



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 20–31 January 2025

Egypt

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. Several treaty bodies recommended ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance² and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.³ The Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee and the United Nations country team recommended ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.⁴ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁵ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁶ The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.⁷

3. The Committee against Torture encouraged Egypt to consider making the declarations under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Egypt establish a clear timeline to review its reservations to articles 2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with a view to withdrawing them.⁹

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention,



2019 (No. 190), the ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), and the ILO Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156).¹⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).¹¹ The United Nations country team recommended ratifying the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).¹²

III. National human rights framework

Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

5. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt continue its efforts to ensure that the National Council for Human Rights fully complied with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and was able to carry out its mandate fully, effectively and independently.¹³ The Special Rapporteur on housing recommended that the Government propose to Parliament to expand the mandate and capacity of that National Council so as to consider economic, social and cultural rights complaints.¹⁴

6. The Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee recommended establishing a national preventive mechanism.¹⁵

7. The Human Rights Committee recommended ensuring the independence, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of all anti-corruption bodies, including the Administrative Control Authority.¹⁶

8. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture recommended that Egypt review and amend Act No. 152 of 2021 and Emergency Act No. 162 of 1958 on communicable diseases to ensure their full compliance with the requirements of article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.¹⁷

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

9. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt consider enacting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that provided full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres and contained a comprehensive list of prohibited grounds for discrimination.¹⁸

10. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Egypt accelerate the review process to repeal all discriminatory provisions in its legislation, particularly in the Penal Code and the personal status legislation, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.¹⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also recommended developing an anti-discrimination commission in line with article 53 of the Constitution and ensuring the effective participation of women's civil society organizations, particularly those representing women in rural and remote areas and those belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups.²⁰

2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

11. The Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture and the United Nations country team recommended that Egypt take all measures necessary, including legislative action, to ensure that the death penalty was never mandatory and was imposed only for the most serious crimes, involving intentional killing, as defined clearly in law. In that regard, Egypt should proceed with the review of crimes punishable by the death penalty and ensure

that pardon or commutation of the sentence was available in all cases, regardless of the crime committed; that the death penalty was never imposed in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including in violation of fair trial procedures; that legal assistance was always made available and that evidence obtained under duress and torture was inadmissible in court; that no person below the age of 18 years at the time of the commission of an offence was subjected to the death penalty, and that those charged with a capital offence had access to an effective and independent age determination process and were treated as children if doubted; and that prisoners on death row, their families and legal counsel were always provided with advance notification of the execution of the sentence; and give due consideration to establishing a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it.²¹

12. Concerned by the numerous reports of excessive use of force and firearms by police and security personnel, notably in the context of the dispersal of protests, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that all allegations of excessive use of force by State agents, especially against children, were recorded and investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that those responsible were prosecuted and, if found guilty, were punished and that the victims obtained redress; and taking measures to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by law enforcement officers.²²

13. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Egypt elucidate all cases of enforced disappearance, conduct investigations without delay and prosecute those responsible, while ensuring that the victims and their relatives were informed of the progress and results of the investigation and ensure that those advocating for victims of enforced disappearance did not face reprisals for their advocacy work.²³ The Committee against Torture recommended that Egypt explicitly criminalize enforced disappearance.²⁴

14. Concerned by the reportedly systematic and widespread recourse to prolonged pretrial detention, especially of critics of the Government, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture recommended ensuring that no detainee was held without the prompt filing of criminal charges, and that all pretrial detainees were brought to trial expeditiously in public trials that met fundamental due-process requirements; making comprehensive legal reforms to reduce the maximum duration of pretrial detention and increase the recourse to alternatives to pretrial detention; ensuring that statutory limits to the duration of pretrial detention were enforced; and increasing the availability of alternatives to pretrial detention.²⁵

15. Concerned by the persistence of severe overcrowding, poor ventilation, the lack of clean water and hygiene products, physical abuse and inadequate healthcare provision in places of deprivation of liberty and multiple reports indicating that detainees, including women, held for political reasons were frequently subjected to particularly harsh conditions, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ensuring that conditions of detention were compatible with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).²⁶

16. In view of the numerous and consistent allegations of the systematic use of torture and ill-treatment by police officers, prison guards and other members of the security forces, and the military, in police stations, correction and rehabilitation centres, national security detention centres, military bases and in unofficial places of detention, during the arrest, interrogation and investigation phases, often as a method of coercion to elicit information or to punish or intimidate real or perceived political opponents and critics of the Government, the Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that all complaints of torture and ill-treatment were investigated in a prompt, effective and impartial manner by an independent body, that there was no institutional or hierarchical relationship between that body's investigators and the suspected perpetrators of such acts and that the suspected perpetrators of acts of torture and ill-treatment and the superior officers responsible for ordering or tolerating such acts

were duly tried and, if found guilty, punished adequately; establishing an effective and independent police oversight mechanism; establishing an independent, effective, confidential and accessible complaints mechanism in all places of detention and prisons; and protecting victims, witnesses and members of their families from any risk of reprisals.²⁷

17. The Committee against Torture recommended that confessions and statements obtained through torture or ill-treatment not be admitted as evidence in practice, except against persons accused of committing torture, as evidence that the statement had been made under duress.²⁸ The same Committee and the United Nations country team recommended bringing the crime of torture under national law, in conformity with the Convention against Torture.²⁹

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

18. The United Nations country team reported that, in the context of counter-terrorism operations, particularly in Sinai and in parts of the Nile Delta and the Western desert, the Egyptian military had demolished homes, commercial buildings and farms and, consequently, civilians had been displaced.³⁰

19. The Secretary-General reported that multiple United Nations actors had addressed the targeting and prolonged detention of victims of alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, including based on counter-terrorism and national security legislation.³¹

20. The Human Rights Committee referred to the excessively broad and vague definitions of terrorism laid down in Act No. 94 of 2015 (Counter-Terrorism Act) and Act No. 8 of 2015 regulating the list of terrorist entities and terrorists (Terrorist Entities Act).³² The United Nations country team, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture recommended that Egypt review its anti-terrorism legislation, policies and measures and ensure their consistency with international human rights law and that they addressed crimes that were solely terrorist in nature.³³ The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued several opinions on cases of arbitrary detention in Egypt in relation to anti-terrorism legislation.³⁴

4. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt take all measures necessary to safeguard, in law and in practice, the full independence, impartiality and safety of judges and prosecutors.³⁵

22. The same Committee and the Committee against Torture recommended that Egypt review the jurisdiction of emergency courts and military courts to ensure that all trials in such courts were exceptional and that such courts could not be used to prosecute individuals in relation to the exercise of their right to freedom of expression, political participation and peaceful assembly. Egypt should also review its legislation to ensure that fundamental procedural safeguards and fair trial standards were systematically applied by military and emergency courts, including defendants' right to have their convictions and sentences reviewed by higher courts, to communicate with counsel of their own choosing, to obtain a public hearing and to secure adequate time and facilities for the preparation of a defence. It should also reinforce procedural safeguards against arbitrary detention in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism.³⁶

23. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture recommended that sufficient safeguards be put in place, in law and in practice, to guarantee the full independence and safety of lawyers and ensure that they were able to carry out their duties without any harassment, undue interference or fear of arbitrary criminal prosecution and conviction.³⁷

24. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations country team recommended accelerating the establishment of specialized child courts and specialized child prosecution offices throughout the country with adequate human, technical and financial resources, designating specialized judges for children and ensuring that those specialized judges received appropriate training.³⁸

5. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

25. Concerned that religious and belief minorities, including Coptic Christians, Shi'a Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baha'is and atheists, continued to face varying forms of discrimination, such as restrictions on the building and operation of places of worship and burial sites, restrictions on the public practice of their faith, including prosecution under blasphemy laws, and acts of violence and sectarian attacks carried out with impunity, including by armed groups, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations country team recommended that Egypt take measures to combat discrimination and violence against religious and belief minorities.³⁹

26. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt review its legislation to ensure that criminal laws were not used to silence independent journalists and dissenting voices, including by blocking websites and detaining journalists; release all journalists who had been arrested in the course of practising their profession; and take all measures necessary to support the continued existence of a genuinely pluralistic media landscape, which appeared to have been significantly eroded in recent years, including by removing unduly onerous administrative and licensing obligations for media outlets and journalists.⁴⁰

27. The Human Rights Committee and the United Nations country team recommended that Egypt effectively guarantee and protect the right of peaceful assembly and avoid restrictions that were incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁴¹

28. The Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the United Nations country team recommended that Egypt take appropriate measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations, including by reviewing Act No. 149 of 2019 regulating their activities, with a view to removing unduly restrictive requirements regarding their registration and operation; ensure that human rights defenders and civil society actors and organizations could operate safely and exercise their freedom of expression without fear of being persecuted, intimidated or detained, and lift travel bans and asset freezes against them; promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders; bring the perpetrators to justice; and provide victims with full reparation.⁴² The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the authorities to release all those arbitrarily detained and to lift restrictions on civic space.⁴³

29. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt review the legal and institutional framework governing the registration and dissolution of political parties, notably as provided for under Act No. 12 of 2011 on political parties and article 74 of the Constitution, to ensure that criteria for the registration and dissolution of political parties were in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that the Political Parties Commission was impartial and independent of the executive and could exercise its role as a guardian of democratic pluralism.⁴⁴

30. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations trusted that the necessary steps would be taken to amend the provisions in sections 30, 35, 42 and 58 of the Trade Union Law, as appropriate, to ensure the right of workers' organizations to organize their administration and activities without interference.⁴⁵

6. Right to marriage and family life

31. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended accelerating the adoption of the amendment to the Personal Status Law, with a clear time frame, to ensure that it guaranteed the equal rights of women and men in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, equal rights in divorce, including equal grounds and procedures for obtaining a divorce, and equal rights of legal guardianship for both parents, based on the best interest of the child, regardless of whether the woman remarried, and to repeal discriminatory provisions in national legislation, including Act No. 77 of 1943, to guarantee equal rights to inheritance.⁴⁶

7. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

32. Concerned that various forms of trafficking remained prevalent, including the labour and sexual exploitation of women migrant workers, child trafficking, including for begging and labour exploitation, and transactional “temporary marriages” of women and girls for sexual exploitation, the United Nations country team the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Egypt fully operationalize and strengthen the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking; reinforce the specialized assistance available to victims of trafficking; and amend Act No. 64 of 2010 on combating trafficking in persons to include a reference to the restitution and compensation of survivors.⁴⁷

33. The ILO Committee of Experts encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and continue taking effective measures, including through the National Referral Mechanism, to identify victims of trafficking. The Committee also requested Egypt to take measures to ensure the thorough investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in children for labour or sexual exploitation and to provide information on the convictions and penalties applied.⁴⁸

8. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

34. The United Nations country team recommended increasing efforts to reduce unemployment, particularly among women and youth, with a view to moving gradually towards the full realization of the right to work in just and favourable conditions, amending sections 98 (b), 98 (b) bis and 174 of the Penal Code promptly to limit compulsory labour as punishment related to political or ideological views; amending the existing labour law to advance women’s rights to include extended maternity and paternity leaves; expanding essential interventions for preventing and managing occupational diseases and injuries; and providing occupational health services to all workers, including those in the informal sector.⁴⁹

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Egypt ensure the effective implementation of the Labour Code provisions on the prohibition of pay discrimination and amend legal provisions on employment to explicitly introduce and enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value; intensify its efforts to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions, particularly in the private sector; amend the Penal Code to explicitly criminalize sexual harassment in the workplace; and ensure that victims of sexual harassment in the workplace had access to effective, independent and confidential complaint procedures with effective remedies and that all complaints were effectively investigated, perpetrators were prosecuted and adequately punished, and victims were protected from retaliation.⁵⁰

36. Noting the persistent gender pay gap, the ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to take steps to amend the relevant provisions of Labour Act No. 12 of 2003 so as to provide equal remuneration for men and women where their working conditions were similar or analogous.⁵¹

37. The same Committee urged the Government to take the steps necessary to ensure that the revised Labour Act would include provisions clearly prohibiting and defining direct and indirect discrimination based on at least the seven grounds (race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, social origin and national extraction) listed in the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and specifying preventive measures and remedies available for victims and sanctions for authors of discrimination and to include such provisions in the Civil Service Law (Act No. 47 of 1978) and adopt the law on domestic workers to ensure their protection against discriminatory practices.⁵²

9. Right to social security

38. The United Nations country team and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Egypt effectively implement Social Insurance and Pensions Act No. 148 and extend it to informal workers, increase the budget allocation for social security and ensure that social benefits were regularly indexed to the real living cost to ensure an adequate standard of living.⁵³ While noting the high levels of poverty,

especially in rural areas of upper Egypt, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Egypt guarantee an adequate and sustainable standard of living for all children, improve and expand social benefits and security schemes for families in difficult situations and focus anti-poverty programmes on rural areas in upper Egypt.⁵⁴

10. Right to an adequate standard of living

39. According to the United Nations country team, a cost-of-living crisis had unfolded since 2022. Official figures estimated that inflation had surged, with significant effects on poverty, food security and healthcare. It recommended conducting an assessment of the potential impact of economic reforms, including the removal of subsidies on economic, social and cultural rights, and on poverty and inequality reduction; implementing a fiscal floor for social protection expenditure, ensuring a minimum core obligation for upholding economic, social and cultural rights; improving living conditions and access to healthcare, education, public transport, electricity, waste disposal services and other services; and expanding the funding mechanism for allowing access to improved water sources to cover the remaining 3 per cent of the population.⁵⁵

40. The United Nations country team recommended ensuring better access to food by groups in vulnerable situations by scaling up social protection and poverty reduction programmes and enhancing the aims and scope of those programmes to address vulnerabilities; enhancing approaches to food systems transformation through operationalizing the National Committee for Food and Nutrition Systems, enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms and implementing national food system pathways; and strengthening, monitoring and regulating the implementation of food safety and food marketing legislations and policies.⁵⁶

41. The Special Rapporteur on housing recommended that Egypt focus its resource expenditure on upgrading existing housing where the bulk of the population lived; improve living conditions in all informal areas by scaling up participatory development projects aimed at improving housing conditions, access to water and sanitation, street paving, green and recreational areas and skill development; harmonize the dual rental law, while taking measures to ensure the security of tenure and the affordability of housing for all tenants, whether they were under the old or the new rental regime; and consider the introduction of rent control measures in urban areas in which housing had become unaffordable. Referring to the approximately 38 million people living in informal settlements on land without legal title, lacking security of tenure and often living in poor conditions, the Rapporteur recommended that Egypt abide by the recommendations laid out in her report on upgrading informal settlements⁵⁷ and regularizing the housing built informally.⁵⁸

42. The United Nations country team recommended ensuring the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Housing Strategy and advancing the implementation of rental housing projects to bridge affordability gaps and utilize vacant units; and strengthening alignment with social protection mechanisms to advance the right of housing for all vulnerable groups. It also recommended reviewing water and sanitation planning and financing systems to prioritize investments based on knowledge, maximizing impact and sustainability.⁵⁹

11. Right to health

43. The United Nations country team recommended that Egypt expand the coverage of communicable disease prevention, treatment and care services to community and closed settings; fully implement the Universal Health Coverage Law and reach high-quality universal coverage by 2032, as outlined by the Government; ensure universal access to quality health services for all without discrimination; enhance the governance of health systems, move towards the digitalization thereof and improve the production of quality health products; monitor and analyse health inequities using cross-sectoral data to inform national policies that addressed social and economic determinants of health; and further increase budgetary allocations in accordance with constitutionally agreed stipulations to ensure the realization of children's right to health.⁶⁰

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended adopting measures to combat discrimination, violence and stigma against women living with HIV/AIDS and women using drugs, to ensure that they had access to adequate health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and HIV and drug use treatment; and adopting measures to ensure the availability and quality of accessible mental healthcare services and addiction treatments.⁶¹ The United Nations country team recommended enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health information, including materials on family planning.⁶²

45. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended improving mental health services and increasing the number of well-trained and qualified mental health professionals working with children.⁶³

12. Right to education

46. The United Nations country team, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Egypt ensure that all children had equal access to free and quality primary and secondary education; expand support for the Girls' Investment Framework and address disparities in educational participation across regions and demographic groups, including based on gender, poverty, geography (urban or rural) and disability; intensify efforts to address illiteracy and dropout rates among women and girls, particularly in rural and remote areas and among those belonging to disadvantaged groups; ensure that the minimum age of employment was aligned with the end of compulsory education; strengthen efforts to increase the percentage of boys and girls in pre-primary and tertiary education; and further increase budgetary allocations in accordance with constitutionally agreed stipulations.⁶⁴

47. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended addressing discriminatory stereotypes and structural barriers that might deter women and girls from enrolling in traditionally male-dominated fields of study and career paths, and ensuring that they had equal access to technical and vocational education and training, including in non-traditional fields; adopting a policy of zero-tolerance on sexual violence and harassment against women and girls in schools and universities; ensuring that perpetrators were prosecuted and suitably punished; and providing psychological, medical and legal assistance to victims.⁶⁵

13. Cultural rights

48. The United Nations country team recommended preserving cultural heritage and cultural expressions by strengthening cultural policy and strategies and ensuring community participation, engaging practitioners, civil society and vulnerable groups, including minorities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, young people and persons with disabilities.⁶⁶

14. Development and the environment

49. The United Nations country team noted that the budget deficit had augmented due to an increase in debt service payments and decreases in revenue linked to the conflict in the Gaza Strip and the region, which had affected tourism and revenues from the Suez Canal. It recommended strengthening national measures and international cooperation to realize the right to development, considering using human rights impact assessments to evaluate the potential impact of relevant policies and projects and scaling up investment in and expand the coverage and strengthen the shock-responsiveness of social protection to move people out of and protect them from falling into poverty.⁶⁷

50. It also recommended implementing the Climate Change Strategy 2050 and integrating climate data into existing monitoring, early warning, surveillance and data-collection systems; reviewing the national strategic vision for urban development 2052 based on the newly endorsed national urban policy to ensure people-centred, smart and adequate cities and human settlements; and accelerating the transition to a green economy, including with a focus on a "just transition".⁶⁸ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended adopting legislative and administrative measures to address the adverse effects of environmental

degradation and climate change on the enjoyment of children's rights, ensuring that national policies and programmes addressing environmental protection, climate change and disaster risk management were developed and implemented with child rights impact assessments, and promoting children's awareness of and preparedness for climate change and natural disasters.⁶⁹

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

51. The United Nations country team, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture noted the efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and girls and recommended enacting a law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, marital rape, institutional violence, virginity testing and honour killing; implementing policies and programmes addressing the root causes of harmful practices and establishing effective prevention measures and reporting mechanisms for female genital mutilation; providing victims with access to remedies and redress; conducting nationwide awareness campaigns to overcome social stigmas and reach broader audiences; developing policies and establishing mechanisms to support victims, particularly women and girls subject to domestic violence; and increasing the number of legal aid offices across the country raising awareness of their services.⁷⁰

52. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned that heightened sentences for sexual harassment had not reduced its prevalence.⁷¹ The Committee against Torture recommended intensifying efforts to raise awareness among both men and women of the criminal nature of gender-based violence in order to challenge its social acceptance and address the stigma discouraging victims from reporting it.⁷² The ILO Committee of Experts regretted the absence of progress in developing an appropriate framework defining, prohibiting and addressing all forms of sexual harassment specifically in employment and occupation. It urged Egypt to ensure that the labour law included a clear definition and prohibition of all forms of sexual harassment and established mechanisms for prevention and redress and to take steps to include such provisions in the Civil Service Act (No. 47).⁷³

53. The United Nations country team and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Egypt promote women's leadership, representation and participation and adopt further policies that addressed structural barriers hindering women's occupancy of decision-making positions; and adopt legislation to ensure that local councils fulfilled constitutional commitments on advancing women's leadership and participation at the local level.⁷⁴

54. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended accelerating the preparation and adoption of the draft law to prohibit child marriage, effectively enforcing Act No. 126 of 2008 on the minimum age of marriage and conducting awareness-raising campaigns concerning the negative consequences of child and forced marriages.⁷⁵

55. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt amend its legislative and regulatory framework concerning abortion to expand the legal justification for terminating a pregnancy to include cases in which carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial pain or suffering, most notably when the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest; amend its legislation to ensure that migrant women victims of gender-based violence were not discriminated against in legal proceedings, notably regarding divorce and the custody of children; amend articles 260 to 264 of the Penal Code, since penalties and barriers compelled women and girls to resort to unsafe abortions; and strengthen measures to ensure that women and girls were able to access affordable contraception methods.⁷⁶

2. Children

56. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Egypt to repeal article 7 bis of the Children's Code and to explicitly prohibit by law corporal punishment in the home,

alternative care settings, day care and schools; promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline; and conduct awareness-raising campaigns for parents and professionals working with and for children to promote attitudinal change, within the family and the community, with regard to corporal punishment.⁷⁷

57. The same Committee called upon Egypt to take appropriate measures to prevent children from ending up in street situations and to ensure protection and social assistance for those already on the street; to develop a strategy to effectively protect and ensure the social integration of children in street situations; to ensure that children in street situations had access to birth registration and identification documentation, education, healthcare, safe shelters and childcare centres for physical and psychological recovery and reintegration; and to ensure that children in street situations were not subjected to arrests and detention and were provided with protection and assistance from social services rather than being dealt with in the framework of criminal justice.⁷⁸

58. The ILO Committee of Experts encouraged Egypt to continue strengthening its efforts to ensure the progressive elimination of child labour and to raise the minimum age of admission to apprenticeship or training from 13 to 14 years.⁷⁹ It also encouraged Egypt to continue its efforts to ensure that children under 18 years old living and working on the streets were protected from the worst forms of child labour, particularly trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and begging.⁸⁰

59. The Committee against Torture recommended that Egypt detect and eradicate the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the reported armed violence in North Sinai, ensure the prompt disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and reunite them with their families.⁸¹

3. Persons with disabilities

60. The United Nations country team recommended that Egypt remove barriers in obtaining access to public services, including to justice system services for persons with disabilities; ensure that the employment quota for workers with a disability was respected and applied in the public and private sectors; ensure that persons with disabilities were protected from violence and abuse and ensure their equal access to basic services; accelerate investments and reform to shift from special and segregated education to inclusive education for children with disabilities; and promote a conducive learning environment for students with disabilities in the education system.⁸²

4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

61. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Egypt take steps to combat stereotypes and negative attitudes towards persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity; ensure that all acts of violence against persons due to their sexual orientation or gender identity were promptly and effectively investigated, perpetrators were brought to justice and victims provided with reparation; take steps to ensure that existing legislation alluding to vague notions of morality and debauchery, such as Act No. 10 of 1961 on combating prostitution, was not used to criminalize acts of persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and prohibit intrusive medical examinations with no medical justification.⁸³

62. The Committee against Torture reiterated that Egypt should enforce the prohibition against “virginity tests” and end the practice of forensic anal examinations for those accused of “habitual debauchery” and of any other crime.⁸⁴

5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

63. The Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Egypt uphold the principle of non-refoulement by ensuring that all individuals seeking or in need of international protection, especially those arrested at the borders for irregular entry, were not expelled or returned to a country where there was a risk of irreparable harm; pending the adoption of an adequate national legal and institutional framework on asylum, take the required measures to enable all individuals seeking or in need of international protection to have rapid, unimpeded and safe access to

UNHCR and an individualized case assessment; put an end to the detention of asylum-seekers and, in the meantime, improve the living conditions in reception centres to ensure an adequate standard of living and access to basic social services; provide all asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, irrespective of their country of origin, with unimpeded access to public healthcare facilities and the public healthcare system; and ensure that children were not detained for immigration-related purposes, irrespective of their migratory status or that of their parents.⁸⁵

64. The United Nations country team recommended simplifying the residency regularization process, with clear guidelines to minimize bureaucratic obstacles for migrants, decentralizing asylum-based residence procedures and considering shifting to government-UNHCR asylum procedures with joint documentation and extended validity.⁸⁶

Notes

- ¹ [A/HRC/43/16](#), [A/HRC/43/16/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/43/2](#).
- ² [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 26 (e); [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 14 (d); [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 55; and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 50.
- ³ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 30 (d); and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 24 (c).
- ⁴ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 22 (e); [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 38 (a); and United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Egypt, p. 6.
- ⁵ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 52.
- ⁶ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), paras. 19 (b) and 49.
- ⁷ [A/HRC/40/61/Add.2](#), para. 108 (c).
- ⁸ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 56.
- ⁹ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 10.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (f).
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 38; and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 43 (d).
- ¹² United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- ¹³ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 6.
- ¹⁴ [A/HRC/40/61/Add.2](#), para. 108 (d).
- ¹⁵ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 24 (b); and [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 30 (d).
- ¹⁶ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 7 (b).
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 12 (a); and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 12 (a) and (e).
- ¹⁸ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 10 (a).
- ¹⁹ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 14 (a); and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 14 (a).
- ²⁰ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 14 (b).
- ²¹ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 22; [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 38; and United Nations country team submission, p. 6. See also [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 17; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/egypt-must-halt-executions-warn-un-experts>.
- ²² [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 23 and 24 (c) and (d); [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 25 and 26; and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 21.
- ²³ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 26 (a), (b) and (d); and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 28 (c).
- ²⁴ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 13 and 14 (a) and (b).
- ²⁵ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 31 and 32; and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 17 and 18. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ²⁶ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 29 and 30 (a); [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 21 and 22 (b); and [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), paras. 47 and 48 (a). See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/05/comment-un-human-rights-office-spokesperson-marta-hurtado-egypt>.
- ²⁷ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 35 and 36, (a), (d)–(f); [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 27 and 28 (a); and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), paras. 27 and 28. See also [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), paras. 47 and 48 (b).
- ²⁸ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 30 (a). See also [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 21.
- ²⁹ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 9 and 10; and United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ³⁰ United Nations country team submission, p. 7. See also [A/HRC/40/61/Add.2](#), para. 57.
- ³¹ [A/HRC/51/47](#), annex II, para. 61.
- ³² [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 13.
- ³³ United Nations country team submission, p. 7; [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 14 (a); and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 12 (a). See also [A/HRC/51/47](#), annex II, para. 61.
- ³⁴ Opinions No. 42/2019, No. 65/2019, No. 6/2020, No. 77/2020, No. 79/2020, No. 42/2021, No. 45/2021 and No. 83/2021.
- ³⁵ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 38 (a).

- ³⁶ Ibid., paras. 14 (c) and 40; and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 31–33 and 34 (b). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ³⁷ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 42; and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 34 (a).
- ³⁸ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 47 (b); and United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- ³⁹ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 43 and 44; [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 42; and United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- ⁴⁰ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 46 (a)–(c). See also United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submission for the universal periodic review of Egypt, paras. 36–40; [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 33; and United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁴¹ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 48 (a); and United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁴² [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 50; [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 30; and United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ⁴³ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/03/global-update-high-commissioner-outlines-concerns-over-40-countries>.
- ⁴⁴ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 52.
- ⁴⁵ See https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4378243,102915:NO. See also https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4378243,102915:NO.
- ⁴⁶ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 50 (a) and (b). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- ⁴⁷ United Nations country team submission, p. 8; [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 33 and 34 (a), (b) and (d); [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 26; [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 53 and 54; and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 45.
- ⁴⁸ See https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4118601,102915:NO.
- ⁴⁹ United Nations country team submission, pp. 8 and 9.
- ⁵⁰ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 36 (a), (b) and (d).
- ⁵¹ See https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4317454,102915; and https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4317457,102915:NO.
- ⁵² https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4317485,102915:NO.
- ⁵³ United Nations country team submission, p. 9; and [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 42.
- ⁵⁴ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 37.
- ⁵⁵ United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid., pp. 12 and 13.
- ⁵⁷ [A/HRC/51/47](#).
- ⁵⁸ [A/HRC/40/61/Add.2](#), paras. 98 and 99.
- ⁵⁹ United Nations country team submission, pp. 10 and 11.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 11.
- ⁶¹ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 40 (b) and (c).
- ⁶² United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
- ⁶³ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 35.
- ⁶⁴ United Nations country team submission, page 12; [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 39; and UNESCO submission, paras. 29, 31 and 32.
- ⁶⁵ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), paras. 34 (b) and (c).
- ⁶⁶ United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., pp. 13 and 14.
- ⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 14.
- ⁶⁹ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 38.
- ⁷⁰ United Nations country team submission, pp. 1 and 2; [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), paras. 23 and 24; [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 16 and 18 (d); and [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 50 (a) and 52.
- ⁷¹ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 15.
- ⁷² [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 50 (d).
- ⁷³ See https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4317485,102915:NO. See also https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4317482,102915:NO.
- ⁷⁴ United Nations country team submission, p. 2; and [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 28.
- ⁷⁵ [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 50 (c). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 3.

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- ⁷⁶ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 16 (b) and 20. See also [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 40 (d); and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 36.
- ⁷⁷ [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 24.
- ⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 44 (a)–(d).
- ⁷⁹ See https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4118596,102915:NO.
- ⁸⁰ https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4118601,102915:NO.
- ⁸¹ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 40 (g).
- ⁸² United Nations country team submission, p. 4. See also [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 33.
- ⁸³ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 10 (b) and (d)–(f). See also [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), paras. 41 and 42.
- ⁸⁴ [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 42.
- ⁸⁵ [CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 36 (a)–(d); [CAT/C/EGY/CO/5](#), para. 48 (a), (b) and (d)–(f); and [CRC/C/EGY/CO/5-6](#), para. 41 (a) and (b). See also [CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#), para. 46 (b).
- ⁸⁶ United Nations country team submission, pp. 4 and 5.
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