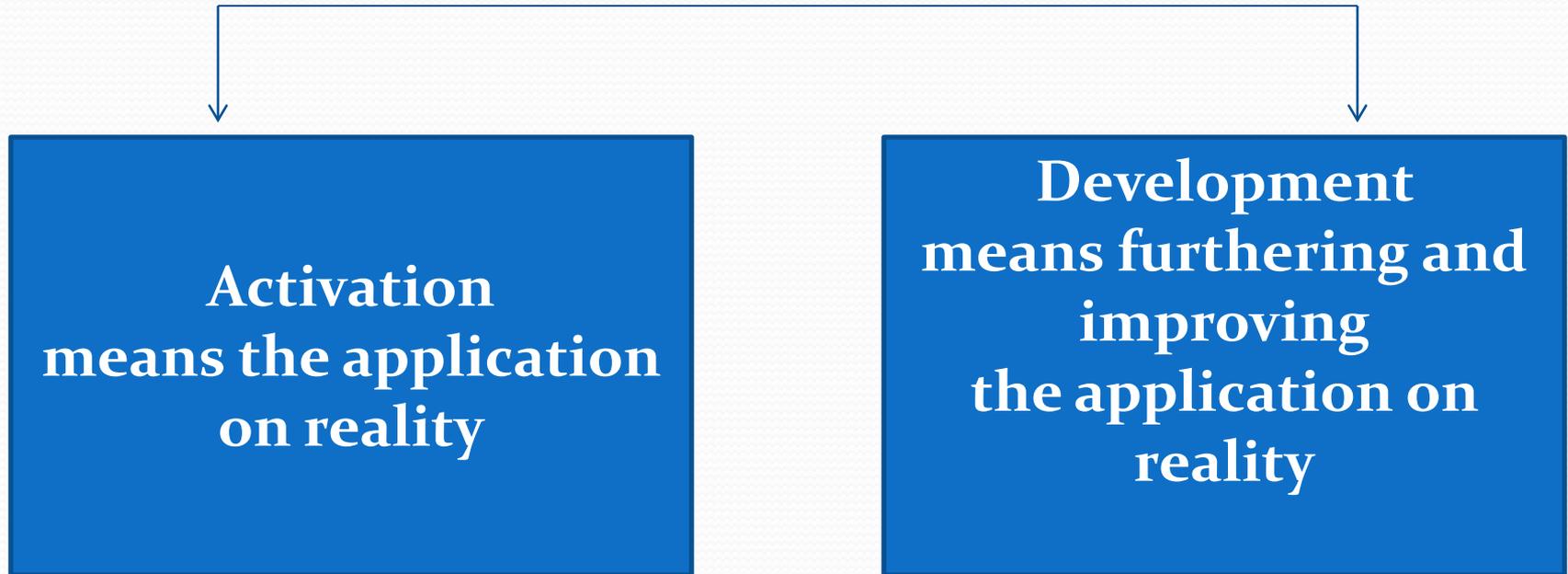
Promulgated Laws:

- Law No. 8 of 2015 on the Terrorist Entities and Terrorists (takes into account the right to security- right to life and not restricting public freedoms except through a judicial order).
- Law No. 94 of 2015 on Counter-Terrorism (takes into account the right to security- right to life).
- Law No. 78 of 2016 on the amendment of the Penal Code concerning the intensification of the penalty of the Female Genital Mutilation (takes into account the right to the safety of the body- combating violence against women).
- Law No. 80 of 2016 on the organization of the construction and restoration of churches (takes into account the freedom of faith).
- Law No. 81 of 2016 on Civil Service (takes into account the right of work).
- Law No. 92 of 2016 on The Institutional Organization of the Press and Media (takes into account the right to the freedom of opinion).
- Law No. 93 of 2016 on Media (takes into account the right to the freedom of opinion).
- Law No. 14 of 2017 amending certain provisions of Law No. 107 of 2013 on the Right to Public Meetings, Processions and Peaceful Demonstrations (takes into account the right to the freedom of opinion – the right to assembly).
- Law No. 72 of 2017 on the Investment (takes into account the right to development- right to work).
- Law No. 197 of 2017 amending of certain provisions of Law No. 94 of 2003 on the establishment of the National Council for Human Rights (takes into account supporting the powers of the Council in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it).
- Law No. 198 of 2017 on the formation of the National Election Commission (takes into account the right to exercise political rights).

Laws Under Preparation:

- Law of Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination.
- Law of the Protection of Witnesses, Informants and Aggrieved Parties.
- Law of the Availability and Freedom of Information Circulation.
- Law of Organizing Peaceful Strikes.
- Law of Regulating Press and Media.
- Law of Comprehensive Social Health Insurance.
- Local Administration Law.
- Law of work.
- Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Dwarfs.
- Law of the National Council for Women.
- Law of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

2- Supporting Human Rights



The government had exerted a lot of strenuous efforts in the field of activating and development of human rights in various fields and for all society brackets; a brief summary for some of such efforts are as follows:

Political and Civil Rights

- **Running Parliamentary elections at the end of 2015 to complete the third obligation of the political roadmap.**
- **Enactment of Law No. 80 of the year 2016 on construction and restoration of churches.**
- **Enactment of Law No. 92 of the year 2016 on the institutional organization for press and media.**
- **Enactment of Law No. 93 of the year 2016 on the establishment of a syndicate for media professionals.**
- **Enactment of Law No. 197 of the year 2017 on amendment of the National Human Rights Council law in a way that gives the council the right to visiting prisons , places of detention and the rehabilitation and treatment institutions.**
- **Enactment of Law No. 198 of the year 2017 on the National Elections Authority.**
- **Launching the “Egyptian family house Initiative “sponsored by Al Azhar and the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church.**
- **Establishing the global observatory to monitor all the thoughts of the takfiris and terrorists propagated through social media to correct the wrong views the youth hold.**
- **The measures taken by the Ministry of Interior in the human rights domain: developing the detention rooms to avert health effects on the detainees, providing all possible health care for the prisoners and a central hospital in each prisons area, offering financial assistance to the prisoners’ families and scholarships for the prisoners.**

Cultural, Social and Economic Rights

- **Enacting investment law No. 72 of the year 2017**
- **Providing 270,776 job opportunities in 2016 through the labor offices of the Ministry of Manpower and employment companies within Egypt and as for job opportunities abroad, about 154,681 opportunity was provided for higher education graduates, 26,813 for post-intermediate graduates, 219,738 for undergraduates and 158,912 for non-graduates.**
- **Implementation of various programmes and initiatives to develop the youth vocational planning skills like: the “social entrepreneurship programme”, “How to start your enterprise initiative”, “The vocational planning and development initiative “ in cooperation with UNICEF,” Training and qualifying youth in slum areas initiative”, and the Initiative of**
- **“Employ yourself” in cooperation with the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Social Fund for Development and the private sector companies.**
- **Establishing the National Academy for youth training and empowerment by presidential law no. 434 of the year 2017 to achieve human development for youth cadres, raising their capacities and skills.**
- **Launching “Egypt works” site in cooperation with Microsoft to provide 63 thousand jobs in the private sector.**
- **Launching” interdependence and dignity programme “to provide a fair and high efficient social protection network for the neediest segments aiming at doubling the beneficiaries of the current security assistance to exceed three million families.**

- **Finalizing the draft law of the comprehensive social health insurance.**
- **Finalizing the treatment of more than a million and half hepatitis C virus patients and achieving a higher cure rate that multiplied four times than the international cure percentage. Manufacturing of medicine in Egypt helped reducing the treatment cost by 85%.**
- **Implementation of various housing projects for the different segments of society and allocating housing units with cheap monthly rent for citizens with low income ,in addition to developing and improving the houses specified for the families that need top priority care, and providing housing units with cheap rent for emergency cases.**
- **Implementing 13,000 housing units as alternative to the units in the hazardous areas within the context of the project of developing the insecure and slums areas.**
- **Starting the implementation of the project of the development of Maspero triangle district and relocating some of its residents upon their own will to Asmarat district which is an urban area with comprehensive services and utilities i.e. schools, a hospital ,health unit ; and inaugurating “Gheit El-Enab” area after its development from a slum area to a decent area.**
- **About 56 slums areas all around the Egyptian governorates are under development.**
- **Establishing and operating the “Egyptian Knowledge Bank” to record the greatest digital Arab library on the internet that gives access to thousands of periodicals, encyclopedias, and specialized scientific magazines for free.**

Women Rights Support

- **Preparation of a draft law to regulate the National Council for Women .**
- **Adoption of an enhanced partnership between the government and the National Council for Women to enforce the national strategy for the Egyptian women empowerment 2030.**
- **Within the framework of supporting the participation of women in the political life, the number of female members in the parliament reached 90 woman to record a woman representation of 15% compared to 2,4% in 2010 parliament.**
- **The declaration of the President that the year 2017 is “the year of woman” in Egypt renders Egypt the third on the international level that designates a year for women .**
- **Appointing the first woman in the position of the president’s national security adviser and assigning four women to occupy the post of ” minister”, in addition to appointing the first female governor in Behira governorate and four females as deputy governors; and in some villages women assumed the position of mayor. Also, they are assigned the posts of deans in a number of universities and served as judges to reach about 66 female judges in the judicial authority in addition to others working in the other judicial bodies.**
- **The establishment of 34 “equal opportunities “units in ministries to be concerned with enforcing the constitutional equality between men and women in the work domain and confronting any discriminatory practices that women may expose to.**
- **Adoption of the initiative of “ a health file for every woman” by the Ministry of Health to guarantee every woman a health file to follow up her health status for life according to her national identity number.**

Supporting Child Rights

- **Enacting law No. 6 of 2015 on reducing the age of children who shall be covered by the alternative family system from two-year-old to three-month-old.**
- **Enacting law No.7 of 2015 that stipulates criminal responsibility shall not apply to the child who has not reached the age of eighteen instead of twenty one.**
- **Enacting law No. 106 of 2015 on allowing a female inmate keep her child until the four-year-old, provided that she shall breastfeed him for the first two years.**
- **Drafting a law on regulating the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.**
- **Egypt withdrew its reservation to an article in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child that sets the minimum legal age for marriage at 18, and necessity of taking effective procedures including laws to determine the minimum age of marriage, and making registration of the marriage an obligatory measure.**
- **Launching a national strategy for childhood and motherhood (2017-2023) in cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, civil societies and non-governmental organizations.**
- **Implementation of the strategy to “develop quality standards for the orphanages” by the Ministry of the Social Solidarity with the target of modernizing the regulations of the orphanages and social institutions.**
- **Establishment of an integrated headquarters for the Cairo- based Child Court, which is the first of its kind in Egypt, enforcing the protocol signed between Ministry of Justice, Ministry of International Cooperation and European Union.**
- **Establishment of Child Care Fund at the Ministry of Health and Population to support street children.**
- **Establishment of “ alternative family “ and shelter institutions systems.**
- **Extension of the free school nutrition programme to cover 11 million pupils; equal to 81% of the total number, enrolled in the basic education phase at the government-run schools.**

Supporting the Disabled Rights

- Allocation of 5% of the social housing units to the disabled. Moreover, the Egyptian code of designing vacuums and buildings was introduced in the instructions that should be provided in the state - owned buildings and facilities and are used by the disabled.
- Reducing the price of the railways tickets by 75% for the disabled and blind persons. Moreover, the train stations are provided with disability armchairs. Subscription of the underground metro decreased by 93%.
- Taking due measures to adapt the courts and notary offices for the service of the disabled.
- Allocation of wards at some prisons to the disabled inmates and supply some police stations with accommodation means.
- Supporting the efforts exerted to pave the way for participation of the disabled in the voting process and remove the obstacles that may face them. These efforts resulted in election of 8 disabled persons to the House of Representatives and appointment of another one upon a presidential decree.
- Creation of a specialized entity for the “Special Education” affiliated to the Ministry of Education to render the education services to the handicapped pupils.
- Some 440 classes for the special education service were set up until 2016.
- Education at all these special classes are free of fees, besides free school uniform and accommodation at some schools.
- Digitization of the handicapped students’ curricula, especially those who suffer from audio and visual disabilities and providing the blind students with Braille printed books
- A strategy for the disabled health was laid.
- Five percent of the total jobs provided by the state machinery is the share of the disabled, besides reducing the daily work hours by an hour and raising the number of the paid vacation days.
- Drafting a law to boost the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) and enable it to undertake its role for the disabled.

Supporting Egyptians Abroad

- **Enabling the Egyptians abroad to exercise their right of voting in the election of House of Representatives through providing 139 ballot stations at the Egyptian embassies and consulates in 123 states.**
- **Establishment of a ministry for the immigration and Egyptian expatriates affairs abroad to boost the efforts related to the status of the Egyptians abroad.**
- **Launching the official website of the Ministry of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs to communicate with them.**
- **Signing a cooperation protocol with Misr El Kheir Foundation and Ministry of Health to prepare and transport bodies of the dead Egyptians abroad at the expense of this Foundation.**
- **A comprehensive insurance umbrella is currently under creation by the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide all kinds of support to the Egyptians abroad like life insurance, compensations in deaths, total and partial disability and transport of the bodies of dead people.**

Combating Illegal Immigration and Smuggling of Immigrants

- Law No. 82 of 2016 to combat illegal immigration and smuggling of immigrants was enacted.
- A national coordination committee to combat and prevent illegal immigration and human trafficking was established.
- The national strategic to combat illegal immigration was launched (2016-2026).

Combating Human Trafficking

- Issuing Law No. 142 of 2017, amending some provisions of Law No. 5 of 2010 regulating organ transplant law and including stiffening penalties for violation of its provisions.
- Acceding to the Arab Convention against Transitional Organized Crime, under presidential decree No. 277 of 2014.
- Adopting the National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in 2016.
- Establishing criminal circles to address human trafficking crimes.

Respect for Human Rights in the Context of Counter-terrorism

The State, out of its belief in the importance of combating terrorism and refuting the religious extremist discourse regarding the crimes of violence and terrorism committed by terrorist groups and organizations, has required the concerted national efforts to move forward towards confronting the threat of terrorism, without prejudice to the guarantees of protecting human rights and providing fair trial and effective justice. Following are the most important efforts exerted in this field:

- Issuing Counterterrorism Law No. 94 of 2015.
- Issuing Terrorist Entities Law No. 8 of 2015.
- Issuing Law No. 110 of 2017 amending some provisions of the Criminal Procedures Laws, Law on cases and procedures of appeal before the Court of Cassation, Law on regulation of lists of terrorist entities and terrorists, and Counterterrorism Law.
- Establishing the National Council to Combat Terrorism and Extremism under presidential decree no. 355 of 2017.
- Establishing “Tolerance and Moderation” Forum at the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Awqaf (Endowments), to spread culture of dialogue, renounce violence, intolerance, terrorism and religious hatred, and promote human rights.
- Providing cash assistance or monthly pensions for the population of North Sinai Governorate.
- Granting a special pension to the family of each civilian who was martyred in a terrorist operation and to each civilian who has experienced a total or partial disability because of those operations.
- On 25/5/2017, the Egyptian mission to the UN succeeded to pass a Security Council resolution with the unanimous approval of the member states. The resolution welcomes and enforces the comprehensive international framework on combating the terrorist discourse.

(3) Human Rights Protection

- **It is not enough to recognize and support human rights, but they should be protected against any violation so as to achieve the ultimate goal, we seek, namely to enhance and develop them to the aspired level. Thus, there are several protection tools provided by the constitution and law:**
- **The constitution guaranteed a special protection to human rights, considering violation of them a crime that is not subject to any statute of limitation. Besides, the aggrieved party is entitled to lodge a lawsuit and the State is committed to pay a fair compensation.**
- **The Egyptian legislator paid due attention to the protection of human rights and basic freedoms and enacted criminal and disciplinary penalties for any assault or violations against these rights and freedoms.**
- **Such penalties are not limited to acts that may be committed by public officials only, but they include any act committed by any natural or legal person violating one of the human rights established in accordance with the constitution, law or international agreements ratified by Egypt.**

(4) Following-up the Status of Human Rights

Local:

- * Independent national councils such as the National Council for Human Rights.
- * Civil associations and institutions

International:

- * The United Nations Human Rights Council.
- * The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Following-up the status of human rights is crucial to track the progress witnessed in this domain, detect the deficiencies that have to be addressed and highlight the developments that took place as regards the condition of human rights. The follow-up process is represented in the following:

- An internal mechanism has to be set up so as to follow-up the status of human rights, based on self-monitoring reports prepared by some of the State's institutions as well as reports drawn-up by civil society organizations (independent national councils- relevant Civil associations and institutions). In the same vein, international treaties, conventions and agreements of human rights ratified by Egypt have their own mechanisms to follow-up their implementation.
- Concerted efforts have to be put in by the government so as to maintain effective cooperation with the United Nations as well as with international organizations in various fields in fulfillment of its commitments. This could be realized through interaction with the United Nations Human Rights Council within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In this context, Egypt submitted its first UPR in 2010, the second in 2014 and the third UPR will be submitted in 2019.
- Local and international reports released in relation to human rights in Egypt have to be examined and statements have to be issued in response to remarks included within these reports in coordination with competent ministries, institutions and entities. Concomitantly, it is a prerequisite to gain confidence in efforts exerted by the Egyptian government in various fields; such efforts that aim at enhancing basic human rights and freedoms have to be constantly tracked and clearly highlighted.

Third: Recommendations

In conclusion, these viewpoints would yield a number of recommendations that affirm Egypt's policy of respecting and enhancing human rights, draw-up a framework for more steps to be taken in this domain and offer guidance on measures and procedures to be adopted, thus leading to a tangible breakthrough. These recommendations are as follows:

- 1- Establish a committee to draw-up a national strategy for human rights with the participation of all stakeholders; a strategy that encompasses all viewpoints, objectives, policies and mechanisms of implementation according to a specific time frame so as to ensure the maximization and integration of efforts exerted by the State to enhance human rights, side by side with abiding by the Constitution and hold onto values and national constants.
- 2- Expedite the preparation of draft laws that would boost rights and freedoms as set out in the Constitution and develop the legislative structure to be in line with Egypt's international commitments in the field of human rights.
- 3- Maintain effective communication with independent councils and non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights to consolidate their efforts, pay due attention to their viewpoints and suggestions and regard them as partners with the government in this field, thus bolstering complainants' confidence in these organizations and consequently minimizing the chances of filing complaints abroad.
- 4- Include a representative of the Regional Union of Non-governmental Organizations in the executive council of every governorate to help coordinate efforts exerted in the field of human rights; this has been already achieved.

- 5- Issue a comprehensive annual report on the status of human rights to detect pros and cons on one hand and highlight procedures adopted to address deficiencies on the other hand. This report has to be publicized in an attempt to build bridges of communication with the society and gain its confidence.
- 6- Develop and implement programmes and training courses for staff at relevant ministries and institutions with the aim of honing their scientific and practical skills in the field of human rights, thus preparing well-trained cadres in this vein.
- 7- Establish, to begin with, a unit for human rights in every ministry and in every governorate to monitor positives, receive complaints and work on resolving them.
- 8- Disseminate the culture of human rights among citizens and raise their awareness of the importance of human rights and the possible ways of practicing them inside the society.
- 9- Deal seriously with all reports released by international organizations and respond to such reports in a timely manner so as to help prevent the adoption of a negative opinion as regards Egypt's stance on human rights.
- 10- Enhance constant communication with international human rights organizations, emphasize the government's keenness on paying due attention to safeguarding human rights and highlight the measures and procedures adopted by the government to boost them. It is a prerequisite as well to participate in various events held by such organizations; regular attendance at these events gives a strong impression of confidence, maintains ties and relations and helps improve communication with these organizations.
- 11- Select specialized Egyptian cadres and smooth the path for them, as much as possible, to hold administrative positions in international human rights organizations to enrich the Egyptian thought and open doors wide for Egyptian experts to participate in international forums.
- 12- Promote efforts exerted by the government as regards enhancing and safeguarding human rights on all levels, locally and internationally.

Thank You