Introduction:

In many years, a large number of slum areas that were built without authorization from the official authorities have spread in Egypt. These areas lack the most basic elements of a decent life, and these areas and buildings are constructed without planning. The areas are outside the scope of the government's population development plans, and they often lack some basic services. The total number of unsafe areas is 351, inhabited by 850,000 people, 71% of whom lack adequate housing standards, while 7% are considered life-threatening areas, 17% are health-threatening, and 5% lack stable tenure. Egypt has adopted many programs and made efforts to address the problem of slums; this report reviews these efforts.

Laws, Policies, and Measures Related to Discrimination and Limiting of Housing Segregation

The Egyptian Constitution has set a comprehensive framework for equality and non-discrimination in many articles, where national unity is based on the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunities for all citizens, and the State is committed to achieving equal opportunities for all citizens without discrimination. The Constitution stipulates that citizens are equal before the law, and are equal in terms of public rights, freedoms and duties. There shall be no discrimination between citizens on the basis of religion or belief, gender, origin, race, color, language, disability, social class, political or geographical affiliation, or any other reason. It also criminalizes discrimination and incitement to hatred (Article 53).

The Constitution also stipulates that society is based on social solidarity, and the State is committed to achieving social justice and providing means of social solidarity, in a way that guarantees a decent life for all citizens, in the manner organized by law (Article 8).

The Constitution has enshrined the State’s guarantee of the right to adequate, safe and healthy housing in a manner that preserves human dignity and achieves social justice. That is in addition to obligating the State to develop a comprehensive national plan to confront the problem of slums that includes re-planning, providing basic infrastructure and facilities, improving the quality of life
and public health; as well as ensuring the provision of the necessary resources for implementing these actions in a specified period of time (Article 78).

Egypt has a legislative framework that protects and regulates property rights and real estate tenure. It regulates house renting, urban planning and construction regulation. Egypt has a wide array of laws including real estate finance laws, leading to the Social Housing Law. Social Housing Law No. 33 of 2014 was issued with the aim of providing housing units for middle and low-income people. In accordance with this law, the Social Housing and Real Estate Financing Fund was established, which is the authority entrusted with social housing projects.

**Affirmative Action Measures, to Reduce Discrimination, Racial Segregation or Structural Inequality in Regards to Housing**

The "Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030" included a clear vision of how to implement the right to housing in line with what was stated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially the eleventh goal, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The Sustainable Development Strategy has devoted an entire axis around urban development and allocated a separate program for combating the phenomenon of slums and unsafe areas with the aim of achieving social justice and raising the standard of living, and reducing the negative phenomena resulting from the spread of slums. That is through setting up an integrated program for the development of slums and providing job opportunities for their residents, whether in the areas they live in, in case they were developed and renovated, or in the alternative areas. This is while taking into consideration the rehabilitation and development of the cultural and social capabilities of the population to adapt to and maintain the developed areas; in addition to working to strengthen the implementation of laws to prevent the emergence of slums.

In 2008, the Informal Settlements Development Fund of the Cabinet was established through Presidential Decree No. 305 of 2008. The Fund aims to limit, develop, and set the necessary plan for urban planning and supply them with basic utilities, including water, sanitation and electricity. The Fund also aims to set a plan to remove buildings and facilities built in insecure areas, in addition to continuing to provide shelters for those who are decided to evacuate. The Fund
carries out its functions in coordination with the ministries, concerned authorities and local administration units.

In the same context, the Egyptian State, represented by the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Program, launched the "Housing Strategy in Egypt" in October 2020.

The principles of the Strategy include the State’s commitment to providing adequate housing for all citizens, taking into account the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged groups. The Strategy also emphasizes the principles of social justice, equal opportunities, non-discrimination or marginalization, and the role of housing policies and programs in achieving social integration and creating dynamic spaces that allow different segments of society to interact. The Strategy also includes four policies related to dealing with urban development areas, dealing with the existing housing stock and vacant units, dealing with low-income housing groups, and achieving the goals of residential areas and sustainable housing.

The Government’s achievements report during the period from June 2018 to June 2020 included reference to the allocation of 57 billion pounds to develop 21 urban cities, the length of the roads network reaching 1627.6 km, an electricity network with a length of 8114.35 km, a water network with a length of 1469.55 km, and finally a sewage network with length 587.91 km long.

The Government spending on the housing and community utilities sector amounted to about 63.4 billion pounds in the 2019/2020 budget, at 4% of total government spending and 1% of total GDP. Government spending rates on this sector increased from 2.5% to 3.5% as a percentage of total government spending, and from 0.8% to 1% as a percentage of GDP between (2010 / 2011-2013 / 2014) and (2014 / 2015-2017 / 2018).

The previous table indicates the steady increase in spending on the housing sector through the construction and building sectors and real estate activities. Construction spending jumped from 354.3 billion pounds in 2005 to 41,193.6 billion pounds in 2020, equivalent to about 120 times increase. While the spending of the activities of the real estate sector witnessed a large jump from 135.6 billion pounds in 2005 to reach 23279.8 billion pounds in 2020, which is
equivalent to about 170 times in increase. This reflects the critical attention the State pays to the housing sector.

The State's strategy in developing unsafe and informal areas is based on achieving the principle of social justice and ensuring citizen's right to obtain safe housing while improving living and economic conditions, through the implementation of a set of policies:

- Human development of the residents of slum areas as the beginning for the path to development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The year</th>
<th>Construction and building</th>
<th>The real estate activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020/2019</td>
<td>41193.6</td>
<td>23279.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2014</td>
<td>1111.2</td>
<td>7390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2009</td>
<td>1063.1</td>
<td>1869.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/2004</td>
<td>354.3</td>
<td>135.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Settling residents of slum areas in the same areas or in the nearest neighboring areas.

- Developing informal areas at the governorate level, taking into account the principle of decentralization of decision-making.
- Merging unplanned areas development programs with unsafe areas.
- Applying the principles of partnership with the people in projects to develop slums.
- Ensure that the living conditions of the residents of informal settlements are preserved.
- Supporting partnership with civil society institutions and the private sector.
- Activating the partnership with donors to implement the State's priorities in developing unsafe areas.
- Developing an integrated model for developing slums that can be generalized to restore the civilized appearance and characteristics of Egyptian urbanism in all governorates.

Eliminate slums

Within the framework of the State’s plan to eradicate informal settlements and unsafe areas, Egypt has worked on three basic axes. The first is the development of informal settlements and the provision of alternative housing. The second axis is the establishment of new cities and community societies in which people of low-income are given priority for work. While the third axis is providing subsidies and low-interest financial loans to help citizens attain their right to decent housing, regardless of their limited capabilities. Below, the report reviews State's efforts in the three axes:

First, Developing Slums and Insecure Areas:

Unplanned areas: The unplanned areas represent about 37% of urban buildings, included in about 226 cities in 27 governorates, and are expected to be eliminated or solved by 2030, which is one of the goals of Egypt's Strategy for Sustainable Development “Egypt Vision 2030”.

53 unplanned areas on an area of 4,616 acres out of a total of 152,000 acres have already been eliminated within the plan to eliminate unplanned areas, and work has started on developing another 79 unplanned areas on an area of 6,941 acres. The estimated cost of developing unplanned informal areas is about 318 billion pounds.
The development plans did not stop at housing only, but extended to random street markets. The development of 30 random markets out of a total of 1,150 markets has been completed, and work is currently underway in 15 other markets. The estimated cost of developing random markets is 44 billion pounds.

Insecure areas: Egypt's Strategy for Sustainable Development: Egypt's Vision 2030 aims to reduce the number of people in insecure areas by 30% in 2020 and 100% by 2030. The Egyptian Government was able to reduce the number of population in insecure areas by 35% in 2019.

The Informal Settlements Development Fund places the development of insecure areas at the top of its priorities. The Fund adopts policies and mechanisms, depending on the degree of danger of the area, taking into account the social and economic conditions of the residents of these areas.

The mechanisms and actions are determined according to the degree of severity, with an emphasis on the priority of the development processes to be in the same area in terms of preserving the rights of the population in the social and economic connection with their areas, as follows:

The highest degree of life threat (life threatening areas): removing the danger, moving residents to safe housing units, and giving them appropriate financial compensation.

The second degree (areas of inadequate housing): replacement of housing in the same area, construction of housing units on nearby State-owned lands, financial compensation for the provision of housing, and finally rehabilitation of housing units.

The third degree (areas threatening to public health): transferring or converting overhead power lines to underground cables, in cooperation between the governorates and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. In addition, the State reconciles the conditions of factories that pollute the environment in cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry. The State shall also ensure the implementation of safe water and sanitation systems within the plan of the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities.

The fourth degree (areas without stable tenure): legalizing tenure for a fee, and providing alternative housing.
While the number of unsafe areas reached 404 areas in 2009, containing about 212,000 housing units with a total population of 850,000 people, and an area of 4961 acres. However, as a result of the State and the Informal Settlements Development Fund’s efforts, the number of unsafe areas decreased in May 2020 to 59 areas nationwide, and the total number of housing units reached 75,000, and the number of residents of these units reached 300,000. The Egyptian State, represented by the Informal Settlements Development Fund, was able to develop 296 unsafe areas out of the total number during the period from 2014 to 2020.

The percentage of unsafe areas developed during the period from 2014 to June 2020 reached 46% in Greater Cairo, which accounts for 29% of the unsafe areas. The rate of development in Ismailia Governorate reached 72%, which includes 18% of the insecure areas nationwide.

**Initiatives to Provide Decent Housing**

Since 2014, the Egyptian State has worked to provide decent housing for Egyptian citizens through a number of national initiatives and programs, the most prominent of which are:

The "Decent Housing" program: This program began in 2017. It is a program to provide basic services, specifically infrastructure such as drinking water, sanitation, home restoration and other services that aim to improve the health and environmental conditions of families most in need, especially those who receive conditional and non-conditional cash assistance within the "Takaful and Karama" program in the villages most in need in the targeted governorates. These villages are identified according to poverty maps; villages that have public sewage and wastewater networks, and houses of families registered in the Takaful and Karama social security database, and family houses that do not meet the conditions of Takaful and Karama social security program, and need some basic services.

The Program is multilateral, involving governmental, civil or private sectors and partners. The Ministry of Social Solidarity represents the umbrella for the implementation of the program, along with the cooperation of a number of governmental institutions, such as the Ministry of Endowments, Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Local Development. This is in addition to a number of NGOs
such as: The Misr El-Kheir Foundation, the Orman, the Egyptian Food Bank, the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development and other institutions and NGOs, as well as some private sector companies.

**This Program Has Achieved a Number of Important Achievements, Including:**

Implementation of interventions for the most vulnerable families in a number of villages in the governorates of Minya, Assiut, Sohag, Qena and Luxor, which included establishing roofs of 3,879 houses, renovating 2,240 houses and 7,437 household connections for drinking water; in addition to the implementation of 39,165 sanitation connections from the funding of the agencies supporting the program in the aforementioned governorates, at a cost of 145 million pounds.

580 houses were built at a cost of 23.2 million pounds in 21 villages, covered by a private sector company and the Orman Association.

The Qena and Luxor governorates' household sewage connections were covered by funding from the Ministry of Planning through the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater.

A total number of 280 houses are being rehabilitated and renovated in the governorates of Sohag, Sharqia, and Aswan, as the first stage of the cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Social Solidarity and a private sector company, and NGOs at the governorate level.

The total number of families for which the targeted services have been or are being implemented, from the Program’s financing and other supportive sources in the most needy villages in the five targeted governorates from the first phase of the program until March 2020, reached 58,000 families in more than 200 villages nationwide.

**The Presidential Initiative "A Decent Life":**

The Presidential initiative aims to achieve a decent life, achieving spatial justice by dealing with the geographical development gap, especially in the rural Upper Egypt. The initiative relies on a partnership between the Government, the private sector, and civil society. The institutions and ministries concerned are the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Manpower and the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of
Finance; in addition to the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Development Agency, and other governmental institutions. A number of NGOs also participate in the Initiative, as well as the banking sector, the Egyptian Zakat and Charity House, and some private universities.

The Initiative's goals are set out in four strategic goals, which are: human development, improving the quality of life for citizens, improving the standard of living of citizens most in need, and providing decent and productive job opportunities. A financing plan has been prepared to distribute the investments to the targeted villages, taking into account two considerations: Population and poverty rate in each village.

The first phase of the Initiative 2019/2020 included (143) villages in 11 governorates, the governorates of Assiut, Sohag, Aswan, Qena, Beheira, Minya, Luxor, Qalyubia, New Valley, Matrouh and Dakahlia, with 1.8 million residents. The second phase, 2020/2021, includes (214 new villages), bringing the total targeted villages in the two phases to 357 villages. This phase covers 34% of the total population of the 1,000 poorest villages. By the end of the initiative in 2024, it is planned that the total number of villages will reach 1,000, with a total population of 12.4 million.

Second: Building New Housing Units:

Within the framework of working to provide decent and appropriate housing for citizens, the President launched the initiative "Housing for all Egyptians" in 2020, directing the establishment of 500,000 housing units in major cities and provincial capitals nationwide. The President also launched the "Real Estate Finance" Initiative in March 2021, at an interest rate of 3% decreasing annually for a period of up to 30 years. This Initiative targets low and middle income Egyptian citizens.

Since 2014, Egypt has worked to provide decent housing for Egyptian citizens through a number of national initiatives and programs, the most prominent of which are:

Social Housing Program:

The Social Housing Program contributed to improving the efficiency of the housing sector, which led to a decrease in the growth rate of informal areas. In the beginning of 2014, the government set the issue of providing adequate
housing for the poorest families a top priority. Social housing contributes to fulfilling this commitment, by expanding housing options for low-income families (10% of the income distribution), including youth, female-headed households, and families in informal areas, who can qualify for soft loans supported by the program.

Social housing supports housing programs for disadvantaged families, and provides a wide range of locations and housing types, including rental options. Currently, the Social Housing Project aims to provide 1 million units in 283 cities in Egypt for families with lower income and to improve or resettle slums.

The Social Housing Program is designed not only to provide housing units, but also to provide residential communities with integrated services and facilities, while providing the necessary financial tools to enable citizens to obtain their housing units by providing cash support deducted from the value of the housing unit, in addition to interest support on mortgage loan for a period of up to 20 years. To ensure support reaches those who are eligible, several measures are taken, including field inquiries, to verify the data provided by the citizen and to ensure that he or she does not own a housing unit.

The Egyptian State has also directed investments estimated at 54 billion pounds with the aim of implementing 203,000 units, of which 147,000 social housing units, and various medium and cooperative housing projects. The number of beneficiaries of social housing units reached about 920,000 citizens, and social housing programs also contributed to generating about 800,000 job opportunities.

The Social Housing Program also contributed to the development and provision of services in the new cities, which helped accelerate the rates of development in new cities, as the program is in line with State’s developmental directions that aim to increase the current urbanization or buildings of Egypt from 7% to 14% now; as 477 service projects were implemented, 268 projects are being implemented, in addition to 107 service projects in various stages.

Various service projects are being implemented and offered in the areas of the units of the Social Housing Project, including 146 primary, secondary and experimental education schools, 126 nurseries, 93 medical centers and health units.
The Fund has implemented a mechanism to monitor occupancy rates in the units that have been allocated, and a procedures guide for this system has been developed.

428,000 housing units have been implemented, about 194,000 housing units are being implemented, and 36,000 housing units have been offered for contracting with the real estate financing system. The Fund has already allocated 322,000 housing units, and it is planned to deliver 170,000 special units to the contractors.

The Fund is working hard to complete the provision of one million housing units under the Social Housing Program by 2024. The remaining 344,000 units will be offered over five years from 2020 at a rate of 115,000 housing units.

**Third, Support and Financing for Low-Income People to Obtain Adequate Housing**

The Social Housing and Real Estate Financing Fund, through the Social Housing Program, until June 2020, has supported and financed 307,000 clients, most of whom fall into the 40% lowest income category nationwide.

The Social Housing Program also seeks to provide equal opportunities for females to suit their needs. Barriers have been removed, and obstacles to women's ownership and control over real estate assets have been eliminated. The percentage of female beneficiaries of the program reached 21%.

The Program also targeted the self-employed and the private sector, as they accounted for 65.17% of the total beneficiaries. The percentage of beneficiaries with special needs was 1%.

Recently, the President launched the "Real Estate Financing" Initiative in March 2021, at a declining interest rate of 3% annually for a period of up to 30 years. This initiative targets lower and middle income Egyptian citizens.

The following table shows the number of beneficiaries of loans according to the average income in Egyptian pounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average income</th>
<th>The number of beneficiaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- SHP, banks and mortgage finance companies now accept mortgage lending to much lower income groups, both formal and informal sector workers, a category that they never served before. Lenders allow applicants to provide a certificate from a legal accountant office as a proof of their monthly income within the last three years. As a result, the number of self-employed beneficiaries increased gradually since the beginning of the programme, reaching 16.9% in 2020, compared to 2% in 2014. The table below illustrates the classification of current beneficiaries according to the type of employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Classification of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>168,503</td>
<td>48.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>117,998</td>
<td>34.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td>58,502</td>
<td>16.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Affirmative Action**

Citizens with special needs acquire their constitutional right to adequate housing in accordance with international standards, they are allocated 5% of the total units available. (4,305 beneficiaries are citizens with special needs). Allocating ground floor for citizens with mobility disabilities, while allocating housing units for other disables citizens without discrimination, taking into account the psychological and social dimension, integrating them into society naturally, and eliminating any form of discrimination.

- Women have an equal opportunity to apply and to qualify for the units offered by SHP, based on their income level, with full property rights. The total number of Number is 75,031 equal 22% of beneficiaries are female headed households, the program takes into account gender equality by granting women equal property rights, with a focus on (women headed households, divorced women, widows, and women with special needs), and providing them with the opportunity to access and benefit from the program.

**Institutional Mechanisms in Place to Report, Reform and Monitor Cases of Discrimination or Apartheid Regarding the Right to Adequate Housing and Their Effectiveness in Addressing Discrimination**

The Building Law No. 119 of 2008 and its executive regulations stipulated the regulations and procedures that ensure adequate, safe and healthy housing for citizens as follows:

The Law stipulated the procedures that ensure the establishment of adequate, safe and healthy housing for citizens; by issuing a building permit if the building conforms to the planning and construction requirements based on the design and implementation requirements, and if it is consistent with technical requirements, general specifications, safety requirements, health rules, provisions for lighting,
ventilation, and courtyards, and requirements for securing the building and its occupants against fire dangers.

In addition, preservation of the right of people with disabilities to adequate housing should be guaranteed by obliging the engineer or engineering office designed to comply with general requirements for the use of buildings by the disabled in accordance with the provisions of the Egyptian Code for the Design of External Spaces and Buildings for Disabled Use.

The Law also stipulates State’s provision of adequate housing for residents of unsafe slum areas by specifying the procedures followed for re-planning areas and unplanned areas to preserve the rights of the people of the area in terms of negotiating with real estate owners within these units. That is in addition to the administrative authority’s obligation to provide housing for them until the alternative unit is prepared or to pay a rental value until the completion of the transfer to the new residence.

The Legal Framework and Empowerment Mechanisms for Individuals and Groups Who Experience Structural Discrimination or Who Suffer from Isolation to Submit Complaints to Administrative, Non-judicial or Judicial Bodies to Seek Redress.

The protection of the right of private property for every person is considered one of the main principles of national wealth and a guarantee for the means of development. Thus, the Constitution (Article 35) affirms the inviolability of private property, and stipulating that it should not be violated unless as an exception, and only in case of public interest. The Article approved any expropriation for the public interest must be in return for fair compensation paid in advance in accordance with the law. For the protection of private property and prevention of unlawful violation, Article 40 of the Constitution prohibits, absolutely, the public confiscation of funds, just as private confiscation of funds is not permitted, except by a court ruling, in accordance with regulatory laws.

The Egyptian legislation includes strict regulation for the protection of the right to private property, and its possible restrictions. Article 805 of the Civil Code stipulates that "no one shall be deprived of his property except in the circumstances established and prescribed by law and in exchange for fair compensation". Real estate registration is carried out through the real estate
registry offices spread throughout the country, upon a request submitted by the concerned parties or their agents.

Article 369 of the Penal Code punishes anyone who enters a real estate of another person with the intention of preventing him from acquiring by force. The legislative amendment proposed by the Government to the Inheritance Law was approved by the House of Representatives and the law was issued to punish anyone who deliberately refuses to hand over one of the heirs his or her legal share of the inheritance, or withholding a proof that confirms the share of an heir, or abstaining from delivering that document or proof if requested by any of the legal heirs.

Procedures Related to Evacuating Areas for Re-planning Them.

All procedures in connection to re-planning of areas, development of existing houses in informal settlements, or expropriation of real estate properties for public good, are authorized by administrative decisions, same as all activities carried out by the Government and its branches, not by a court order. However, they are subject to judicial control, and citizens have the right to dispute them. Eviction from areas designated for planning or re-planning by the administrative authority has to start by announcing those areas, then the respective Governor has to issue a decision in this regard. This decision must be published in the Official Gazette and publicised inter alia at the municipal unit, and can be challenged before an administrative court within 60 days of establishing definite knowledge, with an urgent appeal to suspend its execution, and if necessary, before the Supreme Administrative Court later on. Unless interrupted by a judicial process, the next step after issuing and publicizing the decision is to create a committee to assess the property value and negotiate with the owners and residents. The results have to be publicized, as well as the compensation amount, in various locations. Also, the number of renters is verified, and they are offered three options: 1) immediate relocation to a home in another newly developed area within the same city; 2) financial remuneration to find alternative housing for the duration of the development of their area, in which they will be allocated a comparable unit; or 3) negotiated financial compensation.

In case an expropriation decision is issued for public good, it has to be published in the Official Gazette and publicized inter alia at the municipal unit.
The decision may be challenged before an administrative court within 60 days. It is worth mentioning in this respect that the Supreme Administrative Court has established in its decision on case no. 8500 of 2006 that announcing and publishing are not enough to determine the realization of definite knowledge by the persons concerned, thus the dates specified above may only be calculated from the date that definite knowledge is ascertained and verified. In addition, once the committee responsible for assessing the property value and negotiating with owners and residents is created, the same steps, as in case of announcing areas designated for planning or re-planning described above, have to be followed. Once the committee concludes its work, the administrative authority must send letters the owners and residents concerned by recorded delivery, and the decision has to be published in the Official Gazette and in 2 widely circulating newspapers, and publicized at the municipal unit and on the property itself in a visible manner—among other locations—for 30 days, after which owners and residents would have 15 days to submit a petition to the administrative authority. The latter should respond with recorded delivery within 30 days, and the petitioner has 30 days afterwards to challenge the decision before a first degree court, and 120 days to plea against the compensation amount assessed, without prejudice to his/her right to cash the assessed amount. The court decision may still be appealed against before the Court of Appeal, and possibly before the Court of Cassation. At the end, if expropriation procedures were not completed within two years, or the properties were used for a purpose other than public good, citizens can challenge the expropriation decision before the Supreme Administrative Court.

This lengthy process is outlined by Law no. 10 of 1990 on the Expropriation of Real Estate Properties for Public Good, amended by Law no. 24 of 2018. The purpose of these detailed steps is to provide maximum safeguards to owners and residents, particularly in informal settlements, and to protect property entitlements and the right to housing. The Supreme Constitutional Court established by its decision on cases no. 1875 and 1914 of 1991 that despite the fact that an administrative decision to evict residents of an informal settlement built on State-owned land was lawful in order to protect State property rights, there is a greater good in allowing the community members to remain in their homes, so as to protect them from vagrancy, and maintain social harmony and order public, especially that the administrative authority was conscious from the start that the community was created, but did not react on time to protect State property rights.
The Government is confident that the whole process explained above is in full congruence with Article 11 (1) of ICESCR, and General Comments 4 (1991) and 7 (1994) by CESC on adequate housing.

Egyptian courts are full of rulings that invalidate or cancel administrative decisions related to the removal of buildings or residential areas for public benefit, or that they were built on State-owned Lands. Ezbet Khayrallah in Dar Al-Salam area is an example. The court based its decision on the fact that the public benefit that would be achieved from the removal decision is not parallel to the damages that will inevitably result from it, which would be the loss of thousands of families to their homes.

In a more significant incident, the Supreme Administration Court canceled the Prime Minister’s decision to evacuate Al-Qorsaya island from its residents, claiming that its land was transformed into natural reserves due to its environmental nature. More than 100 residents of the island appealed the decision, so the Administrative Court issued a ruling that the island’s residents have the right to remain in their homes. The court stated in its reasons for the ruling that the supervision of the Supreme Administrative Court is a legitimate oversight authority aimed at protecting the current situation of the island; and this is what comes with the decision of the administrative body represented by the Prime Minister to refrain from determining the right of usufruct of the island’s inhabitants, in contravention of the law, in order to preserve their stability and ensure their security and protection of social peace.

The Court added that it built its decision on the basis that the Constitution gave the citizen the right to housing and work, as they are basic rights, and showed great concern for the citizen’s dignity as a natural reflection of the nation’s dignity, and that individuals’ ownership shares State ownership in achieving social peace for, strengthening the bond of loyalty and belonging.

In all cases, according to the Constitution, any expropriation of private property for the public interest must take place in return for fair compensation. The Government paid compensation to Egyptian citizens of Nubia who had not been compensated before when building and raising the Aswan Reservoir in 1902 and the establishment of the High Dam in 1960. The Prime Minister Decision No. 478
of 2017 was issued to form a committee headed by the Minister of Justice to list the names of those affected who were not previously compensated. It completed the final count of the beneficiaries, and the total number of them reached 11,716, of whom 3,851 were entitled to compensation from those affected by the construction and elevation of the Aswan Reservoir, and 7865 were entitled to compensation from those affected by the construction of the High Dam and they were 4,758 victims of land loss and 3,107 victims of housing loss.

In February 2019, the Prime Minister issued a decision to form a committee, headed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, which set the necessary rules for providing compensation, and this committee completed its work and provided compensation recipients with many types of compensation to choose from.

The State also handed over compensation to the owners of lands that had been expropriated, as a result of the road network passing through them, to implement the National Roads Project, which aims to link the governorates of Egypt and build new urban communities.

Egypt has also established a unified complaints system available on the Internet, which is a modern interface for the Government with the aim of achieving direct communication with the Egyptian citizen to alleviate suffering and in order to improve the level of services provided. The system is the main tool in receiving, reviewing and verifying complaints before directing them to the competent authority, and even evaluating the responses, informing the citizen of the final response, and then closing the complaint.

The Government is confident that the entire process described above is fully in compliance with Article 11 (1) of the ICESCR, General Comment No. 4 (1991) and 7 (1994) by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on adequate housing.
Attachment (1)
Models of developing unsafe areas