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Egypt's Progress towards Millennium Development Goals



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Egypt's Progress towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is a background paper produced for the upcoming 2015 National Human Development Report.

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FOREWORD

In 2000, the United Nations endorsed a commitment to build a more prosperous and equitable world by outlining eight time-bound and measurable goals to be reached by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Since their adoption 15 years ago, substantial global progress has been achieved towards specific MDG targets, although this progress has been uneven. More than one billion people still live in extreme poverty; many face deprivations in health and education services, with progress hampered by large inequalities. Biodiversity loss, the degradation of natural resources and the intensifying risks of climate change threaten to reverse achievements and undermine future gains.

Egypt has made progress towards achieving the MDGs. It has produced several national MDGs reports documenting progress and identifying gaps, with the latest Report in 2010 marking a mid-point assessment. Further efforts are needed to sustain and nurture development gains with a greater focus on communities most in need, and with a strong emphasis on accelerating progress on gender equality and enhancing the quality of social services.

In a drastically changed world with new challenges and demands, UN member states, including Egypt have been working together to define a new vision for the future - the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be reviewed and endorsed UN General Assembly this year. The UN in Egypt looks forward to supporting Egypt in the implementation of the SDGs.

Moreover, Egypt had recently prepared the "Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030", which represents a comprehensive and integrated roadmap for sustainable development for the next 15 years. The key performance indicators (KPIs), selected to measure the development towards achieving the goals of the SDS and the objectives of its main 12 pillars are aligned with the SDGs.

This publication is based on the background paper by Dr. Hoda El Nemr and Dr. Ahmed Ashour produced in view of the preparation for the upcoming 2015 National Human Development Report, titled: "Social Justice". The background paper summarizes Egypt's status towards MDGs attainment.



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INTRODUCTION

In September 2000, the United Nations issued the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 member states, including Egypt, and more than 20 international organisations. The Millennium Declaration aims to achieve the minimum level of development by 2015 through the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including 8 key goals: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empower women; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensuring of environmental sustainability; and development of a global partnership for development

Like other member states, Egypt has committed to achieve these MDGs within the fifteen-year period following their declaration. The 2015 deadline for the MDGs approaches and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are planned to be implemented soon. The SDGs will base their priorities and goals on the progress achieved towards the MDGs, the lessons learned from their implementation, and the most important challenges that prevented their achievement. This paper aims to shed light on the progress made by Egypt towards achieving the MDGs, after fourteen years have passed since their declaration. It also focuses on monitoring the impacts of changes witnessed in the country over the past few years on such progress. Moreover, the paper addresses the most important policies and programmes pursued by the State towards the achievement of these goals, as well as the most important challenges that prevented their achievement and the possibilities to overcome them. The paper reviews the SDGs and the most important obstacles that Egypt may face when implementing them, and how to be prepared for them.

FIRST: EGYPT'S PROGRESS TOWARDS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

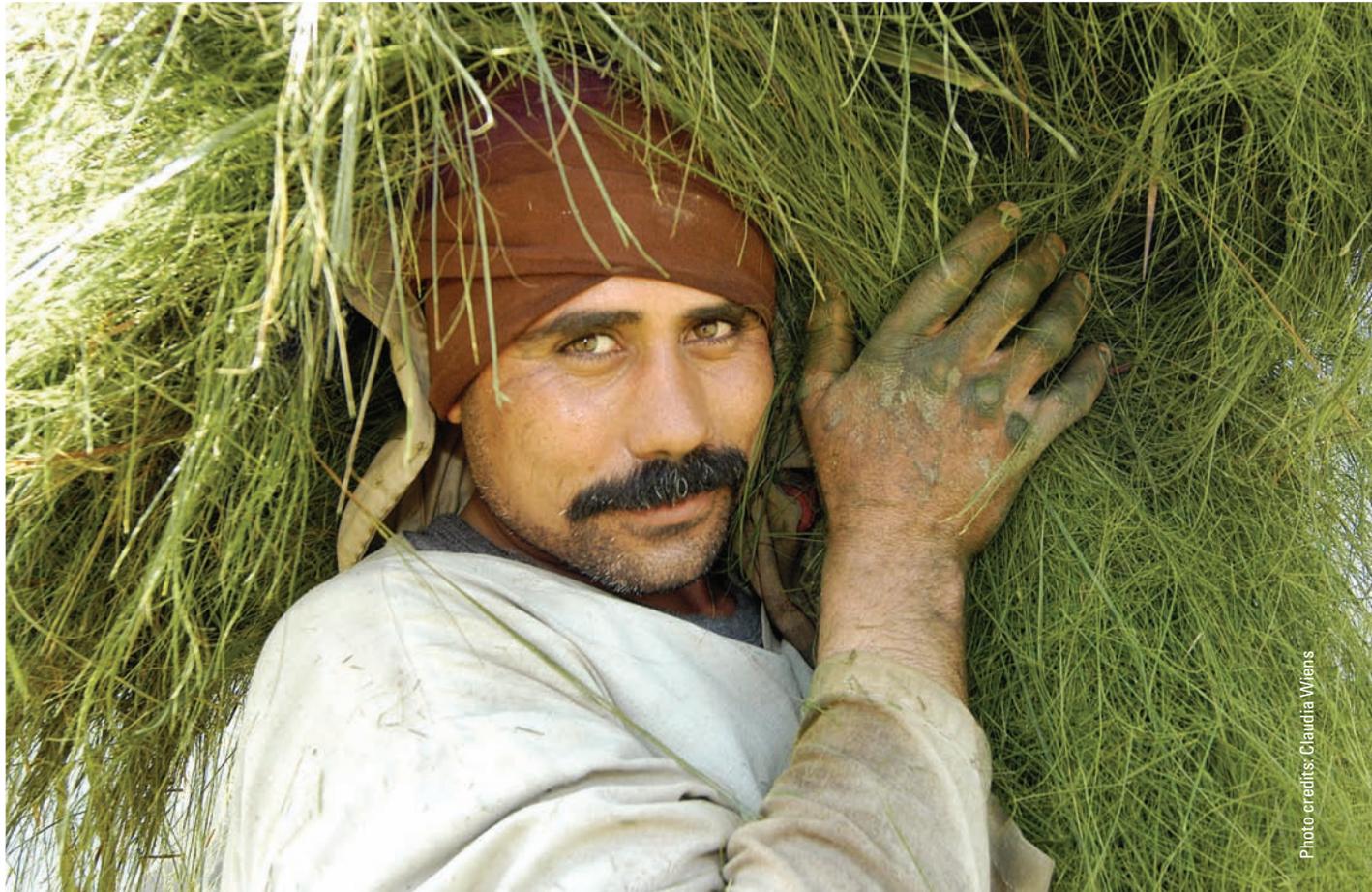
Egypt has succeeded in achieving many of the MDGs at the national level, as well as at the level of many regions and governorates. Despite the fact that Egypt has been moving steadily towards achieving the other MDGs, the political, economic and social conditions witnessed by Egypt during the past few years have prevented it from achieving the desired progress of these MDGs. On the other hand, Egypt has failed to achieve some of these goals. The following table summarises Egypt's status in terms of achieving the MDGs:

MDGs	Already achieved	Difficult to achieve
MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
- Proportion of population below the national poverty line		●
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all		●
MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education		
- Net enrolment rate in primary education		●
- Net enrolment rate in preparatory education		●
- Literacy rate, women and men		●
MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women		
- Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education	●	
- Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector		●
- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament		●
MDG 4: Reduce child mortality		
- Under-five mortality rate	●	
- Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles		●
MDG 5: Improve maternal health		
- Maternal mortality ratio		●
- Contraceptive prevalence rate		●
- Antenatal care coverage	●	
- Unmet need for family planning		●
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
- Incidence and death rates associated with malaria	●	
- Incidence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	●	
MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability		
- Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	●	

MDG 1



ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER



MDG:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Targets:

Target 1.A: Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Indicators:

- Proportion of population below the national poverty line
- Proportion of population below extreme poverty line
- Poverty gap ratio
- Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Indicators:

- Growth rate of GDP per person employed
- Employment-to-population ratio
- Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day
- Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicators:

- Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
- Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

Target 1.A: Proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

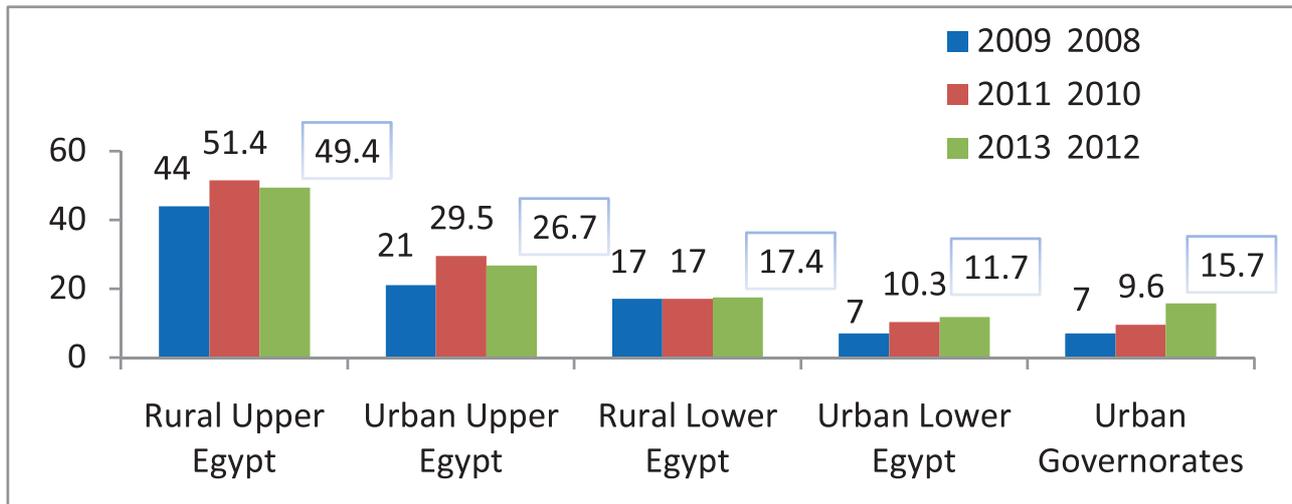
PROPORTION OF POPULATION BELOW THE NATIONAL AND EXTREME POVERTY LINE

Although this MDG requires action to reduce poverty rates by the end of 2015 to half the rate it was during the base year 1990/1991, the proportion of poor people, according to the national poverty line, has not witnessed a decline since 2004/2005 until 2012/2013 where the proportion of poor people rose from 19.6% in 2004/2005 to 21.6% in 2008/2009. This rise can be attributed to the economic, financial and food crises, and their economic, social and political impacts, witnessed by the end of this period. With the outbreak of the events of January 25, 2011, the poverty rate jumped higher to 25.2% in 2010/2011 and then to 26.3% in 2012/2013, with a rise of 22% in the poverty rate compared to what it was in 2008/2009. This means that there are about 21.7 million people unable to obtain their basic food and non-food needs.

With the increasing proportion of poor people in Egypt, it reached twice the rate targeted by the end of 2015, 12.1% (given that the poverty rate in the base year 1990/1991 was approximately 24.3%). This proportion varies significantly between various regions (as shown in Table 1/1), as it increases in the Lower Egypt rural areas and drops to its lowest level in urban governorates.

These developments confirm that it will not be possible for Egypt to achieve the MDG on halving the proportion of the population below the national poverty line by 2015. They, at the same time, point to the need to place the MDG of poverty eradication at the top of the list of priorities of SDGs, expected to start being implemented as of 2016.

Fig. (1-1) Development of poverty rates by geographic region as per national poverty line (%)



Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS), Household Income, Expenditure, and Consumption Survey (various years)

Unlike the proportion of the poor in accordance with the national poverty line, the proportion of poor people as per the extreme poverty line, despite its rise during the period 2004/2005 - 2008/2009 (from about 3.6% to 6.1%), witnessed a significant drop during the period following the January events (2010/2011 - 2012/2013) reaching 4.4%, thus achieving a decrease of 27.9% compared to 2008/2009. This means that there are about 3.6 million people unable to get their basic food needs even if all their spending is allocated for food only.

The developments of the proportion of the poorest population suggest that it is possible for Egypt to achieve the MDG targeted at the national level by 2015, which is 4.1%.

Extreme disparity among regions and governorates is noted in Egypt, in terms of extreme poverty rates. That is, the proportion of poorest people in rural areas reached 5.9% in 2012/2013 compared to 2.2% in urban areas. The average rises to 9.6% in Upper Egypt, while significantly drops to 0.57% in Lower Egypt. Such disparity increases among governorates. While extreme poverty completely disappears among the population of the governorates of Port Said, Suez, Damietta and Ismailia, it rises up to its highest level in the governorates of Assiut (24.8%), Qena (19.5%) and Sohag (12%).

So we can say that despite the fact that Egypt achieved the MDG on poorest population at the national level, attention should be directed to the poor people who still suffer from deprivation on the one hand, and to the need to reduce the great disparity in the poverty rate among regions and governorates of Egypt on the other hand. This also emphasises the need to place the MDG of extreme poverty eradication in the priority list of post-2015 SDGs.

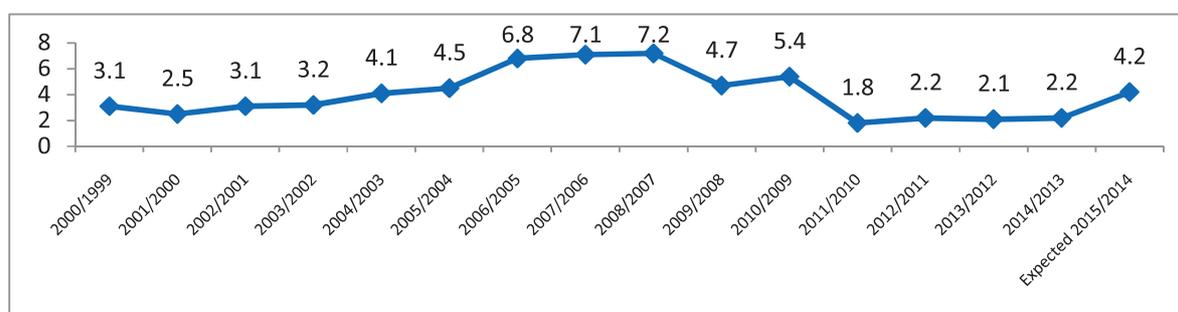
Factors responsible for the high national poverty rates

Below are the factors that led to the rise in national poverty rates.

- **Fluctuation and decline of economic growth rates**

Economic growth rate experienced strong fluctuations during the period 1999/2000 - 2013/2014. It did not exceed 5% as of 1999/2000 until 2004/2005. Yet, it gradually improved as of 2005/2006 until it reached about 7.2% in 2007/2008. Despite such rise, it did not have a positive impact on the poverty rate due to the inequitable distribution of the fruits of development witnessed during that period. However, that rate dropped, in concurrence with the global economic crisis in 2008/2009, to 4.7%, and rose again in 2009/2010 to 5.4%. In the wake of the January 25th events, average economic growth rate fell to its lowest level, reaching 1.8% in 2010/2011, and then settled at nearly 2% until 2013/2014 (Fig. 1-2). The sharp decline in that rate during the last three years is seen as one of the main causes of high poverty rates in Egypt during those years. It should be noted that this year (2014/2015) has seen the beginning of improvement in economic conditions following the completion of the political roadmap, election of the President of the Republic, gradual return of security and gradual improvement in economy. All that has come in response to the several reform efforts recently undertaken by the government, such as the implementation of two packages to promote economy and achieve social justice; issuance of the new investment law; tendency to rationalize power subsidization; organisation of Egypt Economic Development Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh in March 2015; start to implement a number of major national projects, notably the New Suez Canal and Suez Canal Area Development Project; and launch of a number of employment initiatives, especially the youth. All that has had a positive impact on the growth rate which has achieved a significant rise during the fiscal year 2014/2015, where it is expected to, reach 4.2% Growth rate is also expected to continue rising to reach 5% in 2015/2016.

Fig. (1-2) Development of economic growth rate 1999/2000 - 2014/2015(%)



Source: Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Economic Performance Follow-up Report, various years, and the Economic and Social Development Plan for the fiscal year 2015/2016

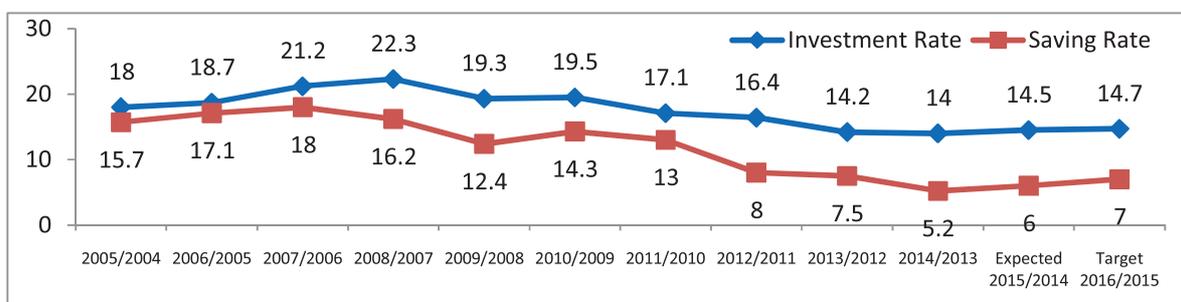
- **Disparities and inequitable distribution of income**

Rise and disparity of poverty rates can be attributed to the income-distribution policies not in favor of the poor or low-income people. This is evidenced by the rise of the top 20% to the lowest 20% of income from 3.9 in 2004/2005 to 4.2 in 2012/2013. Also the rise in Gini Index in the rural areas from 23 to 24 between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, as well as in urban areas from 30 to 33 during the same period, marks a decline of equitability in income distribution, rise in the proportion of inequality and inequitable distribution of income in favor of the highest income earners and not the lowest ones.

- **Low investment and savings rates**

The main reason for the decline in economic growth rates in recent years, and consequently the rise in poverty rates, was the drop in the savings rate in the Egyptian society and the accompanying decline in investment rates and increase in the funding gap between them (8.8% in 2013/2014 compared to 2.3% in 2004/2005). As a result, the decline in investments negatively impacted the availability of new employment opportunities or even absorb the existing ones in the Egyptian society, negatively reflecting on unemployment and poverty rates in the society as a whole. However, both the savings and investment rates have risen again during the fiscal year 2014/2015 (Fig. 1-3) with the beginning of improvement in economic conditions. The 2015/2016 plan targets the increase of both the investment and savings rates to 14.7% and 7%, respectively.

Fig. (1-3) Development of investment and savings rates 1999/2000 - 2015/2016(%)

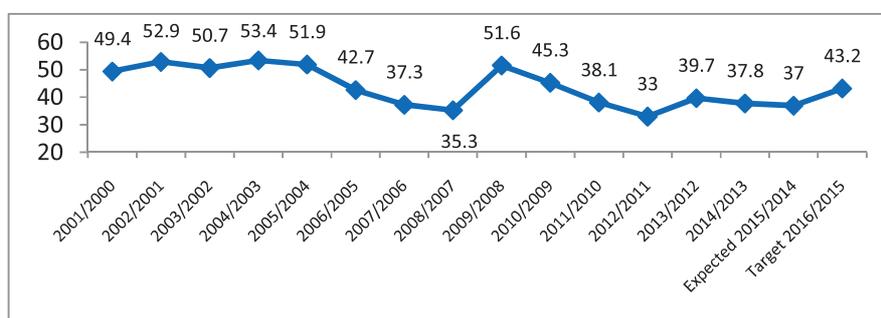


Source: Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Economic Performance Follow-up Report, various years.

- **Decline and inequitable distribution of government investments**

The government investments share in total public investment saw a significant decline during the period 2000/2001 - 2007/2008, falling from 49.4% to about 35.3%. Though it rose to about 51.6% in the global crisis year of 2008/2009 after the State had started to inject investment packages to stimulate and support the Egyptian economy, it soon fell to its lowest level in 2011/2012, 33%, then it rebounded again as of 2012/2013 until it reached 37% during 2014/2015. It is planned to reach 43.2% during 2015/2016 (Figure 1-4). In addition, government investments are not equitably distributed, as they increase in the urban governorates and Lower Egypt, and significantly drop in the Upper Egypt and border governorates.

Fig. (1-4) Share of government investments in total public investment in Egypt (1999/2000 - 2015/2016) (%)



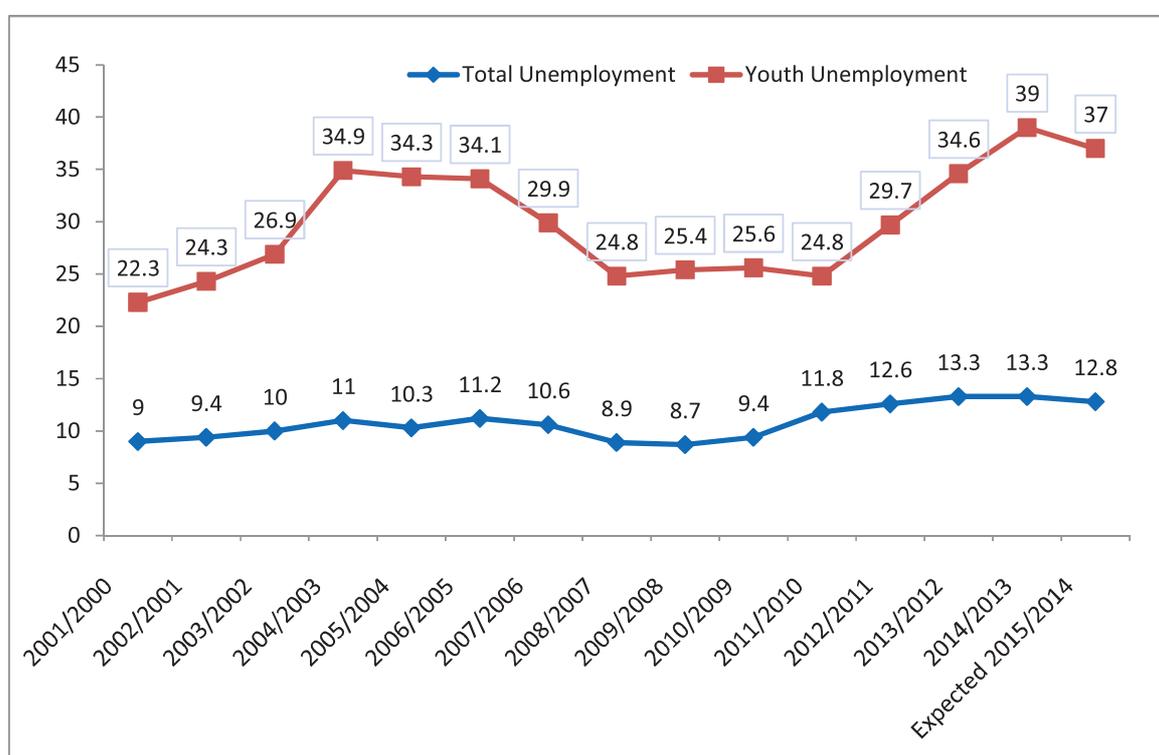
Source: Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Economic Performance Follow-up Report, various years.

- Rising inflation and unemployment rates

Inflation rate in the Arab Republic of Egypt has witnessed a significant rise during the last period, especially in the wake of the events of January 25th, 2011, and in particular the prices of food commodities (food and beverage), which account for the largest share of spending in all income segments, mainly the poor ones. That is, the high prices of these commodities greatly affect households' purchasing power and consumption. The General Consumer Price Index (January 2010 = 100) rose from 116.4% in 2011 to 137.9% in 2013, and the Commodity Food and Beverage Price Index from 109.9% to 156.4%, respectively. This was accompanied, at the same time, by low spending on food from 39.9% of the total household spending in 2011 to about 36% in 2012/2013.¹ This led to a rise in the number and proportion of poverty during that period.

Moreover, recent years have witnessed a rise in unemployment, especially among young people, with little access to jobs in light of the turbulent situation, insecurity and declining investment rates. That is, the overall unemployment rate rose to about 13.3%, about 39% among young people and 24.2% among females in 2013/2014, compared to 8.7%, 25.4% and 19.3% respectively in 2008/2009 (Fig. 1-5). This may explain the high rates of poverty during that period, despite the fact that the unemployment rate has fallen to 12.8% in March 2015 with the start of providing many jobs through national projects undertaken by the State, as well as new projects implemented by the private sector in the current fiscal year in response to the improved economic climate in Egypt.

Fig. (1-5) Overall unemployment rate and unemployment rate among young people (2000/2001 - 2014/2015) (%)



Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, various issues.

¹ Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, *Annual Statistical Book*, 2014

- Slow implementation of programme targeting the poorest villages

There are many other challenges that face poverty eradication efforts, topped by the high population growth rate, high illiteracy rates and low levels of education, particularly in rural areas, as well as larger household size, and higher number of slum areas. The Egyptian Government has taken a number of policies and actions that would address the problem of high rates of poverty as follows:

Policies and actions taken by the Egyptian government in order to reduce poverty

- Reform of wage and income policies;
- Reform subsidised supply goods system;
- Reform subsidised bread system;
- Reform subsidised oil products system;
- Increase the value of Social Security pension;
- Adopt an equitable investment policy in the fiscal year 2015/2016; and
- Support farmers.

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF GDP PER PERSON EMPLOYED

The average growth rate of GDP per person employed at constant prices rose in the period from 2000/2001 until 2009/2010. It rose from LE18.9 thousand to about LE21.85 thousand for employed persons, with an annual average increase of LE329 per person employed at constant prices. During the period from 2010/2011 to 2012/2013, the average dropped to LE185 per person employed per year. This is due to the rise in the annual growth rate of GDP, as well as the number of labour force during the first period by about 6% and 2% and during the second period by about 3% and 1%, respectively, which confirms the recovery of the Egyptian economy and its positive impact during the first period unlike the second period.

PROPORTION OF EMPLOYED PEOPLE LIVING BELOW \$1 (PPP) PER DAY(*):

According to the statistics listed in the CAPMAS's Labour Force Survey in February 2015, the percentage of those working in private informal sector (**) reached about 46.3% of total workers. Social insurance contributions by informal sector workers are no more than 11.2% and health insurance contributions are 1.7%, while those working under legal contracts account for 1% of the total proportion of workers in the informal sector.

Even contributions by workers in the formal private sector, who account for about 26% of the total employees, do not exceed 41.6% in social insurance and 24.6% in health insurance, while those working under legal contracts constitute 43.3%.² This indicates the weakness and vulnerability of available employment opportunities on the one hand, and people's approach to

**There is no available direct data published on this indicator.*

***Informal sector refers to the sector where work is done without keeping commercial books and no licenses are obtained for practicing professions.*

2 Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, February 2015.

work in the informal sector on the other hand. It also refers to the lack of basic conditions to ensure workers' rights both in terms of legal contracts available to them and their participation in social and health insurances.

PROPORTION OF OWN-ACCOUNT AND CONTRIBUTING FAMILY WORKERS IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

The proportion of own-account and contributing family workers (vulnerable labour) in total employment rose from about 11% in 2009 to about 13% in 2014, reflecting a decrease in employment for third parties and tendency by individuals to work for their own account. Accordingly, the results may correspond to the rise in unemployment rates during this period, tendency of individuals to join the informal labour market, and job loss rates.

In the light of the above, it can be said that the slow economic growth, , has affected the labour market, which means that Egypt is not likely to achieve the MDG on the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all. This, on the other hand, stresses the need to place the goal of providing full and productive employment opportunities for all among the priorities of SDGs, which are to be implemented.

Target 1.C: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

NUMBER OF UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE YEARS OF AGE

This proportion increased at a rate of one percentage point in Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) in 2000, 2005 and 2008, increasing from 4% to 5% to 6% and standing at this level in the 2014 EDHS. This means that Egypt can achieve the MDG by 2015 with more effort, given the stable proportion, as it already achieved this target (i.e. halve the proportion of underweight children - from about 9.9% to about 5% - between 1992 and 2015) in 2000 and 2005.

Short stature is also a symptom of malnutrition among children. Results of the 2014 EDHS show that a child out of every five children under the age of five years suffers from short stature (half of these children suffer from severe short stature). The survey also shows that a child out of every four children suffers from anemia, and about 8% of children under-five years of age suffer from thinness as a result of malnutrition. This indicator is a reason for concern as it has been growing since 2000.

MDG 2



ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION



MDG:

Achieve universal primary education

Target:

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicators:

- Net enrolment rate in primary education
- Net enrolment rate in preparatory education
- Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
- Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, women and men

Target: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

NET ENROLMENT RATE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

The net enrolment rate in primary education has seen a continuous decline in recent years. After reaching about 95.4% in 2010/2011, reflecting the possibility of achieving the MDG in this regard by Egypt by 2015, the net enrolment rate in primary education started to decline following that year, dropping by about 4.8 percents compared to 2010/2011, reaching 90.6% in 2013/2014. This means that it is unlikely for Egypt to achieve this MDG target by 2015.

NET ENROLMENT RATE IN PREPARATORY EDUCATION

In contrast to the net enrolment rate in primary education, the net enrolment rate in preparatory education has seen a relative improvement after the year 2010/2011, with an average of about 82.1% over the years 2011/2012 - 2013/2014. This average is about 12 percents higher than that achieved during the three years preceding that period. In spite of that improvement in the enrolment rate in preparatory education, yet it is still far from the targeted MDG, which refers to the difficulty of achieving this MDG target over the current year.

PROPORTION OF PUPILS STARTING GRADE 1 WHO REACH LAST GRADE OF PRIMARY

The proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 6 of primary increased from 84% in 1990/1991 to 97.2% in 2010/2011, which would indicate the possibility of achieving the MDG target by preventing school drop out by 2015, yet it dropped a little to 95% in 2012/2013. However, it may be possible for Egypt to achieve the MDG target if efforts are focused on preventing further school dropouts during this stage.

LITERACY RATE, WOMEN AND MEN

In 2013, the illiteracy rate reached about 26% for the 10-year age group and above, i.e. nearly 17 million people nationwide, of whom 11 millions were females; that is, females accounted for 65% of illiterate people in Egypt. It is encouraging to note that the illiteracy rate has dwindled to 8.6% among young people in the 15-24 year age group compared to nearly 65% in the 60-

year age group and above, reflecting the possibility of eliminating illiteracy in the future. The illiteracy rate is significantly higher in rural areas (31%) than in urban areas (19%).

We conclude from the foregoing that it is unlikely for Egypt to realize the MDG target on the achievement of universal primary education by 2015 for both males and females. It is worth highlighting that the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Education aim at raising the net enrolment rate in primary education to about 98% and accommodate all pupils transferred from primary school in the preparatory stage by the end of 2016/2017.

It should be pointed out that policy and decision makers in Egypt must not stop at ensuring the achievement of universal primary education. This is because the biggest challenge facing education in this stage is the low quality of education, which is reflected in many indicators, including, inter alia, the following.³

- High average classroom density in primary education for the year 2013/2014, reaching 43 students per classroom. The average is 32 students per classroom in private schools compared to 44 students per classroom in public schools.⁴
- High average classroom density in preparatory stage, reaching more than 41 students per classroom in about 36% of total educational buildings, which is definitely reflected on the capacity to accommodate more students.
- 30% of teachers in pre-university education are not educationally qualified, indicating the incompatibility of qualifications and specialisations with actual teaching needs.
- 35% or more of students in preparatory stage do not know how to read and write, which confirms the poor quality of the educational service in primary education in particular.
- Stagnation of many educational curricula and their inability to keep pace with modern trends of education, science community and knowledge economy

³ Ministry of Education, *Strategic Plan for Pre-University Education*, 2014, pp. 34-43.

⁴ Ministry of Education, *Annual Statistical Yearbook*, 2013/2014.

MDG 3



PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN



MDG:

Promote gender equality and empower women

Target:

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicators:

- Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education
- Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Target: eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

RATIO OF GIRLS TO BOYS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Enrolment ratio of girls to boys in education increased at the national level in 2013/2014 to about 102.3% and 107.4% in the primary and secondary stages, respectively, versus a rate of 79.7% and 73.6% in 1990, respectively.

Accordingly, it can be said that Egypt has already achieved the MDG on promoting gender equality in primary and high secondary education at the national level and at the level of all governorates of the Republic.

SHARE OF WOMEN IN WAGE EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Statistics show that the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector during 2012/2013 reached about 19.2% of the total wage earners at the national level, as no change in this ratio took place compared to 1990/1991. This is considered a low ratio when compared to that at the international level (around 40% in 2012),⁵ which indicates a lack of expected significant improvement in this ratio in the short term. This implies that it is unlikely for Egypt to achieve the MDG on the promotion of gender equality in the labour market.

PROPORTION OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

Although Egyptian women account for about 49% of the total population, and there are no legal or constitutional restrictions on women's political participation as the Constitution grants them freedom to stand for all elections, whether local, parliamentary or even presidential, yet their participation in political life has been very weak where seats held by women in the Parliament have not exceeded 3% of the total members before 2010. During the past few years, the quota of women in the Parliament was cancelled and the People's Assembly and Shura Council's law was amended, and despite the large participation by women voters in the parliamentary elections, only 11 women won a seat in the People's Assembly, representing 2% of the total seats in 2012. Similarly, their proportion did not exceed 4.1% of the total members of the Shura Council during the same year.

This indicates that it is not possible for Egypt to achieve the MDG in this regard by 2015.

⁵ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, p. 21.

MDG 4

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY



MDG:

Reduce child mortality

Target:

Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Indicators:

- Under-five mortality rate
- Infant mortality rate
- Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles

Target: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE

Egypt achieved tangible positive results in reducing the under-five mortality rate. This took a decreasing trend, dropping from 81 deaths per thousand live births in 1995 to about 27 deaths in 2014, with a decrease of 66% during that period⁽⁶⁾

Geographical disparities

Despite the general trend of decreasing the gap between the rural and urban areas in Egypt, the 2014 EDHS findings show that there are still significant disparities between Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. Upper Egypt records the highest under-five mortality rate of 38 deaths per thousand live births versus 26 deaths in Lower Egypt. The lowest mortality rate of 20 deaths has been recorded in urban governorates.

At the level of rural and urban areas, although the reduction in mortality rate in rural areas has been greater than that in urban areas. Rural areas have the highest mortality rate (34 deaths) compared to urban areas where mortality rate has dropped to only 23 deaths per thousand live births. Despite the high mortality rate in rural areas unlike urban areas, the MDG target supposed to be achieved by 2015, i.e. 44 deaths per thousand live births, has already been achieved (and, of course, in urban areas as well).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

In line with the downward trend in the under-five mortality rate, and at almost the same descending rate, infant mortality rate has dropped from about 60 deaths per thousand live births in 1995 to about 22 deaths in 2014, indicating that Egypt will be able to achieve the MDG target (21 deaths) by 2015.

CHALLENGES TO REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY RATES:

- High rate of illiteracy, especially among women
- High rate of poverty, especially in rural Upper Egypt

⁶ Ministry of Health and Population, *Egypt Demographic and Health Survey, 2014 Main Findings*

- Maternal malnutrition, especially in poverty-stricken areas
- Malnutrition in children
- Deficiencies in infrastructure facilities
- There are other factors responsible for the high infant mortality rate, including mother's age at the time of pregnancy and the length of interval period between births.

PROPORTION OF 1 YEAR-OLD CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST MEASLES

Egypt has adopted a compulsory vaccination policy for all newborns in accordance with WHO criteria, involving vaccination against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles and hepatitis (B).

According to the 2014 EDHS, the proportion of vaccination against measles at the national level reached 95.8% (compared to 98% according to the 2008 EDHS), with no evident disparities in the vaccination coverage among different geographical areas. The current proportion of measles vaccination coverage indicates that Egypt will not achieve the MDG target in 2015 (which is 100%). The Ministry of Health has announced that Egypt will completely eliminate measles by 2018.

MDG 5



IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH



MDG:

Improve maternal health

Targets:

Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Indicators:

- Maternal mortality ratio
- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- Contraceptive prevalence rate

Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Indicators:

- Adolescent birth rate
- Antenatal care coverage
- Unmet need for family planning

Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

This rate saw a significant continuous decline over the period from 1992/1993 to 2013. Yet, the greatest decline rate occurred during the first ten years of that period, dropping to about 39% in 2003, then it continued to decline until it reached 53 deaths per 100 thousand live births in 2013, compared to 68 deaths in 2003. This indicates that Egypt, despite the decline in mortality rate, is unlikely to achieve the MDG target (which is 43.5 deaths per 100 thousand live births) in 2015.

Geographical disparities in maternal mortality rate

At the national level, maternal mortality rate, by place of residence, showed a clear variation in 2013. Highest rates (ranging between 60 and 65 deaths per 100 thousand births) are seen in the governorates of Gharbia, Beni Suef, Qena, Assiut, Sohag and North Sinai, while lowest rates (ranging between 24 and 37 deaths per thousand births) are observed in the governorates of Port Said, Suez, Ismailia, New Valley, South Sinai and the Red Sea.

PROPORTION OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL

Of total births, this proportion has witnessed a remarkable development during the recent period, rising to about 92% according to the 2014 EDHS compared to only 79% according to the survey preceding it. That is, it has recorded an annual improvement by about 2.6 per cent, which indicates that Egypt, at the national level, is close to achieving the MDG target by 2015.

CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATE

The contraceptive prevalence rate, unlike other reproductive health indicators, has not seen a significant progress during more than two decades, rising from about 48% according to the 1991 EDHS to only 59% according to the 2014 EDHS. Also, the last ten years did not witness any progress in this rate as it ranged between 59% and 60%. This means that out of every ten married women aged between 15-49 years there are four of them have not used any form of contraceptives. With the current decline in the level of usage, it is unlikely for Egypt to achieve, on both the national or local levels, the MDG target relating to contraceptive prevalence rate (72%, which is a rate necessary to achieve the total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman in 2017) by 2015.⁽⁷⁾

Geographic disparities in contraceptive prevalence rate

Despite the decline in this rate, there are still clear disparities among regions where Upper Egypt governorate record a minimum level of 50% compared to about 64% in the Lower Egypt governorates. The lowest contraceptive prevalence rate (47%) has been recorded in rural Upper Egypt versus 59% and 64% in urban Upper and Lower Egypt, respectively. At the level of governorates, this rate has dropped to its lowest level in Sohag and Qena, reaching about 31% and 38%, respectively.

Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

ANTENATAL CARE COVERAGE

The antenatal follow-up visits have become more prevalent in Egypt than ever before. The 2014 EDHS showed that the proportion of pregnant women who had at least four pregnancy care visits reached about 83%, meaning that eight women out of every ten women had antenatal visits. That proportion witnessed a significant jump compared with that indicated in the 2008 EDHS, which reached 67%. This means that it has annually increased by about 3.2 percents, and it has multiplied by about three times what it was in 1995 (28%). This indicates that Egypt is close to achieving the MDG target at the national level by 2015. To achieve that, it should make more efforts and provide all the services and facilities that help to improve this proportion. In this respect, about 90% of women make less than four pregnancy follow-up visits on the one hand, and many governorates have recorded above 90% (while others are close to reaching 97%) of women making at least four regular pregnancy visits on the other hand.

UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

This indicator refers to the women capable of becoming pregnant and giving birth but do not have the desire to bear children for various reasons, including the spacing between births or permanent cessation of childbearing; however, they do not use any form of contraceptives. This indicator has been taken into account in the MDGs since 2005. According to the 2014 EDHS, married women who had an unmet need for contraception in represented about 12.6% of the total married women (15-49 years). That proportionslightly increased compared to those showed by the 2008 EDHS (11.6%) and 2005 EDHS (12.3%). This proportion means that there is one out of each eight women has an unmet need for contraception.

⁷ UNDP and Institute of National Planning, *Egypt Human Development Report 2008*, Egypt's Social Contract, Role of Civil Society, 2008, p. 36.

CHALLENGES TO IMPROVING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Women's reproductive health is affected by many economic and social factors, including:

- Cultural and social behaviors which still encourage increasing the number of children, shortening spacing between pregnancies, and engaging in early marriages
- Low literacy rate, especially in rural areas and among women
- High poverty rate and low standard of living in Rural Upper Egypt and among women in particular
- Lack of services, health care and family planning services, as well as low efficiency of those available, especially in rural and remote areas
- Low health awareness, especially among illiterate women
- Decline in the role of media in recent years in raising awareness of the importance of reproductive and maternal health

MDG 6



COMBAT HIV, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES



MDG:

Combat HIV, malaria and other diseases

Targets:

Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Indicators:

- HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
- Condom use at last high-risk sex
- Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Indicators:

- Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs

Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Indicators:

- Incidence and death rates associated with malaria
- Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets
- Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs
- Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

HIV PREVALENCE AMONG POPULATION AGED 15-24 YEARS

HIV does not represent a health hazard in Egypt (where the infection rate is still less than 0.01% of the total population), despite the annual rise in the number of HIV cases, which reached 825 cases in 2014 and 981 cases in February 2015)⁸.

⁸ The Ministry of Health and Population, the National Health and Population Information Centre, unpublished data

Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

The Ministry of Health and Population, represented in the National Programme for the Fight against AIDS, adopted a new strategy to maintain a low HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Egypt. The strategy involves updating the national clinical care and treatment guide in 2013/2014 to be in line with the revised recommendations of the World Health Organisation, and updating the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child strategy through the provision of proper awareness for women visiting antenatal care and family planning centres.

In continuation of its efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS, Egypt joined the World AIDS Campaign in 2014 to achieve the Three Zeros by 2030: Zero new HIV infections, Zero AIDS related deaths and Zero Stigma and Discrimination.⁹

PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 15-24 YEARS WITH COMPREHENSIVE CORRECT KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS

According to the 2008 EDHS, one out of every five young men and one out of every twenty young women have comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, which requires more media attention and continuous awareness campaigns, especially in the most HIV/AIDS vulnerable areas.

Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

INCIDENCE AND DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH MALARIA

Malaria, the same as HIV/AIDS, does not represent a serious problem in Egypt. WHO announced that Egypt had eliminated malaria in 1998. Accordingly, the few malaria cases currently recorded are coming from African countries. All malaria-infected cases reached only 376 cases in 2014, all of which came from abroad except for only 22 cases of Egyptians. This emphasizes the necessity of activating the quarantine procedures on land, sea and air ports to reduce imported infections to Egypt. Consequently, it can be said that Egypt has achieved the MDG target relating to halting the incidence of malaria in Egypt.

- **Incidence and death rates associated with tuberculosis**

The Ministry of Health makes great efforts to curb the spread of tuberculosis (TB), including the implementation of compulsory vaccination of all newborns against tuberculosis within two weeks of birth, and introduction of modern methods of treatment. This contributed to the low incidence rates from 34 cases in 1990 to 19 cases in 2010, and then to only 17 cases per 100 thousand people in 2014. In other words, the incidence rate has been reduced to almost the half during that period. Similarly, the death rate has been significantly reduced. It dropped from 4 deaths in 1990 to 1.1 in 2010, and then to about 0.46 deaths per one hundred thousand people in 2014. This means that Egypt already achieved the MDG target of reducing the incidence and death rates of tuberculosis by 50% than it was in 1990.

⁹ UN: Egypt announces elimination of HIV/AIDS by 2030: <http://www.roayahnews.com>

- Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment

Cure rate of tuberculosis in Egypt continued to rise until it reached 87% in 2012 after the introduction of Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS). Accordingly, Egypt exceeded the cure rate target (the global cure rate is 85%). This means that Egypt has already achieved the MDG target regarding the TB cure rate. It should be noted that many other diseases are endemic in Egypt, topped by hepatitis and cancer diseases, with serious incidence rates that may threaten Egypt's national security if not dealt with properly.

MDG 7



ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



MDG:

Ensure environmental sustainability

Targets:

Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicators:

- Proportion of land area covered by forest
- CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)
- Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
- Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- Proportion of total water resources used

Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Indicators:

- Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
- Proportion of species threatened with extinction

Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicators:

- Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
- Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicators:

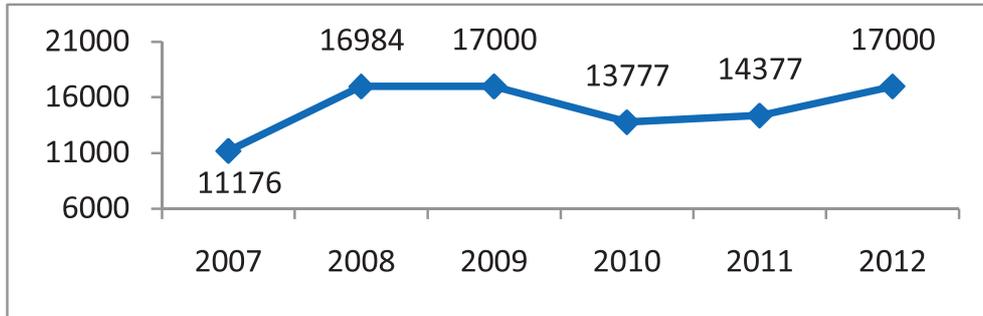
- Proportion of urban population living in slums

Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

PROPORTION OF LAND AREA COVERED BY FOREST AND GREEN BELTS

In 2012 the land area covered by forest trees reached about 17 thousand feddans spread over 34 forests in 17 governorates (Fig. 7.1). In addition, Egypt has started the implementation of the Green Belt around Greater Cairo project along 100 km, including the plantation of 550 thousand trees to be irrigated by treated wastewater..

Fig. (7.1) Area of forest land in the Arab Republic of Egypt in feddans



Source: 1- Database of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS).
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt State of Environment Report 2012.

CO2 EMISSIONS, TOTAL, PER CAPITA AND PER \$1 GDP (PPP)

CO₂ emissions resulting from the burning of fossil fuels in Egypt steadily increased from about 75 million tons per year in 1990/1991 to about 226 million tons in 2011/2012, an average annual increase of 9.6%. At the same time, the CO₂ emissions average per capita rose from about 1.4 tons per capita in 1991/1991 to about 3.88 tons in 2011/2012, recording an annual increase rate of 8.4%. However, the per capita CO₂ emissions in Egypt was considered significantly low compared to other rates in developed regions, which amounted to about 11 tons in 2011.¹⁰ At the same time, total CO₂ emissions per \$1 GDP (PPP) has witnessed annual fluctuations ranged between 0.3-0.4.

CONSUMPTION OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

Egypt has taken effective steps to address the ozone depletion phenomenon, where the consumption rates of all ozone-depleting substances have been reduced to the levels set by the Montreal Protocol. Egypt banned the importation of halons in 2010 and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in 2011. As for medical aerosols, they have been replaced with other environment-friendly alternatives by the end of 2013. The use of CFCs is planned to be gradually reduced according to a schedule, as it has been reduced by 10% in January 2015 compared to the consumption rate in 2009%, and it is planned to reach 35% in 2020, 67.5% in 2025, 97.5% in 2030, and 100% in 2040, as expected. The State also targets to gradually reduce the use of Methyl Bromide and replace it with other environment-friendly alternatives.

PROPORTION OF TOTAL WATER RESOURCES USED

Egypt's water consumption proportion of the total water resources reached 75.5% in 2013 compared to 70.6% in 2005. Considering the continuous increase in the number of population, which has not been corresponded by a similar increase in water resources, Egypt has become under the water poverty line globally estimated at 1,000 cubic metres a year per capita. The available renewable water resources per capita in Egypt dropped from 769 cubic metres in 2005 to 690 cubic metres in 2013, equivalent to 69% of the water poverty threshold.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report*, op. cit.

Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

PROPORTION OF TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE AREAS PROTECTED

Egypt doubled the number of nature reserves from 15 in 1990 to 30 in 2012, with a total area of 146 thousand km², accounting for 14.7% of the total area of Egypt. That proportion was similar to that at the world level, estimated in 2013 at 14.6% of land area, and also exceeded that of developed areas, accounting for 14% of the land area.⁽¹¹⁾ With the rise in the proportion of nature reserves in Egypt to double what it was in 1994 (7.2% of the land area), it can be said that Egypt is likely to achieve the proportion recommended by the Convention (i.e. to ensure that a minimum of 17% of terrestrial habitats are protected and conserved by 2020). Though it reached 9.7% on the level of the world, the proportion of nature reserves of marine ecosystems in Egypt did not exceed 1.7%, which is well below the proportion recommended by the Convention (i.e. to achieve a minimum of 10% of marine areas by 2020).¹²

Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

This target aims to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. Egypt already achieved the MDG target supposed to be reached in 2008/2009 at the national level and at the level of most governorates. That is, the proportion of households with access to safe drinking water (through the public network) rose from 79.9% in 1992 to 94.7% in 2008/2009* on the national level. Despite the rise in the proportion of households with access to safe drinking water and achievement of the MDG target by Egypt, it should not be overlooked that there are more than 5% of households who obtain water from other sources (e.g. pumps, wells, etc.) other than the public network, and there are more than 7% of households whose houses are not connected to water utilities.

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE SANITATION

About only half of all households in Egypt have access to safe sanitation services. This proportion rises to about 85% in urban areas and falls to only 24% in rural areas where 59% of population still depend on sewer trenches.

At the level of governorates, it is noted that Giza and urban governorates (Cairo, Suez, Port Said and Alexandria) have high coverage proportions, as the lowest among them reach 87.5%. The governorates of Upper Egypt record the lowest coverage proportions, with only 10.7% in Beni Suef, followed by 13.1% in Qena, 16.1% in Minya, 17.4% in Assiut and 19.6% in Sohag.

¹¹ United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Report, op. cit. p. 43.

¹² Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, *Egypt State of Environment Report 2012*, p. 279.

*The proportion of households with access to safe drinking water rose to 96.8% in 2011/2012.

Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

PROPORTION OF URBAN POPULATION LIVING IN SLUMS

Slums in Egypt include unplanned areas (representing about 95% of urban areas in Egyptian villages and 37.5% of urban areas in Egyptian cities) and unsafe areas (which are located in places posing threats to life and health). The most important challenges facing the residents of these slums involve the high rates of poverty and deprivation among them and other negative phenomena associated with them. A recent study by the UNICEF¹³ shows that the poverty rate among households living in such slums reaches 42%, and that 41% of children in unsafe slums do not have access to safe sanitation facilities. This rate drops to less than 5% in unplanned areas. In unplanned slums, the proportion of children severely deprived in education records 37%, and rises to 43% in unsafe areas among children aged 12-17.

Until February 2014, Egypt developed 58 slums with an area of 523.2 feddans, accommodating 119 thousand people and 29.6 thousand housing units (of which 15.6 thousand units were already built) at a cost of LE1.527 billion. Also, 68 areas are currently under development with an area of 638.3 feddans, 32.6 thousand housing units and a population of 131 thousand people. There are 101 areas being self-developed with an area of 711.3 feddans and 45.09 thousand housing units. About 159 areas remain, with an area of 3,219.8 feddans and 140.3 thousand housing units. It should be noted that the Government has doubled the investments allocated for the development of slums in the framework of the Economic and Social development plan of the fiscal year 2015/2016.

According to the implemented strategy for the development of slums, Egypt will be free from unsafe slums by 2018.

Thanks to these efforts, Egypt came among the top 20 countries in the world in terms of efforts to improve slum conditions. It ranked fifth in the index of proportion of urban population living in slums, after Indonesia, Morocco, Argentina and Colombia.¹⁴

It should be noted that the efforts made by Egypt over the past decade to improve the state of environment and achieve the MDG on ensuring environmental sustainability were reflected on the progress in its world ranking, according to the Environmental Performance Index 2012 (EPI). Egypt ranked 60th at the world level compared to 85th in 2006. It also ranked first at the Arab world level after it was in the 9th place in 2006.¹⁵

However, there are still a number of challenges facing environment sustainability, notably:

- High population growth rate and the associated increase in demand for natural resources and infrastructure services, mainly water and sanitation.
- Weak environmental awareness among people as a result of illiteracy and poor return of the environmental awareness programmes and activities, increasing pollution rate in many areas, especially dust-polluted air, above the permissible limits as well as the proliferation of garbage in streets.

¹³ UNICEF and Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, Multi-dimensional child poverty in slums and unplanned areas in Egypt, October 2014

¹⁴ Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt State of Environment Report, op. cit., p. 329.

¹⁵ Ibid., pp. 276-280

- Low standard of living, especially in rural areas, limiting the ability of people to extend water and sanitation connections from public networks to homes or drain sewage-disposal wells.
- Ineffective environmental policies and deficiencies in their implementation.
- Lack of financial ability of the State to provide full safe sanitation coverage for all houses and households in the short term. A study shows that the cost to meet the MDG target for sanitation by 2015 in Egypt is estimated at LE 120 billion.¹⁶

¹⁶ Heba Handoussa, *Situation Analysis: Key Development Challenges Facing Egypt*, 2010, p. 15.

MDG 8



DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



MDG:

Develop a global partnership for development

Targets:

Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries

[Official development assistance \(ODA\):](#)

- Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income
- Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
- ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes
- ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

Target 8.C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries

- Market access
- Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty
- Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
- Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product
- Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
- Debt sustainability
- Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
- Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives
- Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

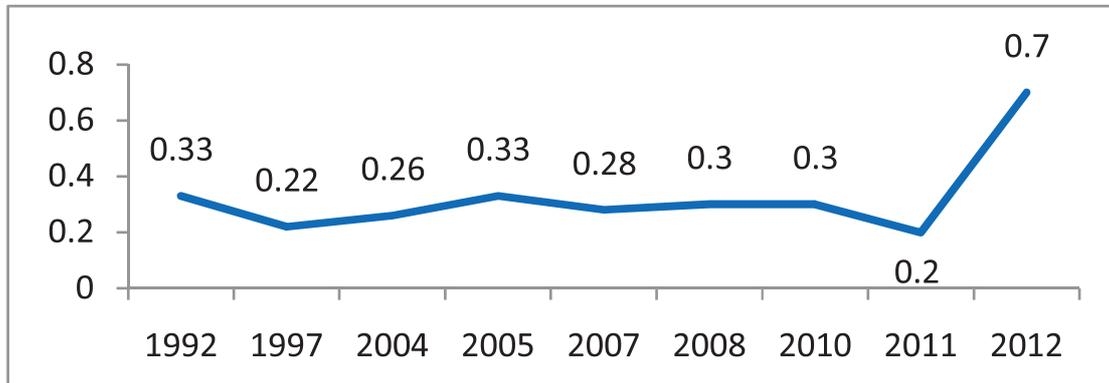
- Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants
- Mobile-cellular subscriptions
- Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND GRANTS

The ODA received by Egypt as a proportion of its gross national income witnessed annual fluctuations during the period 1992-2010, ranging between 0.22% and 0.33%, and dropping to its lowest levels (0.2%) in 2011 (Fig. 8.1). Despite the fact that the proportion of ODA to Egypt jumped to about 0.7% in 2012, but it still represents less than 1% of the State's gross national income, indicating the meager size of such assistance for the Egyptian economy.

Fig. (8.1) Net ODA as a proportion of Egypt's gross national income (%)



Source: OECD-DAC, World Bank, www.oecd.org/dac/stats

Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries

GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS

During the period 2003/2004-2013/2014, the trade balance witnessed a steadily growing deficit, rising from \$7.8 billion in 2003/2004 to about \$25.1 billion in 2009/ 2010, with an increase of almost 37%. Starting from 2010/2011 to 2013/2014, it recorded a growing deficit of 8% per year, indicating that the increase in the trade balance deficit has been growing at a lower rate after 2010/2011.

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

External public debt recorded an upward trend starting from 2001 until 2010, rising from \$26.6 billion to \$33.7 billion, with an annual increase of about \$789 million during that period. In the wake of the January 2011 Revolution, the debt fell from \$34.9 billion in 2011 to \$34.4 billion in the following year; however, the external public debt witnessed a significant increase of 25.6% compared to the previous year, reaching \$43.2 billion in 2013.

At the same time the external public debt structure experienced a change, where the proportion of short-term debt reached in 2003 almost three times what it was in 2013. Also, the external public debt of exports rose after 2009 to a dangerous level, as it accounted for approximately 90% of exports in 2013.

Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

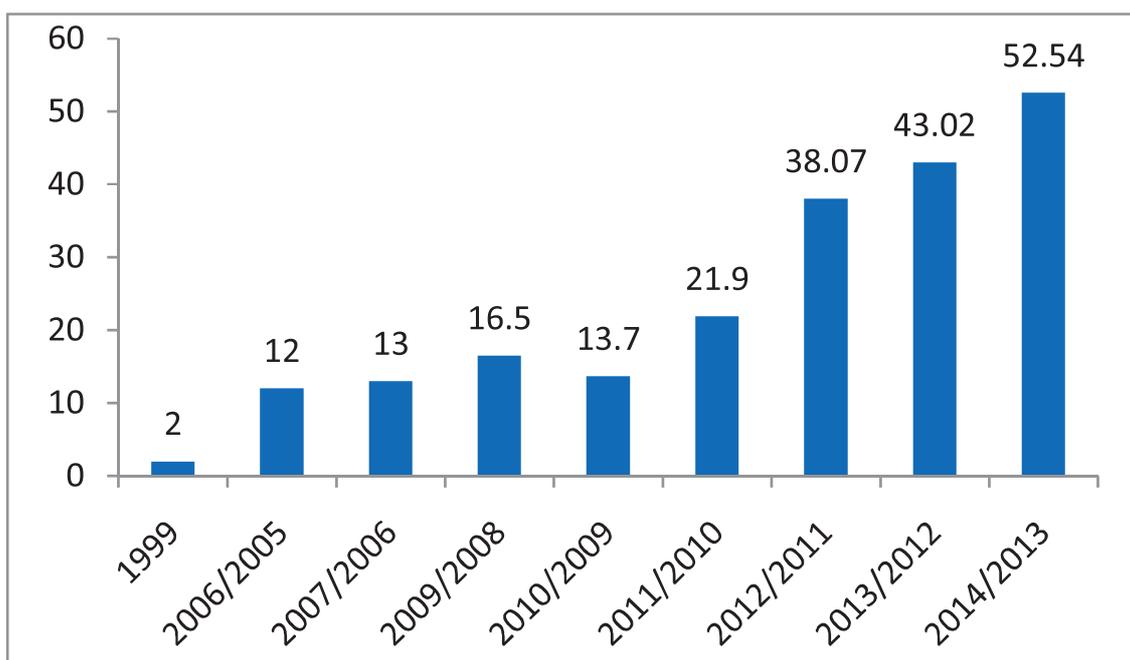
ADVANCE IN COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

The ICT sector witnessed a remarkable development during the past fourteen years. Its contribution to GDP rose to about 2.4%, and its investments reached LE22 billion, LE14.1 billion of which were invested in communications and LE8 billion in information technology. The private sector's contribution was estimated at about LE20 billion, accounting for 90% of the sector's total investments, of which LE13 billion were in the area of communications, and LE7 billion in information technology. The government investment in this sector was estimated at about LE2 billion in 2013/2014.

This was reflected on the high number of Internet users in Egypt reaching about 52.5 persons per 100 inhabitants in 2013/2014 after it was only 2 out of every 100 inhabitants in 1999. That high prevalence can be attributed to the large and rapid development witnessed by the world and Egypt in the ICT area; growing content and applications; ICT trend to lower prices; and increased competition in the sector. Despite the increase in that proportion, it is still lower than that in other developed countries, which amounts to about 78%, according to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2014.

Mobile-cellular penetration rate in Egypt also saw a boom in recent years, as mobile-cellular lines rose from only 1 line per 100 inhabitants in 1999 to about 117.7 lines per 100 inhabitants (Fig. 8.2). This means that many individuals have more than one mobile-cellular line. At the same time, the number of fixed-telephone lines fell to about 8 lines per 100 inhabitants after it was 15 lines per 100 inhabitants in 2006/2007. This was the result of the spread of cellular mobile phones and being preferred by people to fixed-telephone lines.

Fig. (8.2) Internet users per 100 inhabitants (%)



Source: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Yearbook, different versions

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEED UP THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGs

Egypt has taken serious steps to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs to make a balanced and sustainable development, especially in the wake of the June 30, 2013 revolution, in spite of the major political, security and economic challenges faced by the State. To address these enormous challenges, the government has taken upon itself the priority to improve the economic and living conditions of citizens, as represented in fixing the deficiency in the State general budget without compromising low income or poor people, and repairing shortcomings in the subsidy system, particularly the energy subsidy, making it accessible to those entitled to it. The State has also set a minimum wage for all state employees at LE1,200 for the sixth grade in the professional ladder, and a maximum wage at 35 times the minimum wage to be applied to all ministries, agencies and institutions.

The State also adopted LE416.6-billion investment plan for the current fiscal year (2015/2016). The government implements LE180.1 billion worth investment projects in the areas of infrastructure, human development and spatial development. The private sector, on the other side, contributes with LE236.5 billion worth investments distributed among various sectors and regions to achieve sustainable economic development based on Egyptians' self-help, and to ensure social justice in the distribution of the fruits of development among all Egyptians in different regions and governorates.

Moreover, Egypt introduced many national projects, representing a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development, creating employment opportunities, and motivating the utilisation and development of available resources. The new canal project comes in the forefront of these projects to mark a new crossing point for the Egyptian society and the beginning of real development of the Suez Canal area. It was the Egyptians who funded this project with about LE64 billion in just eight days from the date of issuing the Suez Canal investment certificates. The project also includes the drilling of four tunnels under the Suez Canal to link the Canal region and Sinai governorates to Cairo.

The government is currently implementing a number of other national projects, such as the development of road, tunnel and bridge networks, extending for 3,200 km planned to be added to the road network. This is in addition to the reclamation of nearly one million feddans as a first phase to be added to the Egyptian agricultural land. The government also started preparing master plans for the development of the northwest coast, Golden Triangle and South Valley.

As a result of the above efforts, the economic growth rate is expected to rise to 4.2% during the fiscal year 2014/2015 with improved performance of the tourism sector as well as manufacturing industries. Also the unemployment rate declined to 12.8% during the third quarter of the fiscal year, with concurrent higher savings and investment rates in the same year, indicating restoration of confidence in the Egyptian economy.

All the above has been demonstrated by the issuance of many positive international reports from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings, which noted an improvement in Egypt's credit rating with a stable outlook for the Egyptian economy. This is in addition to the preliminary report of the IMF that visited Egypt to assess the economic and social reform measures recently taken by the Egyptian government.

SECOND: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

With the approach of the deadline to achieve the MDGs and in order to address the current and future economic, social and environmental challenges, the international community sought to define a new set of sustainable development goals for the period post-2015 to 2030 to replace the MDGs, which expire by the end of 2015. The preparation of the SDGs took several years. It is expected that these goals will be announced during the session No. 29 of the General Assembly of the United Nations during the period 25 - 27 September 2015, which will be attended by presidents, kings and head of states and governments of the world, to adopt these goals and begin its implementation during the next five years.

In order to prepare the proposed SDGs, the United Nations adopted a participatory bottom up approach engaging all concerned stakeholders (and not the top-down approach followed in the preparation of the MDGs). The United Nations conducted a variety of consultative processes (e.g. global, national and substantive consultations, surveys and online opinion surveys) considered the most comprehensive in an unprecedented manner. The national and international consultations were supervised by the United Nations Development Group whereas the regional consultations were supervised by the Regional Commissions. Both the developed and developing countries, as well as civil society, youth, private sector, institutions and people of thought and opinion, parliamentarians, and the poor and marginalised in these countries in order to build a sense of common ownership of these goals.

The following are the proposed sustainable development goals:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;

11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

When reviewing these goals, the following can be noticed:

- The proposed development goals achieve integration between the three (economic, social and environmental) dimensions of sustainable development, and stress, at the same time, that sustainable production and consumption, and management and protection of natural resources are essential requirements for sustainable development.
- These goals aim, in large part, to achieve the optimal target (and not the half-way target as was the case with the MDGs). SDGs target to eradicate hunger, poverty, and newborn and under-five children mortality; eliminate gender disparity; ensure access to water, sanitation and modern energy for all; and put an end to all forms of malnutrition.
- Ambitions have risen with SDGs. That is, focus has not been only on providing employment opportunities, but on ensuring decent work as well. Also, the food-related goal has extended from just providing food to ensuring improved nutrition. Similarly, the education goal has extended to include the teachers' acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed to support sustainable development. Moreover, the industrialisation goal has extended to include the promotion of scientific research and innovation.
- The proposed SDGs are general goals in the sense that they represent a common aspiration among the countries of the world and they can be included by all within their national policy in accordance with their own specificities and priorities.
- The SDGs are more inclusive than the MDGs. The SDGs have gone beyond the poverty, health and education issues to include those relating to inclusive industrialisation, food security, energy, sanitation, water, and human settlement and city, as well as peace, human rights, good governance and rule of law issues.
- The issues covered by the SDGs have been addressed from a deeper perspective. Many of them have surpassed the quantitative goals, extending to the qualitative dimension as well, just like the case with good education, safe settlements, modern and sustainable energy, and productive employment, and other goals.
- Since sustainable development and the dealing with climate change go hand in hand, the proposed SDGs have included a direct goal on climate change, requiring states to take

urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Climate has also occupied a prominent place in the introductory text of the Eminent Persons Group's report.

- Given the importance of data and information for the implementation and follow-up of the goals, one of the SDGs has focused on promoting the capacity of developing countries to achieve a significant increase in the availability of high-quality, timely, documented and detailed data, as well as the right to access information. Also, this issue has been highlighted in the introductory text of the Eminent Persons Group's report.
- The SDGs pay attention to the distributional aspect, which has been lacking in the MDGs, and focus on the outcomes and not only the outputs, as well as on the reduction of qualitative, social and geographical disparities.
- Many of these goals pay special attention to the vulnerable and marginalised groups, particularly women, child labour and migrant women, when dealing with issues of poverty, hunger, safe water and sanitation, and decent work.
- The SDGs have defined separate goals for poverty and hunger (unlike the case with the MDGs), which emphasises the importance of eliminating each of them, as they still exist at the top of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The most important challenges that Egypt may face in the implementation of SDGs

A. INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES:

- The continuing recession in many EU countries and the United States, and the weak growth rates in them and decline of generated employment opportunities, as well as slow growth in China and Southeast Asian countries.
- Non-implementation by the developed countries and donor organisations of their obligations in the field of official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries to ensure that the MDGs are fully achieved. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), ODAs from 23 OECD's development assistance committees amounted to around \$133.5 billion in 2011, representing 0.31% of their combined gross national income (GNI), which is still a long way from the 0.7% UN target.¹⁷

B. LOCAL CHALLENGES:

- Availability of human cadres able to follow up the implementation of SDGs in all ministries and agencies entrusted with such tasks.
- Development of a coordination framework among the concerned bodies in a way that allows the implementation of these goals more effectively.
- Availability of data and information necessary to measure progress towards the achievement of these goals.

C. CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE NATURE OF SDGs:

- The number of proposed goals (17) and targets (169) contained in the general framework of SDGs is too big. Goals range between child and maternal health, oceans and seas.
- The large number of targets and their measurement indicators (which may exceed 300 indicators if there are only 2 indicators for each target) will prolong the time needed to

¹⁷ News Report: Rio+20 Summit: A new start for sustainable development at the global level <http://arabic.people.com.cn/31659/7854085.html>

follow up the progress in the implementation of these goals and to prepare follow-up reports, which may reduce the efficiency of the implementation process.

- The process of measuring the progress achieved in the proposed development goals may face difficulty in the provision of the necessary accurate and documented data because of the lack of data; inaccuracy of data; presence of gaps in some data; non-compliance with methodological standards in data assessment; lack of accurate registration systems; absence of detailed quantitative data, particularly data relating to marginalised and vulnerable groups and remote areas and slums; or length of time required to prepare and issue the data, which may last for more than five years (e.g. censuses, demographic health surveys, etc.).
- Egypt is expected to face difficulties in achieving some of the proposed SDGs with high quantitative ceiling by 2030, particularly with regard to having access to sanitation services, providing full and decent employment opportunities, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and ensuring full and effective participation of women and equal leadership opportunities on an equal footing with men. Such difficulties can be attributed either to the fact that some of these goals need huge investments (e.g. sanitation services and full employment), or to the social habits and traditions (as regards full participation of women, for example).

How Egypt prepares itself for the SDGs

Since the United Nations has declared that it considers introducing a new set of development goals under the post-2015 Development Agenda to replace the MDGs, which expire next year, Egypt has been actively participating, on all global, regional and local levels, in most events, consultations and conferences discussing the general framework of these goals.

A. LOCAL PREPARATIONS:

- The government focuses its efforts, during the few remaining months of the present year, to speed up the achievement of the MDGs, and remove the obstacles that prevent realising the desired level of some of those goals, notably those relating to the eradication of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. Additionally, the government monitors the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs in Egypt. This is due to the fact that those lessons are an essential pillar of Egypt's success in achieving the post-2015 SDGs.

In this respect, it should be noted that the government will not stop at determining the goals which Egypt has not achieved the desired progress. It will also conduct analytical studies on the goals that have already been achieved as per the desired levels, in order to monitor the strengths and weaknesses; determine the extent of effective achievement of these goals in terms of cost-effectiveness; determine the sustainability of such achievement; and determine the extent of full implementation of goals at all geographic levels and for all social groups and various income groups.

In this context, the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform adopted a national project to prepare the "Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030" to serve as the regulatory framework of sustainable development during the next fifteen years. This strategy represents a program of action in the coming period with a view to unite efforts towards one goal. It also represents an integrated development roadmap for Egypt. It

should be noted that the strategy was developed through a participatory planning approach, where the civil society and the private sector played a leading role in the formulation of the strategy, and in cooperation with all relevant parties of experts, academics, youth, and local and international development organizations. The strategy is characterized by the presence of a large number of performance measurement indicators that point to the progress that is being made towards the achievement of the desired goals on all aspects of the strategy. The vast majority of the performance measurement indicators are in line with the post-2015 SDGs.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform developed a special plan for organizing and holding a number of local consultative meetings besides the consultations organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard. These meetings shall be attended by representatives of the government and its executive organs, local authorities, civil society organisations, think tanks, universities, private sector, and other stakeholders. All categories, particularly youth and women, should be properly represented in these meetings in order to discuss:

*** Selection and prioritisation of the SDGs (and all that may be necessary to maintain, delete, add or merge some goals) according to the following criteria:**

- Egypt's progress towards the MDGs;
- Consistency between the proposed goals and the priorities of goals and targets contained in Egypt Development Strategy 2030 and future development plans;
- Consistency between the proposed goals and the orientations and principles set under the 2014 Constitution;
- Size of present and future economic, social and environmental challenges that Egypt may face;
- Achievement of a balance between reality and ambition pursued by goals and targets;
- Agreement or disagreement between the proposed priorities and the outcomes of consultations conducted by Egypt in cooperation with the United Nations in connection with these goals; and
- Threats and risks facing the Egyptian national security and human security.

*** Selection and prioritisation of the SDGs that can be achieved, measured, adapted and formulated in accordance with national and local context and regional reality.**

- The competent executive authorities, including ministries and institutions at the central and local levels, each within its respective spheres of competence and action, have started discussing and studying those goals and targets. These discussions and studies are aimed to get feedback on these goals and targets; determine the desired level to be reached for each target under the current and future local conditions; identify the indicators that can be used to measure progress achieved in those targets; and determine the requirements for implementing those goals and targets in terms of investments, data, legislation, local and international partnerships or regional agreements, and others. It is also necessary to take measures to ensure their inclusion within their various development plans, and develop an action plan for their implementation through following up the implementation of SDGs,

provided the follow-up findings should be included in the annual follow-up reports of these executive authorities. In this respect, it should be noted that the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform should be tasked with assessing and monitoring the implementation of SDGs on the national and local levels based on the follow-up reports of ministries, localities and other competent authorities, taking into account the importance of engaging CSOs in the follow-up process and urging them to prepare parallel reports.

- The magnitude and comprehensiveness of the proposed SDGs make the popular and institutional mobilisation on these goals more difficult,¹⁸ so the State works on raising awareness among various parties and groups on these goals and the importance of achieving them.
- With the multiplicity and interrelatedness of the proposed goals, hence the need for a new type of indicators to measure progress in achieving these goals, the concerned authorities seek to encourage research initiatives aimed to reconsider not only the new measurement indicators, but also those in use, such as the material and human poverty indicators. They should also encourage research initiatives aimed at analyzing the overlapping relations and connections between the goals and target, and their implications, as well as the consequences resulting from merging or deleting some of them¹⁹.
- The Egyptian government moves forward with actions to improve the business and investment climate and eliminate the obstacles that may face businessmen and investors, especially small ones, to direct more investments during the next phase. The government also applies competition incentives for investment in priority areas, such as Sinai and Upper Egypt, and in vital projects, such as water desalination, power, drinking water, and new and renewable energy plants and infrastructure, not only because Egypt is suffering from a large deficit in them, but because they fall well within the issues addressed by the proposed SDGs and represent a common factor for achieving many of these goals.
- Following up the achievement of SDGs requires providing a transparent framework for monitoring, follow-up and accountability, which engages many stakeholders to ensure effective follow-up of the progress towards the achievement of SDGs.
- Taking urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.²⁰ This step should be accompanied by efforts to strengthen the statistical capacity, allowing the preparation of development indicators characterised by being agreeable, measurable and comparable, both locally and internationally. This may require the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform to adopt, in cooperation with the Institute of National Planning (INP) and stakeholders, a research project on the data and statistics required to monitor and follow up the implementation of SDGs and their targets and measurement indicators. The said project shall specify the available data and introduce ways to develop them; add the required data and determine its periodicity; identify entities responsible for data-related tasks; define the means and mechanisms for the collection, analysis and preparation of databases; and identify the needed statistical capabilities and skills and investments and ways to finance them.

18 MDGs to SDGs: Top 10 Differences | Global Advocacy: Bottom-Up, Gender-Focused Development for All. <http://advocacy.thp.org/2014/08/08/mdgs-to-sdgs/>

19 Ibid.

20 United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, August 2014, paragraph 17, p. 22 (A/68/970).

B. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PREPARATIONS:

- Egypt seeks continuously to actively participate in all Arab and regional forums and meetings on the proposed SDGs to promote the Arab efforts aimed to include the Arab development priorities in the post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The Egyptian government considers exerting more efforts, in cooperation with the countries of the South, to develop their negotiating capacity with the developed countries and international organisations to modify the unfair terms and obligations which the countries of the South were forced to accept, especially in the World Trade Organisation. This is aimed to win more favorable terms in the fields of trade, investment, intellectual property, debt issues and international aid.²¹
- There is emphasis on the importance of cooperation with countries of the South in order to create a new financing institution in the framework of South-South cooperation along the lines of the BRICS Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, increasing the financing opportunities of sustainable development investment.²²
- Within the framework of regional and international cooperation mechanisms, Egypt may adopt the idea of creating an interactive platform of SDGs (SDGsLive), along the lines of the interactive website of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Live), to be supported by the United Nations and its various statistics, monitoring and reporting networks and mechanisms.²³ This is aimed not only to measure progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals and targets in developing countries, but also to address and remove any obstacles that may face the implementation of those SDGs.

²¹ Ibrahim Essawy, *Independent Development Model*, Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Arab Papers No. 29, August 2012, P. 22.

²² United Nations, *The Road to Dignity by 2030:*

Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet, Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda, New York, December 2014, p. 26.

²³ United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, Environmental Sustainability for Human Well-being in the post-2015 Development Agenda, UNEP/EA.1/INF/18, Nairobi, May 2014.

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