

**In the name of Allah,
the Most Gracious,
the Most Merciful**

Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030

**Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform
Cairo, Egypt**

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	xi
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Introduction	1
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The Sustainable Development Concept with its Three Dimensions Identifies the Strategy's Pillars.....	3
Building on the Existing and Benefiting from Leading Experience	5
A Participatory Approach to Preparing the Strategy.....	5
Issues of Women, People with Special Needs, and Different Economic Activities	6
Strategy Preparation Stages	6
Selecting Key Performance Indicators	7
Identifying Quantitative Targets and Challenges Facing a Goal's Achievement	7
Selecting Models for the Programs and Projects	8
Challenges of Funding the Strategy	9
Governing Framework for the Strategy	10
Three Stages for Achieving These Targets	11
Challenges Facing Achievement of These Targets	12
Effective Programs to Achieve the Objectives of Foreign Policies and National Security.....	12

Economic Dimension	15
---------------------------------	-----------

First Pillar: Economic Development	17
---	-----------

Overview of Current Situation	17
Strategic Vision for Economic Development to 2030.....	18
Strategic Objectives for Economic Development to 2030	18
Key Performance Indicators for Economic Development to 2030	18
Quantitative Indicators	18
Suggested New Indicators	24
Egyptian Economic Potential.....	25
Challenges of Economic Development	27
Economic Growth Challenges.....	27
Economic Growth Challenges at the Sectorial Level:	32
Social Development Challenges	36
Economic Development Policies to 2030	37
Policies at the Macroeconomic Level:	37
Policies at the Sectorial Level.....	41
Programs and Projects for Economic Development to 2030	51
Programs and Projects at the Macroeconomic Level (Mega Projects).....	51
Programs and Projects to Formalize the Informal Sector.....	61

Programs and Projects at the Sectorial Level	62
--	----

Second Pillar: Energy93

Overview of Current Situation	93
Strategic Vision for Energy to 2030	94
Strategic Objectives for Energy to 2030	94
Key Performance Indicators for Energy to 2030	96
Quantitative Indicators	96
Suggested New Indicators	98
Challenges of Energy	98
Energy Programs to 2030.....	102
Programs and Projects Relevant to Implementation Mechanisms	102
Initiatives Related to Specific Topics.....	107

Third Pillar: Knowledge, Innovation and Scientific Research.....109

Overview of Current Situation	109
Strategic Vision for Knowledge, Innovation, and Scientific Research to 2030.....	110
Strategic Objectives for Knowledge, Innovation, and Scientific Research to 2030	111
Key Performance Indicators for Knowledge, Innovation, and Scientific Research to 2030	111
Quantitative Indicators	112
Suggested New Indicators	116
Challenges of Innovation, Knowledge, and Scientific Research	119
Innovation, Knowledge, and Scientific Research Programs to 2030.....	120
Legislation and Governance.....	120
Programs to Support Achievement of the Vision and Strategic Objectives	121

Fourth Pillar: Transparency and Efficiency of Government Institutions.....125

Overview of Current Situation	125
Strategic Vision for Transparency and Efficient Government Institutions to 2030.....	126
Strategic Objectives for Transparency and Efficient Government Institutions to 2030.....	127
Key Performance Indicators for Transparency and Efficient Government Institutions to 2030.....	128
Quantitative Indicators	128
Suggested New Indicators	131
Challenges of Transparency and Efficiency of Government Institutions	132
Transparency and Efficient Government Institutions Programs to 2030	134

Social Dimension 141

Fifth Pillar: Social Justice..... 143

Overview of Current Situation	143
Strategic Vision for Social Justice to 2030.....	145
Strategic Objectives for Social Justice to 2030.....	146
Key Performance Indicators for Social Justice to 2030.....	146
Quantitative Indicators	147
Newly Added Indicators.....	148
Challenges of Social Justice.....	151
Social Justice Programs to 2030	152

Sixth Pillar: Health..... 157

Overview of Current Situation	157
Strategic Vision for Health to 2030	159
Strategic Objectives for Health to 2030.....	159
Key Performance Indicators for Health to 2030.....	160
Quantitative Indicators	160
Suggested New Indicators.....	163
Challenges for the Health Sector.....	164
Health Programs to 2030	166

Seventh Pillar: Education & Training..... 171

Overview of Current Situation	171
Strategic Vision for Education to 2030.....	172

Public Elementary Education (Pre-university) 173

Strategic Objectives for Public Elementary Education to 2030.....	173
Key Performance Indicators for Public Elementary Education to 2030.....	175
Quantitative Indicators	175
Suggested New Indicators.....	177
Challenges of Public Elementary Education.....	178
Public Elementary Education Programs until 2030	182
Programs Related to Mechanisms of Execution.....	182
Programs Related to Specific Topics.....	184

Technical Education and Training 188

Strategic Objectives for Technical Education and Training to 2030.....	188
Key Performance Indicators for Technical Education and Training to 2030.....	190
Quantitative Indicators	190
Suggested New Indicators.....	191

Challenges of Technical Education and Training.....	194
Technical Education and Vocational Training Programs to 2030	197
Programs Related to Mechanisms of Execution.....	197
Programs Related to Specific Topics.....	200
University or Higher Education.....	203
Strategic Objectives for Higher Education to 2030	203
Key Performance Indicators for Higher Education.....	205
Quantitative Indicators	205
Suggested New Indicators	207
Challenges of Higher Education	207
Higher Education Programs to 2030.....	210
Programs Related to Execution Mechanisms.....	210
Programs Related to Specific Topics.....	213
Eighth Pillar: Culture	217
Overview of Current Situation	217
Strategic Vision for Culture to 2030.....	217
Strategic Objectives for Culture to 2030.....	218
Key Performance Indicators for Culture to 2030.....	218
Quantitative Indicators	219
Suggested New Indicators	219
Challenges of Culture.....	224
Cultural Programs to 2030	226
Legal Framework and Governance Development Programs	226
Programs that Support Achieving the Strategic Vision and Objectives of Culture	227
Environmental Dimension	231
Ninth Pillar: Environment.....	233
Overview of Current Situation	233
Strategic Vision for Environment to 2030.....	236
Strategic Objectives for Environment to 2030	236
Key Performance Indicators for Environment to 2030	238
Quantitative Indicators	238
Suggested New Indicators	242
Challenges of Environment	242
Environment Programs to 2030.....	246
Programs for Implementation Mechanisms.....	246

Tenth Pillar: Urban Development 257

Overview of Current Situation 257

Strategic Vision for Urban Development to 2030..... 258

Strategic Objectives for Urban Development to 2030 258

Key Performance Indicators for Urban Development to 2030 259

 Quantitative Indicators 259

 Suggested New Indicators 261

Basic Challenges of Urban Development..... 263

Urban Development Programs to 2030..... 266

 Programs to Develop Legislative Frameworks and Governance..... 267

 Programs Related to Certain Subjects 273

Annex..... 277

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASIC	Application-Specific Integrated Circuit
BOT	Build, Operate, Transfer
BP	British Petroleum
BRICs	Brazil, Russia, China, India, and South Africa
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
DHL	Dalsey, Hillblom and Lynn (founders of DHL)
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EEU	Eurasian Economic Union
EG-Cloud	Egyptian Government Cloud
EGP	Egyptian Pounds
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GaWC	Globalization and World Cities (index)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFMS	Government Financial Management Information System
GOE	Government of Egypt
HCFC	Hydro Chloro Fluoro Carbons
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISDF	Informal Settlements Development Fund
IT	Information Technology
ITC	International Trade Center
JICA	<i>Japan International Cooperation Agency</i>
KPI(s)	Key Performance Indicator(s)
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals (of the United Nations)
MOP	(Egyptian) Ministry of Planning
MTDS	Medium Term Debt Management Strategy
NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIM	Public Investment Management
PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter up to 10 micrometers in size
PPP(s)	Public–Private Partnership(s)
RIA	Regulatory Impact Analysis
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
Scopus	Citation database of peer-reviewed literature
SDGs	UN’s Sustainable Development Goals

SLA	Service Level Agreement
TARES	Technical Assistance to Support the Reform of the Energy Sector
TDMEP	Trade and Domestic Market Program
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars (\$)
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIP	Very Important Persons

**Sustainable Development Strategy:
Egypt's Vision 2030**

Introduction

The **Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030** represents a fundamental step in Egypt's extensive development, which links the present with the future, inspired by the achievements of the ancient Egyptian civilization. It establishes a development march of an advanced and prosperous nation dominated by economic and social justice. It revives the historic role of Egypt in regional leadership. Moreover, it represents a road map that aims to maximize the use of competitive possibilities and advantages. It also seeks the implementation of the Egyptian people's dreams and aspirations of enjoying a convenient and dignified life. Therefore, it embodies the modern Egyptian constitution, which has as a target for the Egyptian economy to achieve prosperity in Egypt through sustainable development, social justice, and ensuring balanced growth.

It is the first formulated strategy in accordance with the methodology of long-term strategic participatory planning. It has been prepared with wide social participation, taking into account the visions of civil society, the private sector, ministries, and government agencies. Furthermore, it had support and effective participation from our international development partners, which means it includes comprehensive targets for all pillars and sectors of the country.

The strategy is particularly important in the circumstances prevailing in Egypt, which require revision of development goals in order to keep up with current and future needs and to develop better solutions to deal with them. This should enable Egyptian society to move into the ranks of developed countries and achieve the desired targets for the country. In this regard, the strategy has identified its vision as the following ...

“By 2030, Egypt will be a country with a competitive, balanced, and diversified economy, depending on knowledge and creativity, and based on justice, social integration, and participation, with a balanced and varied ecosystem, a country that uses the genius of the place and the citizens in order to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of the life for all. Moreover, the government looks forward to lifting Egypt, through this strategy, to a position among the top 30 countries in the world, in terms of economic development indicators, fighting corruption, human development, market competitiveness, and the quality of life.”

The Sustainable Development Concept with its Three Dimensions Identifies the Strategy's Pillars

The Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 takes into consideration the challenges facing the process of development in Egypt. These challenges are represented in the scarcity of natural resources such as energy, land and water (in addition to environmental degradation); human development resources including population, health, and education; the inadequacy of the governance system; and the absence of systems that foster creativity and innovation. In addition, the strategy adopts a number of goals and targets, in order to transform these elements into incentives for development, instead of being major challenges.

In this regard, the strategy has adopted the Sustainable Development Concept as a general framework, meant for the improvement of the quality of life in a way that does not affect the

right of following generations for a better life. Hence, the development concept adopted by the strategy is based on three main dimensions:

- **Economic**
- **Social Dimension**
- **Environmental Dimension.**

Furthermore, the strategy is based on the concepts of sustainable and inclusive growth and balanced regional development, ensuring the participation of everyone in the process of building and development for the benefit of all the Egyptians from the outcomes of this development. Moreover, the strategy takes into account the principles of equal opportunities, bridging some development gaps, the optimal use of resources and supporting the fairness of their usage, and ensuring the rights of the next generations.

In light of the three major dimensions of sustainable development, the strategy includes ten dimensions:

- 1. The Economic Dimension comprises the pillars of economic development, energy, innovation, scientific research, and transparency and efficiency of institutions.**
- 2. The Social Dimension involves the pillars of social justice, education and training, health, and culture.**
- 3. The Environmental Dimension includes the pillars of environment and urban development.**

In addition, there are the two pillars of foreign policy and national security, as well as domestic policy, forming a comprehensive framework for the strategy and determining the other pillars.

Moreover, it is worth referring to ensuring the consistency and coherence between the targets of Egypt's national sustainable development and the universal targets of the United Nations announced during the convening of the United Nations General Assembly (25 to 27 September 2015) in which Mr. President participated to announce Egypt's precedence in integrating the Sustainable Development Concept and targets into the national planning system.

In this regard, each one of these pillars includes its own construction elements, represented in the following: the strategic target, the sub-targets to achieve these goals, the performance indicators, the planned quantitative targets to achieve these goals, the expected challenges, the necessary programs and projects, and the priority of executing these programs in their time sequence.

Building on the Existing and Benefiting from Leading Experience

This strategy was not prepared from scratch. The work necessary was done under the auspices and with the interest of the country's political leadership, which stressed the need to develop a long-term development vision that crystalized the image of the nation and its citizens.

It is a result of revising studies and previous strategic visions at both the domestic and international levels. Some domestic studies include Egypt's Strategy 2017, The Strategic Framework of Income Multiplying, 2022, and The Urban Plan, 2052, in addition to some sectorial strategies, and a study of the population strategy 2030-2050, as well as other visions and strategies that were prepared by both the private sector and by civil society.

At the international level, strategies of the European Union, Australia, Malaysia, India, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan, and others have been revised in order to determine the success factors and benefit from these experiences and distinctive international activities in the field of development in general and in the field of sustained development in particular. Thus, this strategy is considered as an integrated general framework, based on certain major pillars with regard to the basic obstacles facing Egyptian society, and taking into consideration the possibilities of the risks that may be witnessed in the global environment during the coming years.

A Participatory Approach to Preparing the Strategy

A participatory planning approach was depended on in the preparation of this strategy. Serious efforts began at the beginning of 2014 and lasted for 2 years, during which about 150 specialized workshops and open meetings such as community dialogues were organized to discuss the strategy with representatives of the private sector, civil society, and international organizations. A large number of experts, academics, and stakeholders participated in these events.

The unification and comprehensiveness of visions, directions, coordination, and convergence of views were the result of the compilation of development partners within each sector on one dialogue table. All economic activity sectors showed a clear interest in participating. They also confirmed their interest in the inclusion of independent pillars of their own in the strategy, but the chosen sectors represent the priority of the country's current phase. However, it does not mean the neglect or lack of interest in any sectors not included, but the intention to include them in the strategy in different ways. As could be expected, some challenges emerged.

Issues of Women, People with Special Needs, and Different Economic Activities

In general, the final document of the strategy reflects attention to files, themes, and sectors. For example, the strategy was reviewed to be gender sensitive and focused on the importance of economic and social empowerment of women and youth in all strategic pillars; moreover, it gave special attention to those with special needs. Furthermore, the economic pillar includes many economic sectors in terms of their contributions to macro-economic variables such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), income, employment, exports, and investment without including separate pillars for these activities, as the strategy represents a general framework for development at the national level, not at the sectorial level. All sectors have already started to prepare strategies of their own that keep up with the overall vision of the sustainable development strategy, in agreement with its main targets and sub-targets.

Furthermore, it is worth stating in this regard that **the strategy had both participation and support from international development partners**; thus, a large number of international finance and development institutions gave attention to the preparation of the strategy and participated in its formulation. **The International Labor Organization (ILO)** reviewed the economic development pillar in general, and labor issues in particular. **The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** and the World Bank participated in various workshops and provided recommendations and technical support, particularly with regard to the lessons learned from the experiences of various countries where these international bodies operate. **The United Nations Organization for Women** was contacted in order to add gender to the various pillars of the strategy. Both **the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **United Nations Economic and Social Development Program** provided the needed support to coordinate between Egypt's national targets and the objectives of the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Strategy Preparation Stages

The basic underpinnings of all these elements were put through four basic stages:

First, the preparatory stage (in the first half of 2014), in which the current situation was analyzed; previously prepared strategies at both the national and sectorial levels studied, visions prepared by civil society and the private sector, and international strategies were studied. Finally, challenges facing Egypt currently and in the past were analyzed, and international challenges were reviewed.

Second, main directions were formulated (in the second half of 2014), in which the main directions of the strategy were identified; its main structure and pillars were developed; and the visions, targets, and sub-goals of the pillars were formulated.

Third, policies and priority programs were selected (in the first half of 2015), as the sub-goals of various pillars were converted into priority policies, programs, and projects; and it was

ensured that the pillars meshed together in an integrated framework in order to achieve sustainable development goals. In addition, during this stage, there was also a review of the key performance indicators that would measure progress towards achieving all the goals of the strategy and the quantitative targets of these indicators were determined.

Fourth, strategy documents were prepared and community dialogues were held (in the second half of 2015). Strategy documents were prepared, presented, and revised with all concerned parties and a community outreach plan was developed to announce the implementation of the strategy at both the national and the regional levels following its presentation to the Parliament. It is anticipated that there will be an international conference held under the auspices of the President and the Prime Minister with the participation of all the development partners to announce the strategy.

Selecting Key Performance Indicators

When selecting performance indicators for the various pillars, it was decided they must be specific, measurable, and capable of being achieved in accordance with the available resources and the current conditions within a specific time frame. In addition, three basic principles were also taken into consideration when choosing the performance indicators, as it was taken into account they should not be confused with the proposed initiatives; there should be a logical link between the measurement indicators of input, output, and outcome in order to ensure the achievement of the strategic goals for each pillar; and the existence of a performance follow-up system based on these indicators.

It should be noted that the various working groups focused choosing a limited number of performance indicators as this number should not be so large that they make the follow-up and measurement processes difficult. In other words, it was taken into account to make the number of the selected indicators compatible with its goal as monitoring, evaluation, and the impact of the measurement device.

The importance of the performance indicators is that they identify and clarify the goals and ambitions of a specific pillar, and put them in a quantitative template, in addition to their role in enabling the performance follow-up, determining the achievement level and noting any challenges. Furthermore, the indicators guarantee the concepts' consistency and unification among parties and individuals that worked on the goal's achievement. The indicators contribute to guiding efforts towards achieving targets and help decision-makers have a clear vision of the current conditions and challenges in order to take necessary decisions. Indicators also enable a comparison between the performance in Egypt and that of other countries.

Identifying Quantitative Targets and Challenges Facing a Goal's Achievement

The aforementioned steps were followed by the organization of workshops for all strategic pillars in order to determine the quantitative targets of the various indicators. **These**

quantitative targets have been built on a variety of inputs that included comparative studies of the experiences of similar countries that succeeded in achieving progress, the assessment of the current situation, and the obstacles of growth. In addition, previous studies that had been prepared in this field were reviewed, and the team benefited from the previous experience of other team members. The compatibility and integration of targets with each other was reviewed in order to ensure achievement of desired strategic objectives.

With regard to identifying the challenges that hinder the achievement of targets of each pillar, several joint workshops were held to draw up a shortlist of the challenges that hinder target achievement. This early work was done in order to reach the strategic objectives of each pillar, dividing the challenges according to their relationship to the private or public sector.

The challenges have also been classified into three main groups as follows:

Related resources, including human, natural and financial resources

Infrastructure, both tangible and intangible

Legislative environment, including laws, decrees, or institutional regulations to regulate the relations between the various parties.

After that, each challenge was analyzed according to the programs that were developed to face this challenge. **Two factors were depended on in selecting the challenges** faced through the policies, programs, and projects of the strategy, including a **factor that reflects the impact** of these challenges on achieving the desired objectives, the targeted performance indicators, the degree of urgency in terms of the time element, the negative impact on public opinion, the expected cost of facing the challenge, and the multiplied financial effect on other pillars. **The control factor** included the number of the involved parties, elements beyond the control of the government (such as international commitments and agreements), financial requirements of handling the challenge, the required period of time for handling the challenge, and the available human resources and technological capacity.

Selecting Models for the Programs and Projects

Workshops were organized at the level of each strategic pillar in order to discuss the programs and projects proposed to face the identified challenges. This was followed by the preparation of identification cards that included the program description, its basic elements, the expected cost, and the expected time frame for implementation.

The programs' costs were divided into three basic levels as follows: high cost (more than LE 50 million), medium cost (ranging from LE 10 to 50 million), and low cost (less than LE 10 million).

A time frame work was identified for each program, determining the start and end points of each program or project planned to be implemented between 2015 and 2030. These programs were divided into programs related to the implementation mechanisms that are specialized in programs and projects concerned with developing a general trend in each pillar, such as

restructuring, updating laws and regulations for the sector, and programs concerned with specific issues in each pillar needing a particular focus, such as the issue of subsidies.

Finally, the main party responsible for implementation of each element of the programs' and projects' elements was also identified, in addition to the participant bodies that play a role in the implementation of these policies, programs, and projects.

The final outcome of the workshops with regard to the different pillars was more than 330 indicators associated with the more than 50 strategic targets. Mechanisms were set in order to achieve these indicators and targets for about 200 projects and programs, all of which are based on achieving the basic targets and goals of the strategy.

Challenges of Funding the Strategy

In order to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030, in a way that will be outlined in detail later, we will need funding necessary to execute all these projects and programs.

The strategy developed depends on various and innovative means and tools, especially with regard to funding and execution of the mega projects and targeted programs. Thus, these means include the issuance of new financial tools such as the securities to finance the development and infrastructure projects, to expand the investor base by attracting more investors including both individuals and non-banking financial institutions, to support the policy of the private sector's participation with the public sector in the infrastructure projects through the system of the Right of Usufruct, to offer incentives and facilities to encourage foreign direct investment, to depend on Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) systems, to offer long-term development shares and bonds in domestic and foreign markets, and to ensure an effective benefit from foreign aid offered by international donors and to maximize their efficiency.

There is also a target to execute an ambitious program for financial reform, which is expected to lead to an increase in the financial resources of the government's general budget. Generally, the government will do its best in order to establish strong institutions worthy of the investors' trust, in addition to emphasizing the competency and efficiency of general expenditures, as well as investments in infrastructure in order to have a major incentive for investment and to maintain safe levels of the public debt.

The role of the national private sector and of civil society is pivotal and that is in order to achieve the strategy's targets, as the private sector is responsible for executing the greater part of the projects. Civil society has an equally important role in executing the programs and the projects, raising public awareness, building capabilities, and following up and monitoring project and program effectiveness. In most cases, the State's role will be focused on being a more efficient organizer, drafting policies, setting standards, following up, monitoring, and creating a general atmosphere enabling both the private sector and civil society to play their assigned roles as major partners in the development process.

Governing Framework for the Strategy

There is no doubt that achieving sustainable development requires **establishment of a democratic political regime that respects the principles of human rights and the rule of law**, in which executive institutions have an effective role as a means for the development of the State and strengthening the role of Parliament in developing legislation and controlling the power of the executive. The various branches of government should also aim to reach an advanced stage of institutional work that is not person-related, but linked to regulations, laws, and action plans—and this would require the elimination of nepotism and favoritism.

This democratic regime would also include establishment of an effective civil society, strengthening decentralization, local community empowerment in decision-making, reducing pressure on departments of central government, increasing opportunities for political participation in society, supporting and empowering political parties. Other elements of this democratic regime would include public work freedom and political freedoms as a guarantee for democracy, activating the ability of the political system and its institutions in a positive interaction, keeping abreast of global developments, establishing a free and pluralistic society, empowering youth and women, fighting terrorism, and achieving a good level of prompt justice.

Achievement of sustainable development requires an overriding interest in preserving national security and adopting an active, effective, and balanced foreign policy. In this regard, the strategy has given special attention to foreign policy and national security and has developed an overall goal in this regard that:

The Arab Republic of Egypt becomes an Arab, independent, and sovereign country that adopts an active, effective, and balanced foreign policy in order to maintain its national security, including the safety and integrity of its territory, the prosperity of its people, and the independence of its decision, as well as working to achieve international and regional strategic interests, in addition to respecting its international obligations and international law.

This general goal includes those for the short term (2016-2018), represented in securing the continuation of Egypt's share in the Nile water, securing regional and international support to combat terrorism, acquisition of a regional position in the ongoing strategic dialogues in the indirect strategic interaction squares that include the Nile Basin, the Horn of Africa, the Coast and the Sahara, and the Arab East and West, and re-balances the country's relations with major and emerging powers. As for mid-term goals (2018-2020), they include ordering direct vicinity relationships, acquisition of vigorous action possibilities in overall strategic interactions in the Middle East, playing a central role in the development and peace-building efforts in Africa, intensifying efforts to crack down on terrorism and drain its resources, working on Egypt's access to the status of regional power in the Middle East and Africa, and attaining emerging power status at the international level.

Three Stages for Achieving These Targets

In the light of the sensitivity of current political conditions and the status of the political movements that take place in the international community in general and the Middle East in particular, the strategy has confirmed that these goals can formulate Egypt's foreign policy during the next 15 years. Thus, **these targets can be achieved in three basic stages.**

The first stage would be the return of Egyptian foreign policy to its normal position. This stage is important and specific due to what Egypt has witnessed because of consecutive political changes in the years 2011-2015, especially the outbreak of two revolutions that kept Egypt in turmoil. Hence, this stage requires a set of goals to be achieved that include the protection of the Egyptian State and keeping it from terrorist threats in the region, and indeed the whole world, in order to face any emerging threats such as those witnessed by neighboring countries. In addition, management of Egyptian–Gulf relations in a way that ensures maximum benefit from these relations and avoidance of inconstancy or sudden changes that could affect these relations. This stage also focuses on demographic re-distribution within Egypt in order to allow resettlement of the population in strategic areas that provide security threats such as the Western Desert, Sinai, and Southern Egypt. These are regions that might be exploited by some to smuggle weapons and drugs in order to destabilize the security of the Egyptian State. There also might be some Western attempts to support the desire for separation proposed by areas such as Nubia. These issues deal directly with combating terrorism and upholding Egypt as a key player in any international and regional initiatives in this regard. All this develops the rebuilding of Egypt's sovereignty and empowers it to achieve the interests of Egypt and to protect Egyptians abroad in order to take care of their interests and to benefit from their expertise.

The second stage would be one of recovery. This stage would follow and build on the successes of the first stage. This success would contribute to the restoration of Egypt's foreign policy to its strength and enable Egypt to take the initiative internationally and regionally. This stage requires diplomatic skills, reasoned policies, and careful initiatives in order to achieve the desired goals, the most important of which is achieving a strategic balance in the Middle East through a new perspective on regional security. Egypt would become a regional focal point in the Middle East and redefine its relationship with the West, working to manage this relationship according to a new vision that promotes the concept of achieving common interests and mutual respect, and promoting the concept of strategic partnerships with security and strategic organizations such as the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization of Shanghai, using the soft power of Egypt to contribute to foreign policy goals and positive and orderly interaction with the civil society organizations that support the foreign interests of Egypt.

The third stage would be one of progress. It would evolve as a result of the first and second stages. Egypt's success in achieving the objectives of this stage depends on the accomplishment of implementing the objectives of the previous two phases. The objectives of this stage lie in the adoption of a policy to move in the vital field of Egypt, as well as the benefit from the comparative advantages of Egyptian foreign policy in a way that enables Egypt to launch political initiatives that lead to international and regional political movements, taking a leadership role in combating terrorism and moving in a framework of an pivotal African state in managing strategic relations with major powers.

Challenges Facing Achievement of These Targets

The strategy identified challenges facing the foreign policy and national security issues, including those related to the internal situation such as insecurity (terrorism, the problem of traffic, and security of citizens); food security (infringement on agricultural land, importing 60% of wheat consumption, and low animal and agricultural production); water security (low per capita supply of water, lack of sufficient water to increase agricultural areas, and the lack of coordination with the Nile Basin countries in building dams); low economic growth; the need to raise the standard of living and to achieve economic leaps; and social justice—all of which speak to the demands of the two revolutions of the Egyptian people on January 25 and June 30, which confirmed the importance of reactivating Egypt's regional role and restoring its international status, taking into consideration the relationship between the internal and foreign policies in a way which makes the foreign policy a reflection of interior conditions. As for the challenges related to the external position, they include instability with neighboring countries, terrorist operations from non-states representatives, international terrorism, weapons smuggling operations across borders, the Iranian and Turkish intervention in Egypt's internal affairs, the construction of the Renaissance Dam, and the situation with international and regional representatives.

The strategy emphasizes that the input of international and regional conditions surrounding Egypt requires the Egyptian doctrine to be crystallized in accordance with a number of key considerations including a close interrelationship between foreign policy and the national project of modernization, development, and reconstruction, and to uphold the value of the national interests in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy, and the adoption of regional and international strategic partnerships as pivotal axes for achieving Egyptian interests. The strategy emphasizes that although dangers and threats are challenges that face the Egyptian decision makers, we cannot ignore the fact that this environment gives Egypt free space for movement that makes her able to present herself as a political model based on the elements of a modern democratic civil state.

Effective Programs to Achieve the Objectives of Foreign Policies and National Security

In order to enable Egypt to address these challenges, the strategy contains some effective programs including the development of a new theory for Egyptian national security to face the new global threats and achieve the foreign policy objectives of Egypt. Egypt develops its policies based on changes in the international and regional political environment, adopts economic diplomacy, and employs a mechanism for cooperation with the south countries in order to serve our economic development goals, in addition to the positive and orderly interaction with the civil society organizations that support the foreign interests of Egypt.

The programs include efforts to make Egypt an African power, deepening cooperation with the African countries culturally, economically, and politically, and deepening the strategic cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council. The programs also include the establishment of national companies, research bodies, and academies for security techniques and an effective system for security agencies, building external effective focal areas such as China in Asia, Russia

in Eastern Europe, Britain and France in Western Europe, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf, and Brazil and Argentina in Latin America. The programs also focus on taking the necessary steps to forecast, prevent, and manage crises and natural disasters in a preventive and effective way through the establishment of an institution for disaster management, and well-equipped operation rooms, in addition to the development of a national plan for the management of emergencies and crises and the development of a national database of vital facilities.

The strategy addresses the vision of Egyptian diplomacy and the policies it seeks to achieve within the scope of the Arab, African, European, American, and Asian countries, whether on bilateral tracks or within a multilateral framework. **In the Arab scope**, the strategy focuses on ensuring the security and stability of the Gulf region, securing the Red Sea and the Strait of Bab el Mandeb to ensure that international trade routes in the region do not face the threat of terrorism, coordination with the Gulf states in order to increase the volume of investment, encouraging Gulf tourism to Egypt, and strengthening bilateral relations between Egypt and the western Arab countries. Moreover, the eastern Arab area (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq) has strategic importance for the national security system as the eastern gate of the Arab World.

The neighboring countries are of great importance to Egyptian foreign policy due to their direct association with Egyptian national security and the impact of the security, political, economic, and social developments in these countries on Egypt's internal situation. Therefore, the strategy aims at securing Egyptian borders, blockading terrorist organizations, supporting the political, economic, and social stability of neighboring countries and the unity of their territorial integrity, and maintaining the vital interests of Egypt. A very important issue would be water security with Sudan and South Sudan. Another would be development of economic cooperation with neighboring countries and the use of Egypt's soft power in the fight against extremist ideology in these countries.

The African file has special significance for our sustainable development strategy in general and Egyptian foreign policy in particular since Egypt belongs to this continent and due to the many sensitive files that will require the need to carefully address them to maintain Egypt's interests. Egypt plans to address files including Nile water, consolidation of Egypt's relations with the Nile Basin countries, with the Horn of Africa countries, with Central and West African countries, with South and middle African countries, and with the African Union in general.

Moreover, the strategy considers **the European Union** as the country's first trade and economic partner, the largest market for our exports, an important source for technology and knowledge, the main source for the country's tourists, and a key development partner, in addition to being a main commercial and political player in the Middle East and worldwide.

As for Egypt's relations with the **United States**, the strategy stresses strategic relations between the two countries, which have continued over the past 4 decades. The strategy aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the economic, investment, and military fields and continued close bilateral cooperation to achieve stability in the Middle East. The strategy is also designed to take into consideration the peoples of **the Latin American continent**, who have a strong attachment to Egyptian civilization, in order to spread teaching the Arabic language and establishing sections for teaching Egyptology in some universities, in addition to strengthening the role of Al-Azhar and of the Islamic centers in the Latin continent. The strategy also aims to

strengthen the relations and aspects of cooperation with them at all levels. **On the Asian front**, the Egyptian foreign policy aims to strengthen the partnership with the Asian peoples. The strategy seeks to go ahead towards signing declarations to establish a strategic relationship that provides an institutional framework for political, economic, and technical cooperation with the Asian countries.

The strategy emphasizes **the significance of the water security file as a great part of the Egyptian national security** depends on the continuous flow of the Nile waters as agreed upon between Egypt and Nile Basin States since 1902 until the mid-1950s. It was agreed that Egypt would receive a minimum share of 55.5 billion cubic meter of water annually. Egypt faces some challenges resulting from the establishment of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Egypt aims, through discussions with concerned partners, to maintain its share of the river water without any reduction.

The Government of Egypt (GOE) has developed a plan to address this issue including further efforts to implement the recommendations of the Commission of International Experts on the impacts of the Renaissance Dam Project on the two downstream countries and providing the guarantees and alternatives that meet the interests of Egypt in parallel. The plan also includes developing cooperation for water resource management with the Nile basin countries with the aim of promoting the Egyptian presence in these States, pushing for cooperation to minimize water loss to maintain Egyptian water security, stressing the importance of meeting the Egyptian requirements with regard to the framework agreement on cooperation in the Nile basin and further consultations with countries on ways to overcome this obstacle, and continued follow-up of the status of the framework Convention for the States on the Nile and urging the Basin States to adopt a more holistic framework that allows for considering the interests of all parties. The strategy also aims to develop the relationships of Egypt with the Nile Basin countries by monitoring the implementation of the Egyptian initiative for the development of the Nile Basin countries, focusing on priority sectors for Egypt (Department of Water Resources) and for Basin countries (health, energy, and agriculture) and enhancing coordination with national stakeholders to achieve foreign policy goals in the Basin States.

The strategy also develops some programs and projects to enable Egypt to effectively manage the water file, including institutional and legislative reforms in water resources management systems by re-identifying the roles of the governing agencies of the sector, enhancing their administrative efficiency, drafting necessary legislation, expanding infrastructure required to sustain the water systems, and reforming fiscal policy and the use of economic instruments to change the behavior of consumers towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns for water resources.