

**Political, Economic and Social Atmosphere**  
**That Take Place in The Presidential Elections**



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## **Political, Economic and Social Atmosphere That Take Place in The Presidential Elections**

### **Egyptian Coalition for Human Rights and Development**

It is an initiative launched by Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue Foundation, and consists of 500 development associations and organizations in 9 Governorates, in order to promote Human Rights conditions in Egypt, strengthen partnerships, and exchange experience.

The NGOs and institutions participating in the initiative were distributed in 9 governorates: Cairo, Gharbia, Beheira, Alexandria, Beni Suef, Sohag, Luxor, Qena and Aswan.

#### **Facebook Site:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090569196942>

## Introduction

Following the revolution of January 25, 2011, the Egyptian presidential elections were held for the year 2012, in which 13 candidates competed before one of them withdrew. They were: Amr Moussa (independent), Abdel Moneim Abu Al-Futouh (independent), Ahmed Shafiq (independent), Hamdeen Sabahi (independent), and Khaled, Ali (Independent), Muhammad Salim Al-Awa (Independent), Mahmoud Hossam El-Din Jalal (Independent), Muhammad Morsi (Freedom and Justice Party), Abu Al-Ezz Al-Hariri (Socialist Popular Alliance Party), Hisham Al-Bastawisi (Tagamo Party), Hossam Khairallah (Party Democratic Peace), Muhammad Fawzi Issa (Democratic Generation Party), Abdullah Al-Ashaal (Al-Asala Party). However, Abdullah Al-Ashaal announced his withdrawal from the race to run for president of the country, and his support for the Freedom and Justice Party candidate, Mohamed Morsi, who represents the Muslim Brotherhood.

The elections ended in the first round with the victory of Mohamed Morsi by 24.78% and Ahmed Shafiq by 23.66%. Due to the result, some disturbances occurred, and a rerun of the elections was held in a second round between Ahmed Shafiq and Mohamed Morsi. The late President Mohamed Morsi also won in this round by 51.73, compared to 48.27% for Ahmed Shafiq. This result was accepted at the time with a massive wave of anger, objections, and skepticism about the integrity of the elections and the results. Many accusations were made against the Muslim Brotherhood of rigging the elections and results in order to make their candidate Mohamed Morsi win the elections instead of Ahmed Shafiq. And after former President Mohamed Morsi took power a year there, a large number of Egyptians were dissatisfied with the way President Mohamed Morsi and the Brotherhood managed the country, and they saw that after a year there had

been no improvement in Egypt's economic problems, energy shortages, insecurity and diplomatic crises.

Therefore, some youth, parties, and opposition movements, the most famous of which was the Tamarod Movement, which began on April 26, 2013 for the purpose of withdrawing confidence from Mohamed Morsi during his rule, went out and held protests on June 30, 2013 to object to Mohamed Morsi's rule and demand his departure from power, which is the same day he took office. President Morsi ruled from 2012, and the revolution lasted for three days (July 1 - July 2 - July 3). On July 3, the revolution succeeded when the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces at that time, General Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, dismissed Mohamed Morsi. He also announced the suspension of the 2012 constitution, the handing over of power to the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court, Counselor Adly Mansour, and the holding of early presidential elections, which were organized in May 2014. Several measures were announced along with this, known as the road map, which was supported by opponents of President Mohamed Morsi, who considered this as a support for popular demands and demonstrations of 30 June, while Sisi was then accused by another part of the Egyptians and international community of having carried out a military coup. The elected Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was removed, the constitution suspended, and several media outlets were cut off from broadcasting.

On March 26, 2014, Field Marshal Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced his resignation from his position as Minister of Defense and officially ran for the presidential elections, after a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces attended by President Adly Mansour, during which Lieutenant General Sedqi Sobhi was promoted to be First Lieutenant General and appointed Minister of Defense, Sisi's successor, the next day. In April of the same year, he officially submitted his

candidacy papers, which included about 188,000 powers of attorney from citizens, and after closing the nomination period, the Supreme Elections Committee announced that the competition would be between the independent Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and the leader of the Popular Movement, the leftist candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, only in the elections that took place during the month of May 2014 with the participation of Egyptians inside and outside Egypt.

The program of independent candidate Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in these elections was based on two axes: the first: rebuilding the state on modern foundations, taking into account the mandates of the 2014 Constitution, which are binding on the state, and the second: engaging the people in their optimism regarding comprehensive development and achieving social justice, and implementing transparency with the realities of the economic situation and the circumstances the country is going through. It also aims to rebuild and achieve prosperity for people and ensure a decent life for them, while respecting the rights and freedoms stipulated in the Constitution, while giving priority to achieving social justice and balanced growth geographically and sectorally, and paying close attention to human development, urban expansion, reducing poverty, achieving a rapid and tangible improvement in the quality of life for all citizens, restoring security and safety to the country, reforming state institutions, raising and ensuring the efficiency of its agencies, fighting corruption, and proposing development projects to overcome unemployment.

Sabahi stated in his presidential program that he supports social justice, freedom, and citizens' rights under a democratic civil system. There is a need for a profound change in how the country is managed. We want to change the policies of corruption, incapacity, and dependency, and we want a transparent, just, and young state. Sabahi promised an ambitious economic program that pays attention to the

country's high unemployment rate. He also pledged to amend “unjust laws,” including the Protest Law that prohibits demonstrations and sit-ins, in addition to releasing all political detainees, but he will not lift the ban on the Muslim Brotherhood, which the transitional government banned and described as terrorist. As for Sabahy's foreign policy, he promoted a mixture of nationalism, strong opposition to the legacy of the Mubarak years, and an anti-Israel stance. These elections ended with Abdel Fattah El-Sisi winning the position of President of the Republic, with a percentage of 96.91 percent of the total valid votes, compared to 3.09 percent for his competitor Hamdeen Sabahi.

After the end of the first term of President Sisi’s rule, preparations were made to hold new elections for the year 2018, which was the fourth pluralistic presidential elections in the history of Egypt and the third presidential elections after the January 25<sup>th</sup> Revolution. It was scheduled to take place from February 8, 2018 until May 8, 2018, but the National Elections Authority in Egypt advanced its date so that its first procedures began receiving nomination applications on January 20, 2018. After the nomination period closed and the grievance period ended, there were only two candidates: Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Moussa Mostafa Moussa.

Moussa Mostafa Moussa’s electoral program carried the slogan “We will continue...we will develop...a better Egypt.” It also included an introductory summary of his electoral program and a vision of the issues and files that concern Egyptian society, including the limited-income people, as they are mainly dependent on controlling prices with coordination and continuous follow-up from the state entities. The program also included an overview of farmers, their rights, and attention to agriculture and irrigation. It also included attention to the tourism sector and the establishment of a fund to care for tourism workers. It included

international and foreign relations, street children, ration cards, and women's rights.

President Sisi's electoral program included continuing what was accomplished to achieve Egypt's 2030 strategy as follows:

On the internal level: Continue to complete the process of democratic transformation at a faster pace, while addressing some of the negatives in this regard, in light of the establishment of a modern civil state in Egypt. Moving forward with the economic reform process with a focus on improving the living conditions of people with limited and medium incomes, expanding the scope of support for the poor, increasing the pace of slum reform, and developing poor villages, of which Upper Egypt constitutes the vast majority. Completion of the national projects on which work has begun, especially the new capital project, the rehabilitation of one and a half million acres, the economic development of the Suez Canal axis area, the Sinai development project, as well as the national project for roads, the Sinai tunnels, and the active start of the Egyptian nuclear project. Continuing to fight terrorism firmly, with a focus on the western front, from which terrorists fleeing Syria and Iraq are trying to infiltrate into Egypt.

On the external level: Do not involve Egypt in wars in the region that its countries and peoples cannot tolerate. Continue to pursue a balanced foreign policy that preserves Egyptian interests, away from processes of international polarization, and expand the circle of Egypt's friends from countries, especially important and influential ones in the region and the world.

The elections ended with the victory of President Sisi, who received 21 million, 835,387 votes, or 97.8%, and candidate Moussa Mostafa Moussa received 656,534 votes, or 2.92% of the valid votes.

As the end of the second term in President Sisi's rule approaches, preparations are underway for the 2024 presidential elections in the current period, which are the elections that President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi is likely to run in order to conclude his presidential term in 2030. Therefore, before the elections begin, we will have to study the prevailing political, economic, and social climate in the country in the current period through several axes, which are:

### First. Economic Atmosphere

#### 1. The reality of Egypt's economy (the challenges it faces):

Egypt, like other countries in the world, went through the events of the Corona epidemic, which appeared at the end of 2019, which caused waves of shocks that swept the global economy, and caused the largest global economic crisis in more than a century.

The crisis has had a severe impact on global poverty and inequality, with the global poverty rate rising for the first time in a generation, and disproportionate income losses among disadvantaged groups leading to a significant rise in inequality within and between countries. According to survey data, in 2020, the temporary unemployment rate in 70% of all countries was higher among workers who only completed primary school. Cases of loss of income were also greater among youth, women, self-employed people, and seasonal workers with lower levels of formal education. Women, in particular, were affected by loss of income and work because they were more likely to work in sectors that were more affected by lockdown and social distancing measures.

Like the situation in most emerging markets, the Covid-19 pandemic was a huge shock to the Egyptian economy. Its repercussions were quickly reflected by the sudden cessation of tourism – which, at the beginning of the crisis, contributed



about 12% of GDP, provided 10% of job opportunities, and 4% of GDP in foreign currency income. Precautionary measures to contain the virus and prevent it from spreading, including a partial general lockdown and restrictions on the capacity of public places, led to a temporary decline in local activities, while the government budget came under pressure because the slowdown in economic activity resulted in a decline in tax revenues. Egypt also witnessed large capital outflows of more than \$15 billion during the period from March to April 2020, with investors withdrawing from emerging markets in search of safe investment.

The inflation rate in Egypt also decreased in 2020 to record 5.9% compared to 13.9% in 2019, and this is considered a rate of decline greater than the global rate. As for unemployment rates, the unemployment rate in Egypt reached 10.3%, and with regard to tourism, 70 to 80% of hotel reservations were canceled as a result of restricting international travel and local tourism, which resulted in a huge loss.

As soon as the recovery from the effects of the Corona epidemic began, the Russian-Ukrainian crisis began in October 2021, where the economic conditions changed, not only in Russia and Ukraine, but the entire world was affected, and Brent crude prices rose above \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2014, and the prices of wheat produced from it increased. Russia and Ukraine account for 30% of the world's supplies, to its highest level since 2008. The inflation index in the countries has exceeded levels never reached before, and the military operations between the two countries have caused a global economic crisis and an unprecedented rise in prices in all countries of the world. Egypt's foreign exchange reserves declined to reach their lowest level in August at \$33.14 billion from \$41 billion in February. The pound was devalued three times and interest rates were raised by 800 basis points. The core inflation rate at the end of last January

recorded 31.2% on an annual basis, and foreign investments in debt instruments amounted to \$22 billion.

The war in Ukraine erased 6 years of gains from the Egyptian economy, since the start of the implementation of the economic reform program in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund in 2016. To get out of the crisis, Egypt turned to the International Monetary Fund in a new agreement under which it obtained a loan worth 3 billion dollars.

Egypt is also currently witnessing a severe economic crisis that has led to economic inflation, a financial crisis, a rise in the value of food prices, a budget deficit, falling wages, limiting bank withdrawals, and the collapse of the value of the local currency against the US dollar.

The annual inflation rate in Egypt jumped to 25.8% during January 2023, which is the highest rate recorded since December 2017, affected by the repercussions of the global inflation wave, and the decline of the pound against the dollar by nearly 100% within a year, and the large increase in commodity prices caused...

Vegetables and meat sales declined significantly, and according to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the consumer price index rose by 4.9% during January compared to December 2022, and the annual inflation rate for the entire republic reached 26.5%.

All of these crises that befell the Egyptian economy caused gold prices to rise to unprecedented levels. Given that global gold prices did not rise to the same extent during that period, gold traders were accused of overpricing it, and buyers at those high prices were accused of speculating in gold. Here the paradox appears, as gold price trends in Egypt differ from global price trends over the past years. In 2013, international prices decreased by 15.5%, while they increased in Egypt by 1%. In

2016, international prices increased by about 8%, while they increased in Egypt by 59%. In 2020, international prices increased by 27%, while in Egypt they did not increase by more than 21%. The rate of rise between the two sides was close in 2021, but it varied greatly last year, with a small increase internationally and a significant increase locally.

For its part, the government took several measures to reduce the rise in gold prices and control the situation, the latest of which was the Cabinet's approval of a draft decision regarding exempting gold imports brought with those coming from abroad from customs tax and other fees, except for the value-added tax, for a period of six months. This decision to exempt gold imports with Egyptians coming from abroad from customs taxes and other fees will calm the gold markets during the coming period, as it will work to increase the supply of gold bullion and coins in the markets, which will reduce the severity of price increases, according to Gold Billion.

## 2. The development of economic sectors in Egypt:

### ▪ Agricultural sector:

Despite the challenges facing the Egyptian agricultural sector, the government has implemented several projects, as the Egyptian state aspires to enhance the performance of the agricultural sector and create job opportunities for young graduates by expanding cultivated lands by reclaiming new areas in the desert to meet the food needs of a growing population. . The Egyptian government has begun to invest significantly in agriculture by adopting several initiatives, such as the "One and a Half Million Acres Project," the "Egyptian Countryside," the "New Delta," and others, as the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development stated that with regard to total agricultural investments In 2021/2022, an amount of 73.8 billion pounds was allocated, which represents 5.9% of the total investments,

compared to the volume of investments in the sector, which amounted to 43 billion pounds in the year 2020/2021, i.e. an increase of 72%, and compared to realized investments amounting to 39.5 billion pounds in the year 2019/2020. According to the map of Egypt's projects, during the year 2021 and up to now, a number of agricultural projects have been implemented, including the New Delta Project, the development and re-operation of the soil analysis laboratory, the Silk Oasis project in Kharga, the Al-Mughra station for mechanized agriculture to serve 1.5 million acres, the Agricultural Extension Center in Matrouh Governorate, and agriculture. 31,000 acres in South Sinai, the agricultural services complex in the village of Al-Marashda, the cultivation of 15,000 acres with jojoba trees in the New Valley, and a national project for seed production.

Over the past years, the Egyptian state has achieved many major achievements in the development process. The Egyptian state has also paid great attention to strengthening international cooperation with international institutions and bilateral cooperation with friendly countries, which has enabled it to move forward with accelerated steps in the development process. The state has spent billions on infrastructure to serve horizontal expansion projects in the South Valley and the Toshka, East Uwaynat, and Sinai regions, which aim to increase the agricultural area in a way that contributes greatly to achieving food security, providing job opportunities, and so on. The horizontal and vertical expansion plan relied on increasing the efficiency of using land and water units, especially in the South Valley and Sinai, and vertical expansion by developing varieties with less water need, reducing the period of crop cultivation and compatibility with climate changes, and also using modern methods of agriculture that depend on developing the irrigation system and using mechanization. Agriculture more broadly and the expansion of the national project for protected crops (greenhouses). All of these

axes aimed to raise the level of productivity and reduce the volume of imports, especially strategic crops (wheat, legumes, and yellow corn), while achieving a great deal of food security and agricultural prosperity for Egypt and its great people in light of the water challenges.

Among the most important projects implemented by the state in the previous period:

**- One and a half million acres project:**

One of the most prominent agricultural projects is the national project to reclaim one and a half million acres. The project aims to create a model for the modern Egyptian countryside, in order to increase the agricultural area by 20% and reduce the food gap, in addition to creating promising investment opportunities in various fields, including reclaiming agricultural lands and establishing projects that...

Targeting the food industries, the project includes 13 regions in 8 governorates, located in Upper Egypt and Sinai, according to the climate condition, soil analysis, and water salinity, which are: Qena, Aswan, Minya, New Valley, Matrouh, South Sinai, Ismailia, and Giza, and were chosen. After in-depth studies, so that it is close to urban areas, communication lines between governorates and the road network, the lands of the first and second phases of the project were offered to small farmers and investors.

**- Project to establish 100,000 agricultural greenhouses:**

The National Food Project was launched and 100,000 agricultural greenhouses were established in 7 different regions based on the distribution of the National Land Reclamation Project, which are the regions of West Minya, Al-Mughra, Sinai, Al-Marashda 1, Al-Marashda 2, Halayeb and Shalatin, to build integrated agricultural development communities. The concept of superior quality of locally

fresh products, free of colourings, prevails, and the availability of cut flowers in local markets in quantities that allow for increased circulation, as well as allowing the gradual replacement of production from the open field with high-quality production from greenhouses, and maximizing the benefit from the land and water units. The greenhouse project also provides more Out of 300,000 job opportunities for young university graduates from various specializations and graduates of colleges of engineering and agriculture. The project targeted the production of agricultural crops outside their seasons, which leads to exports of very high quality, filling the gap, and providing tens of thousands of job opportunities for young people and older age groups, and at the same time saving 40% of water, and producing the same amount of production, which is In the state's strategy for water rationalization.

**- Development of North and Central Sinai:**

It is an important project for horizontal expansion for the development of North and Central Sinai. It aims to reclaim and cultivate 400,000 acres on the waters of the extension of the Al-Salam Canal (Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah Canal) in the North Sinai region, and to create a new and integrated agricultural-industrial development community. About 56.5 thousand acres were cultivated in the regions of the Tinah Plain and South Sinai. Al-Qantara East is on the waters of Al-Salam Canal, and about 13.5 thousand acres were cultivated in the Rabaa and Bir Al-Abd regions on groundwater.

**- New Delta Project:**

The new delta project, which was established in the Dabaa axis area to grow all types of crops, on an area of 1.5 million acres, was the culmination of a series of agricultural projects launched by the state, as it included industrial complexes

related to agriculture within the new delta project, such as packaging and manufacturing stations for agricultural products, because agricultural industrialization raises the value. Added to the product, in addition to export stations, animal production, and dairy products manufacturing, which creates thousands of job opportunities, and young graduates from agricultural specializations will be trained, to gain work experience in desert areas, and how to use the latest methods of agriculture and irrigation in a practical way.

The New Delta Project is one of the giant projects, as it resulted in an increase in the agricultural area to one and a half million acres under the name of the New Delta. The lands located in the south of the Dabaa axis include about 688 thousand acres, the Egypt Future Project, and another area for a project affiliated with the National Service Projects Authority that overlaps with the study area. The three projects combined together represent a minimum of one million acres.

#### **- National Seed Project:**

It is a project that was implemented in partnership with a number of foreign companies with the aim of supporting the agricultural sector, raising the production efficiency of Egyptian agricultural crops and producing seeds locally with high quality that resist pests and climate changes instead of importing them from abroad, in order to achieve self-sufficiency from them. The project succeeded in registering 25 varieties of seeds. Vegetables and fruits for the first time in Egypt, and other various seeds.

#### **▪ Industrial Sector:**

The Egyptian industrial sector has witnessed significant growth over the past years, to meet the needs of national projects, promote economic growth, and increase job opportunities. A list of 100 measures to stimulate the advancement of Egyptian

industry was completed, including 58 short-term measures, 33 medium-term measures, and 9 long-term measures. These measures contributed to achieving positive indicators for Egyptian foreign trade in terms of increasing exports, decreasing imports, improving the imbalance in the trade balance, and achieving the highest historical rate of Egyptian exports, with a total of 32.4 billion dollars, an increase of 46% during the year 2021, and exports in the first 9 months of 2022 reached a value exceeding 27 billion Dollars amid expectations that total industrial and commodity exports will reach more than \$33 billion by the end of the year.

The industry also succeeded in achieving many positive indicators, which placed the industrial sector at the forefront of the economic sectors, as it contributes 11.7% to the gross domestic product. The sector absorbed 28.2% of the total Egyptian workforce, and its investments amounted to about 49 billion pounds during the fiscal year (2020/2021), which represents about 6% of the total public investments, in addition to the rise in the value of industrial output to about 982 billion pounds in 2021, in addition to... Egypt enjoys a diverse industrial base that includes about 150 industrial zones distributed across all governorates of Egypt. Comprehensive and sustainable economic development in the industrial sector was based mainly on the advancement of national industry through the provision of attached industrial lands and the establishment of cities and specialized industrial complexes, in addition to the establishment of a road network covering all parts of the Republic and supporting the logistical transportation system, in addition to providing easy financing programs for all productive projects.

Stimulating measures have also been taken to advance the Egyptian industry and attract investors to invest in various industrial sectors to provide the needs of the local market, in addition to increasing Egyptian exports to global markets according to a systematic plan based on the acceptance and popularity of the



Egyptian product, as 17 industrial complexes were established in 15 governorates across the Republic at a total investment cost. It amounted to about 10 billion pounds, with a total of 5,046 industrial units, providing about 48,000 direct job opportunities. Within that framework, the construction and allocation of 4 industrial complexes was 100% completed and the factories actually began working in them.

During the last two years, 7 complexes were offered, with a total number of units reaching 1,657 units in the governorates of Alexandria, Red Sea, Gharbia, Beni Suef, Minya, Sohag, and Luxor, with areas ranging from 48 meters to 792 meters according to the type of targeted activities. Approvals and licenses were granted to establish factories (new and expansions) and to reconcile existing factories in light of the new industrial licensing law, a total of 82 thousand and 152 industrial establishments providing 4 million job opportunities. The approvals included all governorates of the Republic in a number of activities, including the engineering, electronic, electrical and food industries, beverages, building materials, ceramics, china, refractories, spinning, weaving, clothing, leather, manufacturing industries, and chemicals. With regard to operating and building licenses and industrial registration, the Authority granted 63,736 operating licenses, 6,462 building licenses, and 46,960 industrial registration certificates, from January 2014 until the end of April 2022.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has implemented development programs and projects to develop the industry and foreign trade sector. These projects include:

The Multi-Education Program to Promote Employment in Areas Affected by Migration, with funding of 6 million euros, and the Youth Employment Project in Egypt to find a reason to stay, with funding of 2 million dollars, aiming to empower marginalized groups of youth in areas vulnerable to migration in the Nile

Delta. The local development program in Upper Egypt aims to improve the investment and growth climate and support the capabilities of local units in providing services and infrastructure, allowing the development of the private sector and providing sustainable job opportunities in the governorates of Upper Egypt. The comprehensive and sustainable development project for the tomato value chain in Egypt, funded by 2 million euros, and enhancing the export competitiveness of the textile and clothing sector, funded by 1.5 million Swiss francs and \$960,000 to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized Egyptian companies in the textile sector.

A project to develop the garment sector and home furnishings sector in Egypt in cooperation with the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing Countries (CBI) with funding of 1.7 million euros, and a skills development project in Aswan worth 10 million Canadian dollars to raise the skills and training of youth in Aswan Governorate, by supporting and developing technical education and vocational training in Egypt.

The projects included Support to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform Programme in Egypt (TVET) with joint funding between the Egyptian government (67 million euros) and the European Union (50 million euros), with the aim of improving and developing the structure and performance of technical education and vocational training and its outcomes. It also included a comprehensive green growth project in Egypt worth 5 million Swiss francs (the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 41 thousand US dollars), with the aim of contributing to preserving the system of small and medium enterprises.

The projects included the economic empowerment of women for comprehensive and sustainable growth, worth \$2.64 million, with the aim of increasing productivity and job opportunities and increasing women's employment, as well as

the Egyptian-German program for qualifying and training industrial establishments in partnership with Germany in the form of providing training opportunities for representatives of the industrial community from small and medium-sized industrial establishments. It also included the private sector innovation project, funded by 12 million euros, with the aim of improving innovation requirements in the industrial sector, and the opportunities project for women in the field of agricultural business, funded by 4.5 million Canadian dollars. It included the Trade Reform and Development Project in Egypt, worth 36.3 million dollars, to enable Egypt's private sector to increase international trade, attract investment and increase exports.

It also included a \$34.86 million Egypt Business Project, with the aim of creating an active network of competitive private institutions that accelerate economic development in Egypt and expand the quality and quantity of job opportunities. It included the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (Aftias Program), with the aim of establishing a regional export academy to build and develop the capabilities of project owners, and a program to develop the education and training system for employment in Egypt, worth \$25 million, with the aim of improving job opportunities for Egyptian youth.

The initiative to transform Mediterranean countries towards sustainable consumption and production in neighboring countries in the southern Mediterranean also included the second phase, worth one million euros, the special initiative for training and job creation, with funding worth 10 million euros. It includes a project to improve the value chain for date production in Siwa Oasis and create a unified brand, with funding of 9 million pounds, as well as environmentally friendly industrial complexes in Egypt (GEIPP), with funding worth 1.7 million euros and 1.5 million euros. The program for using solar energy

in heating processes in the industrial sector at a cost of \$6.5 million, the Egyptian program to enhance the efficiency of electric motors in industry with funding of \$2.7 million, and enhancing circular economy practices in the value chain of single-use plastic products at a value of \$3.2 million.

- **Touristic Sector:**

Egypt is witnessing many national projects that seek to revive tourism, attract new visitors, and change the tourism map in the country. These projects aim to organize and coordinate all means of transportation, buildings, administrative and recreational tourism activities, in addition to the restoration of archaeological and heritage sites in Egypt.

The Egyptian government, in cooperation with the private sector, is making great efforts in developing infrastructure and enhancing tourism services in Egypt. It has launched a package of tourism-related projects in a number of Egyptian governorates, which are among the most important tourist destinations in Egypt. Among these projects are solar energy projects, the **Kalabsha** axis, and **the new Kima factory**, which aim to provide energy and building materials and promote local development. This effort comes within Egypt's Vision 2030 and its national agenda for sustainable development, and emphasizes the importance of the tourism sector in developing the Egyptian economy and increasing employment opportunities and revenues resulting from it.

**Among the most important national projects that have been completed in Egypt in the field of tourism are:**

1. Beni Suf Archaeological Project:

It is one of the largest national projects in Egypt, as it aims to establish new monuments and place its tourist areas on the tourist map.

2. Tourism development project in the Red Sea region:

This project aims to develop and modernize hotels and tourist resorts in the region, and provide new services and facilities for visitors.

3. Tourism development project in the South Sinai region:

This project is one of the most important national projects aimed at revitalizing tourism in Egypt, as it aims to modernize hotels and provide new facilities and services for visitors.

4. The Grand Egyptian Museum Project:

This project is one of the most important cultural projects in Egypt, as it aims to establish a huge museum that includes the most important antiquities and artifacts in Egypt.

5. Tourism Infrastructure Development Project:

This project aims to modernize Egypt's tourism infrastructure and provide modern services and facilities to visitors, which contributes to attracting a larger number of tourists.

6. Old Cairo City Development Project:

This project aims to develop the Old Cairo area, revive the rich cultural heritage in the region, and provide more tourism opportunities.

7. Pyramids Park Development Project: This project aims to develop the Pyramids Park and provide new services and facilities for visitors, which will contribute to attracting a larger number of tourists.

8. Alexandria City Development Project:

This project aims to develop the city of Alexandria and make it a major tourist destination, by improving the tourism infrastructure and providing various services to visitors.

9. Ahwar Area Development Project:

This project aims to develop the Ahwar Area and turn it into a tourist attraction, by establishing hotels and tourist facilities and making it a place for eco-tourism.

#### 10. North Coast Development Project:

This project is one of the most important national projects in Egypt, as it aims to develop and modernize the North Coast and make it an ideal place for summer tourism.

#### 11. Long Live Egypt Bridge:

It is considered one of the most important projects of the national road network to transport traffic volumes coming from eastern Cairo to the Alexandria Desert Road, Matrouh, and El Alamein without passing through the heart of Cairo. It is about 400 meters long, 50 meters wide, and 14 meters high from the surface of the water. It is registered in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest bridge in the world, with a width of 67.3 metres, and the largest navigation opening across the Nile River reaching a width of 300 metres, allowing the passage of floating hotels. The height of the columns reaches 100 metres, and the bridge can bear heavy weights of up to 120 tons.

#### 12. The World Capitals Museum project in the New Administrative Capital:

Which includes replicas of the most famous buildings and monuments in the world's capitals, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, and the Sphinx.

- **Oil sector:**

The petroleum sector, through the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company, was able to put four gas projects on production long before their scheduled date, achieving record numbers.

#### **The first phase of the north Alexandria fields:**

It is the first project that was linked to production during 2017, as the first phase of the North Alexandria project has linked the Tors and Libra fields to production about 8 months before its scheduled date, as the start of production was announced in March 2017, although it was scheduled to The project will be linked before the end of the year.

The production of gas and condensates began to be pumped into the national natural gas network with a capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day of natural gas, which increased in May to reach 700 million cubic feet per day of natural gas, in addition to 1,000 barrels of condensate per day, which is a higher percentage of planned gas sales at about 20%. The proven reserves of the North Alexandria fields are estimated at about 5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 55 million barrels of condensates.

**Nours field:**

The Nours field in the Nile Delta region is one of the most important gas fields in the petroleum sector, as the field's production increased from 900 million cubic feet at the end of 2016 to 1.066 billion cubic feet in the middle of this year, after the addition of the Nidoku well (West-4) with daily production rates of 175 million cubic feet and 1,400 barrels of condensate, making it the tenth well to enter production in this promising area.

Petrobel continues its plan to increase production from the Nidoko region, by drilling more development and exploratory wells in the region. The Nours field is located in the northeast of the Delta and is affiliated with the Italian company Eni, the foreign partner of Petrobel. The field was discovered in July 2015 after drilling the Nidoku well northwest. The field's wells were put on production two months

after the discovery was announced. The field's reserves amount to about 2 trillion cubic feet per day of Gas.

**Atoll field:**

The Atoll field in the Mediterranean Sea, in the North Damietta offshore concession area of the British company BP, is the third project whose production was connected to the national gas grid, at the beginning of December 2017, more than 6 months before the planned date, as it was planned to enter into production mid next year. The Atoll offshore field is one of the most important petroleum discoveries made by the petroleum sector in recent years and one of the fruits of the projects for which memorandums of understanding were signed at the Sharm El-Sheikh conference, and a principles agreement was signed to accelerate its production during President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's visit to the British capital, London, in November 2015. And the start of the field production has a capacity of 250 million cubic feet and is scheduled to reach 300 million cubic feet per day. The gas reserve in the Atoll field is estimated at 1.5 trillion cubic feet and 31 million barrels of condensates, while the project investments amount to about 3.8 billion dollars, according to previous data from the Ministry of Petroleum.

**Zohr field:**

With the official announcement by Engineer Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, about the start of early and actual production from the first phase of the Zohr field project with a production capacity of about 350 million cubic feet per day of natural gas, thus the petroleum sector was able to operate its fourth gas project in the year 2017. The operation of the Zohr field in mid-December 2017 is a historical record that has not been achieved before in any similar projects globally. The development of the field took only 28 months since



the discovery was announced on August 30, 2015, and the start of production in the middle of this month. The field's reserves amount to about 30 trillion cubic feet of gas, equivalent to 5.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

The four projects that succeeded in reducing the bill for importing liquefied gas from abroad, and supported the petroleum sector in stopping importing gas.

On December 29, 2022, the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum announced that it was able to implement an intensive work program during the year 2022, which resulted in an increase in oil and gas reserves, by issuing global bids and intensifying search and exploration operations. Egypt's total production of oil and gas amounted to about 79.5 million tons, including 27.8 million tons of crude oil and condensates, and 50.6 million tons of natural gas, in addition to 1.1 million tons of domestic gas. Egypt has also worked to increase these quantities during the year 2023. By offering more tenders, and land and sea plots to international exploration companies, to increase reserves and quantities produced.

On December 27, 2022, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources offered 12 blocks with the aim of exploring for oil and gas in the Mediterranean Sea and the Delta region to international companies, and Minister of Petroleum Tarek El-Molla announced that the new international bids include 12 blocks in the Mediterranean Sea and the Nile Delta, with 6 marine zones and the same on land. All of them are offered to companies wishing to explore for oil and gas in Egypt, and the Ministry made it possible for international companies to participate in the bidding through the Egypt Digital Portal.

## **Second. Sociological Atmosphere**

In March, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced an increase in salaries and pensions within the package to improve the income of employees of the state's

administrative body and owners of private cadres as of April 1, 2023, and to raise the minimum wage by EGP 1000 per month and the Government's aim of raising salaries was to mitigate the impact of the implementation of the necessary financial and economic reforms on citizens, in line with inflation and price increases resulting from successive global crises wage growth rate above inflation, which has reached record levels. According to Chapter One of the draft budget (wages and workers' compensation), the allocations for damages and compensation in the draft general budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 are estimated at 470 billion pounds, at a rate of 4% of the domestic product, compared to about 410 pounds for the fiscal year 2022/2023, estimated at 60 billion. The 2023/2024 draft budget includes several incentives to improve the incomes of workers in the administrative apparatus and those with pensions, qualifying the periodic bonus for those addressed by the Civil Service Law from April 1, 2023, at a rate of 8% of the job wage on March 31, 2023, with a minimum of 125 pounds per month, and it is payable to a maximum extent. This bonus is part of the employee's salary, which can be included until the first of April.

Given the judicial agenda of the administrative apparatus for the month of July 2023, it was therefore as follows:

- For the sixth degree and up to 3,500 pounds per month.
- For the third specific class, it is sufficient to reach 5,000 pounds per month.
- For a master's degree, working in the country reaches 6,000 pounds per month.
- For a welding doctor in the country, it reaches 7,000 pounds per month.

President Abdel Fattah approved permanent increases for pensions, in appreciation of the pensioners' journey in serving the Egyptian government, and to reduce their burden and to support them. The increases in the pensions came as follows:

- In 2014, he issued a decree to share the percentage of pensions for the year 2007 at 5%, becoming 15% as of 7/1/2007 for pensions due before this date.
- In 2015, the social allowance for pensions was approved at 10% of the total pension.
- In 2016, the president directed an increase in all insurance pensions, which are utilized by about 9 million citizens, at a rate of 10%.
- In 2020, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi assigned the government with adding the five bonuses due to pensioners to 80% of the basic wage.
- Increase in the value of new pensions by 13% for total expenditures of about 31 billion pounds in the 2021-2022 budget.
- It was decided to increase the pensions paid to their owners and their beneficiaries by 15% of the credit score, as of April 1, 2023.

As for the Takaful and Karama pension, which was launched by the Ministry of Solidarity to develop social safety networks, after it was revealed that there are more than 5 million poor families and includes more than 20 million citizens who benefit from cash support every month, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced an increase in the financial categories for beneficiaries of Takaful programs. And dignity at a rate of 25% per month in April 2023, as follows:

1. People benefiting from Takaful and Karama receive 500 pounds as the average disbursement for the beneficiary family, and after President Sisi's decision to increase 25%, the value of the support will reach 625 pounds.
2. Elderly Takaful and Karama clients who receive 450 pounds will receive 562.5 pounds after the increase.
3. Takaful and Karama clients who are people of disabilities receive 562.5 pounds per month after the increase, instead of 450 pounds per month.

4. Takaful and Karama orphan clients receive 437.5 pounds after the increase, instead of 350 pounds after a 25% increase.

### **Green spaces in Egypt:**

Over the years, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Republic, has proposed several initiatives to return the green color to the streets and among residential blocks in the governorates, especially in deprived areas, directing the necessity of establishing gardens and parks and maintaining the existing ones. Some governors succeeded in establishing parks and developing the streets, squares, and Corniche roads on the Nile River and the banks of the Suez Canal, turning them into parks and squares open to citizens, giving a civilized form and an outlet for the public, children and young people. The expansion that the governorates witnessed in the green area and planting trees is represented in:

- Ismailia Governorate, which over the course of a year and a half opened 11 new parks that were developed, in addition to establishing parks in the heart of population blocs, to become an outlet for citizens, led by the Martyrs' Gardens in the Sheikh Zayed area, and the Dervishes in the Al-Harfi and Al-Ma'rifa area, as the governorate aims to increase the green area to become an outlet for the people of the governorate, in addition to planting a million trees as part of the state's plan to increase the number of trees and green spaces, as it is one of the governorates whose streets are distinguished by the green color.
- Planting Al-Arish Road and creating the largest garden in Sharm El-Sheikh
- In South Sinai, President Sisi directed the necessity of establishing the largest green park in Sharm El-Sheikh before the start of the climate summit in 2022, explaining that the park will be established on an area of 110 thousand square meters, bringing the actual green areas to 70 thousand

square meters, and it was planted with types of fruit trees for the first time. Once to receive the delegations participating in the upcoming climate summit.

- In North Sinai Governorate, the center and city of Al-Arish succeeded in planting trees on Al-Bahr Road, Al-Masa'id, and Assiut Street, and working to show the aesthetic appearance of the city, as more than 1,000 trees were planted in the city of Sheikh Zuweid, distributed in the Al-Kawthar neighborhood, the international road, and Sheikh Zuweid Square.
- The green spaces and spots increased in Alexandria Governorate, reaching an area of 248.5 acres, distributed over 10 neighborhoods, in addition to the green areas that are under the supervision of the General Administration of Central Parks in the governorate and whose area is estimated at approximately 21 acres, according to the latest governorate reports. Work was also done to increase green spaces in the desert areas in the center and city of Burj Al Arab, as a large number of places were afforested, after the ministry sent 2,950 fruit trees through the presidential initiative Hayah Karima.
- The situation was not much different in Marsa Matrouh Governorate, where work was done to increase green spaces within the governorate through several axes, including planting trees in schools and streets as part of the President's 100 Million Trees Initiative, and developing parks. As there was development of 3 parks that were neglected and then transformed into green paradises. Also, there is an increase in the cultivated areas in Siwa, and planting and beautifying the roads there with palm trees.
- In Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, the area of agricultural land in Kafr El-Sheikh was restored to an area of 3,000 acres, and decisions were implemented to remove encroachments on state property. The parks of Kafr

El-Sheikh Governorate included a new park in front of the Bank of Egypt headquarters in Sidi Salem, to become a park for the people of the region in addition to the establishment of a free central park. On an area of one kilometer from King Abdullah Al-Nisr Square to Kafr El-Sheikh parking lot.

- Aswan includes the largest green areas among the governorates of Egypt, as the governorate includes 140 public parks, and the past period included developing parks and raising their efficiency in the five governorate centers.

### **Third. Political Atmosphere**

- **National Human Rights Strategy:**

Regarding the human rights file, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi launched the first national strategy for human rights, which aims to enhance social, economic, political and cultural rights within the country. The human rights strategy is the first integrated, long-term self-strategy in the field of human rights in Egypt, as it includes developing the state's policies and directions in dealing with a number of files related to human rights, and building on the actual progress achieved over the past years in the field of maximizing rights and freedoms and overcoming... Challenges in this context.

- **National Dialogue:**

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's call in 2022 for a political dialogue on national action priorities came to represent a new step added to a group of important steps within the framework of building an Egyptian model of openness and political reform. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's call for a "political dialogue on national action priorities," which it was agreed by the political forces to describe it as a "national dialogue" on April 26, during the Egyptian family's iftar party.

This call resulted in the start of a wide debate within Egyptian society, and among political and intellectual forces and movements, on press and media platforms, about the motives of the call and its ultimate goals. The call also raised controversy about the forces that should or should not be included in the national dialogue, the basic references governing it, the nature of the issues that it should include, the criteria for determining the participating political forces, the criteria for their representation within the dialogue, and other methodological and procedural questions.

This comes amid calls by non-neutral organizations to criticize the national dialogue and that it is useless, and to demand that political forces boycott it.

**On May 3, 2023, the opening session of the National Dialogue witnessed the launch of activities with the participation of political forces, parties, unions, and civil society organizations, to discuss many issues with the aim of reaching outcomes for the benefit of the citizen.**

Full judicial supervision of the elections also ends in 2024, as stipulated in Article 34 of the National Election Authority Law. However, President Sisi called for discussion of a proposal submitted by the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue to make a legislative amendment to the elections to allow full judicial supervision of the presidential elections, scheduled to be held next year.

Since the call for the national dialogue, the Civil Democratic Movement has also called on various opposition parties and forces to take urgent measures to build confidence before participating in the dialogue, the most important of which is the release of political prisoners. Indeed, dozens of prisoners imprisoned in political cases have been released, including Hossam Moenis. Hisham Fouad and Yahya Hussein Abdel Hadi, but there are still others who are politically imprisoned. We

demand their release, in addition to participating in preparing the national dialogue sessions.

According to a statement by the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue, 1,400 detainees were released from the start of the National Dialogue sessions until April 26.

On July 18, 2023, Patrick Zaki, a human rights researcher, was sentenced to three years in prison. He was accused of publishing false information based on an article he wrote.

This prompted a number of international organizations, including Amnesty International, to express their concern and demand his release

The University of Bologna also published, through its official Twitter account, a statement by the university's president, Giovanni Mollari, saying: "It is terrible news that comes completely unexpectedly, while we still have in our eyes the image of Patrick, a recent graduate with honors in the course that made him choose Bologna. "

It stressed: "Let's hope that this sentence will not be confirmed and means another 14 months in prison: it will be an injustice and enormous pain for Patrick, for all his loved ones and for all those who have suffered and struggled with him in recent years."

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said, "Our commitment to reaching a positive solution to the Patrick Zaki case has never stopped, and we still have confidence," reiterating the government's commitment that it is still working to reach a positive solution.



The Official Gazette published President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's decision to pardon a group of those against whom judicial rulings were issued, including Patrick Zaki and Mohamed El-Baqir, in response to the call of the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue and the political forces.

The General Coordinator of the National Dialogue announced that the Board of Trustees of the Dialogue issued a statement calling on the President of the Republic to use his legal and constitutional powers to immediately release human rights activist Patrick George Zaki, and not to implement the sentence imposed today against him, while calling on the President to use his constitutional right to pardon the rest of the people if it is necessary.

In its statement, the Board of Trustees of the Dialogue affirmed its full confidence in the president's concern for the future of the convicted activist, especially since he is a science student who obtained a master's degree a few days ago, and that he is in the prime of his life.

The Dialogue's Board of Trustees concluded its statement by saying that the President's adoption of this decision will add new confirmation to his continued keenness to provide more elements of a positive climate for the success of the National Dialogue, in a way that is commensurate with his call for it as a means of consensus on the priorities of national action at the current stage.

After that, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi used his constitutional powers and issued a presidential decree pardoning a group of those against whom court rulings had been issued, including Patrick Zaki and Mohamed El-Baqir, in response to the call of the Board of Trustees of the National Dialogue and the political forces.

For their part, immediately after the announcement of the decision, the political forces welcomed the decision of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the

Republic, to pardon a number of convicts and those detained in pre-trial detention, including human rights activist Patrick Zaki and human rights lawyer Mohamed Al-Baqir.

The National Dialogue Bloc issued a statement appreciating President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's decision to pardon prisoners of conscience, headed by Patrick George and Mohamed El-Baqir, stressing that such important decisions reflect the seriousness of the state, led by the President of the Republic, in creating a suitable climate for national dialogue and political and democratic reform.

The statement continued: These steps confirm the validity of the participants in the national dialogue's bet on the sincerity of the intentions of all parties to enter into a new national phase and build confidence between the regime and the opposition, and that the road, even if it may seem long and arduous, is that the sincerity of the intentions of all parties will enable us all to create a better tomorrow that the Egyptians deserve. .

– **Remand:**

The Egyptian legislation did not set out a specific definition of pretrial detention, but the prosecutor's instructions say that it is an investigation procedure aimed at ensuring the integrity of the preliminary investigation by placing the accused at the disposal of the investigator and facilitating his interrogation or confrontation whenever the investigation so requires and preventing him from escaping or tampering with the evidence of the case as well as preventing the possibility of retaliation. The maximum period of imprisonment for misdemeanours is presumed to be only 3 months, for felonies not exceeding 5 months, and for two years if the penalty is life imprisonment or death. The events after the 25 January Revolution and the subsequent massive chaos and grave threat to public peace and the

accompanying acts of terrorism by the evil Muslim Brotherhood resulted in an increase in preventive detention. And when those acts are prolonged, it was imperative that after setting down security, we quickly close this file altogether by the immediate release of all those remanded in custody who had not been brought to trial and whose murder, vandalism or advocacy had not been established human rights ", which is an urgent human demand of the people and closes the trespass of certain international forums against the Egyptian State,

Egyptian Coalition for Human Rights and Development