

[Unofficial Translation]

Human Rights Council  
Forty-Third session  
24 February-20 March 2020  
Agenda item 6  
Universal Periodic Review

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Egypt:**

Addendum

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review**

## **I. Introduction:**

1. Egypt takes pride in its entrenched tradition to promote and protect internationally recognised human rights. The Government avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to pursue its efforts in this regard, and to maintain rigorous action to promote such rights, both nationally and internationally, as well as continued active and constructive participation in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and all other relevant fora.
2. The government reaffirms its cooperation and support to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (UPR), since it hinges on the key principles of objectivity and transparency, and is based on a consultative and cooperative approach, thus enhancing the prospects for realising the aspired protection and promotion of human rights worldwide. Such process takes into account the unique geographical and cultural particularities of different communities, in conformity with the provisions of HRC Resolution 21/3 of 20 September 2012.
3. During the thirty-fourth session of the Working Group on UPR, on 13 November 2019, Egypt received 372 recommendations. These have been carefully considered through an inclusive coordination framework that engaged all relevant national and governmental actors, along with the National Council for Women (NCW), the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPD) and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in consultation with the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) and national NGOs. Necessary policies and measures have been thoroughly discussed to implement the recommendations approved, in compliance with the 2014 Constitution, its respective amendments and Egypt's commitments under international agreements.
4. The Government's position on the recommendations rests upon solid grounds established by the Constitution, which holds the respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the core of the State's political system. An entire chapter of the Constitution is dedicated to human rights, where specific rights have been introduced for the first time into Egypt's constitutional structure, such as the right to peaceful strike, in addition to reinforcing the freedoms of belief, thought, opinion and expression, scientific research, and artistic and literary innovation. The Constitution safeguards the right to establish civil society organisations and the right to peaceful assembly by notification only. Citizens' equality before the law is enshrined in the Constitution and they are entitled to enjoy rights and freedoms without discrimination for any reason whatsoever. The Constitution further emphasizes the importance of partnership between the State institutions and NGOs. It has put in place the guarantees necessary to safeguard and maintain the rights and freedoms therein.

## **II. Egypt's Position on the Recommendations:**

5. Prior to demonstrating its position on the received recommendations, the Government wishes to highlight the following:
  - The report presents the position vis-à-vis all recommendations, being classified into: fully accepted recommendations, partially accepted recommendations, implemented recommendations, unaccepted recommendations and factually incorrect recommendations, while two recommendations are deemed hostile;
  - Accepting recommendations, whether fully or partially, is in line with the provisions of the Constitution and Egypt's commitments international under international treaties;
  - The partial acceptance of recommendations is only limited to the accepted part;

- Implemented recommendations are those that had already been fulfilled prior to UPR, and do not require any further measures to implement;
- The explanation of position on certain recommendations is based on the Government’s understanding of their content, purpose, some terms contained therein, method of implementation, or the proposed timeframe for implementation;
- Unaccepting some recommendations is based on the fact that they contravene with the Constitution, the existing criminal justice system in Egypt, the principle of separation of powers, the principle of equality before the law, or the rights recognised in the International Human Rights Law;
- The Consideration of some recommendations being factually incorrect is due to inaccuracy in the phrasing or content thereof; and
- The deeming of two recommendations to be hostile is due to the fact that they include false and highly politicized allegations made by a party that publically maintains a hostile attitude against the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its people, which runs counter to the solid foundation of the UPR process.

**III. Following is the Government’s position on the recommendations received during the UPR cycle, classified in terms of the subject matter:**

**a) Acceding to International Human Rights Treaties, Honouring Commitments and Withdrawing Reservations Thereto:**

6. Article 151 of the Constitution mandates that the legislative, judicial, and executive authorities shall respect the provisions of ratified international treaties, as national laws, thus entitling those harmed by the lack of application of these treaties the right to pursue legal recourse. Furthermore, article 93 of the 2014 Constitution gives a special status to ratified international human rights treaties, hence the rights and freedoms by virtue of these treaties are have the protection granted to constitutional rules. Accordingly, it became viable for any stakeholder to resort to the Supreme Constitutional Court to challenge the constitutionality of legislations that do not concur with such treaties. This principle has been upheld in the rulings by the Supreme Constitutional Court. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

3-9-13-14-17-18

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

73

- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**

16<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> According to what was read out during UPR session, and adopted in the report by the Working Group on 15 November 2019, this recommendation is deemed factually incorrect. A Note Verbale No. CHAN/2020/070, dated 13 February 2020, was transmitted by the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office in Geneva to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, requesting to correct the recommendation according to the text that was read out and adopted, which was as follows:

“Accede to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.”

- **Unaccepted Recommendations:**  
6-7-8-10-12<sup>2</sup>-19-90<sup>3</sup>-97<sup>4</sup>-99<sup>5</sup>-115<sup>6</sup>

**b) Cooperation with International and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms:**

7. The Government is keen on active participation in human rights related fora, both at the international and regional levels, and on cooperation with treaty-bodies, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This was manifest as the Government received a special rapporteur in 2018 and invited 6 others to visit Egypt. Moreover, the Government is also keen on furthering civil society ties with UNHRC and its mechanisms. The Government will successively consider extending invitations to other special rapporteurs. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

1-2-21-24-26-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-37-38-39-40-41-42-51-195<sup>7</sup>-196<sup>8</sup>-205<sup>9</sup>

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

5-23

- **Unaccepted Recommendations:**

22-25-27

**c) Measures Relevant to Legislative and Institutional Frameworks:**

8. The Government continues its efforts to promote the institutional and legislative frameworks, so as to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Constitution asserts the independence of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), and the review of all domestic laws and legislations is underway to ensure that they conform to the 2014 Constitution. Moreover, the Government has taken major strides to combat corruption at all levels, upholding the principle of accountability, and has developed the 2019-2022 National Anti-Corruption Strategy. **Therefore:**

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<sup>2</sup> Egypt's position on this recommendation is based on document A/73/1004, dated 16 September 2019.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> The Government welcomes cooperation with the mechanisms of the United Nations and regional organisations on human rights. The Public Prosecution, being an independent judicial body, investigates any claim of intimidation or reprisal, and holds the perpetrators accountable, in application of the rule of law.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Egypt adopts contents of the "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms", issued by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 53/144 of 1998. The Government makes reference to article 2 thereof, whereby domestic laws constitute the legal framework that regulate the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the enjoyment thereof. The Government further stresses that all citizens are equal before the law, and according to the Declaration, there is a responsibility parallel to the enjoyments of the rights contained therein.

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**  
43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-52-53-54-55-56-86-91-151-153-154-156-157<sup>10</sup> -158-160-301-304-307-315-317-320-331-333-334-338-339-344-346-347-348-353-355-363-364
- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**  
312-327-330-332-340-345
- **Implemented Recommendations**  
60<sup>11</sup>-83<sup>12</sup>-93<sup>13</sup>-98<sup>14</sup>-102<sup>15</sup>-103<sup>16</sup>-106<sup>17</sup>-109<sup>18</sup>-134<sup>19</sup>-136<sup>20</sup>-350<sup>21</sup>
- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**  
94<sup>22</sup>-129<sup>23</sup>-203<sup>24</sup>-204<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> The position of the Advisor to the President on Combatting Corruption was established in 2015. *See* para. 69(C) of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>11</sup> The definition provided in Article 1 of the International Convention against Racial Discrimination is already embodied in the Egyptian Legislature, in light of Articles 93 and 151 of the Constitution. *See also* para. 6 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>12</sup> The Egyptian criminal legislature adopts the principles of gradualism and proportionality with regard to criminalisation and punishment, by means of setting out various descriptions and punishments for crimes, and is not restricted to a single description or punishment. It determines different penalties for each act, so that the penalties correspond to the severity of each aggression against a right under protection. *Review* para. 25 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1. On another note, Article 189 of the Constitution provides that “the Public Prosecution is an integral part of the judiciary, and shall be in charge of investigation, prosecution and initiation of criminal proceedings.” Thus, the criminal investigation is an exclusive jurisdiction of the Public Prosecution, which is already fulfilling this role. Hence, there is no need for devising additional mechanisms.

<sup>13</sup> This matter had been previously considered, and Egypt reached the position contained in footnote 2.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> The Anti-Terrorism Law had been revised and amended in compatibility with international human rights standards. It ensures that all the constitutionally and legally inviolable human rights are upheld without derogation. The Criminal Procedures Code, being the general law regulating criminal proceedings, applies in case of accusation of a crime of a terrorist nature. *Review* para. 81 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> The law prohibits the attestation of marriage contracts of anyone less than 18 calendar years of age from both sexes.

<sup>22</sup> No mass sentences are passed; nevertheless, culprits of the same crime stand trial in the same proceedings.

<sup>23</sup> No one faces imprisonment in Egypt for exercising the right to freedom of expression or the right to freedom of associations or peaceful assembly. However, violating the law entails punishment. *Review* paras. 12-15 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>24</sup> *See* footnote 48. Recently, the remaining laws referred to have been either enacted or amended in accordance with International Human Rights Law. Practical implementation will demonstrate whether further amendments need to be introduced.

<sup>25</sup> *See* footnote 48. Pursuant to article 184 of the Constitution, any interference in matters of justice or judicial proceedings is an imprescriptible crime.

- **Unaccepted Recommendations:**  
92-95<sup>26</sup>-100<sup>27</sup>-104<sup>28</sup>-105<sup>29</sup>-110<sup>30</sup>-111<sup>31</sup>-113<sup>32</sup>-114<sup>33</sup>-356

**d) Measures and Guarantees of the Judicial System:**

9. National legislation is rife with the necessary guarantees of fair trial, in accordance with international standards. Thereupon, the State is fully committed to observe the principle of separation of powers. Egypt is also committed to respecting and strengthening the independence of the judiciary, as the fundamental guarantee for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**  
68-69-74-77-82-101<sup>34</sup>-127-143-145-147-149-150

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**  
11-79-96-116-128-142-146-148

- **Implemented Recommendations**  
84<sup>35</sup>-85<sup>36</sup>

- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**  
125<sup>37</sup>-130<sup>38</sup>-201<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> The law allows for the imposition of the death penalty for the most serious crimes, similar to many countries worldwide, in accordance with Article 6 of ICCPR. However, the law has restricted such punishment by guarantees that strike a balance between the society's right to general deterrence and the individual's right to life. Meanwhile, the law ordains the application of all fair trial standards, and that the convicted shall not be subject to any kind of violation or cruelty. Death sentences are subject to review by the higher court, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and the law.

<sup>35</sup> The legislative, judicial and executive systems encompass a number of controls that prevent the practices of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Such controls ensure monitoring prisons and detention facilities, and safeguarding the rights of detainees and persons held in pre-trial detention. Immediate investigations in torture allegations are carried out by the competent judicial authorities, to verify them and ensure that the perpetrators of individual violations are duly punished and do not enjoy impunity, and that the rights of victims are safeguarded. *Review* paras. 25 and 26 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>36</sup> See footnote 12.

<sup>37</sup> See footnotes 12, 23 and 35.

<sup>38</sup> See footnotes 23 and 25.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

- **Hostile Recommendation:**

144

e) **Promoting Human Rights Culture, Learning and Training:**

10. The government endeavours to carry out activities and programmes to spread human rights culture, whether in academic curricula of basic, secondary and university education, or through the training for public officials and law enforcement personnel. The Government is determined to pursue these efforts. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

63-118-119-120-121-122-123-164-179-184-280-281-285-288-290-292-294-309-343-358

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

326

f) **The Rights of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities, The Family and other segments:**

11. Egypt firmly believes that the Family is the fundamental unit of society. The Constitution mandates to uphold the cohesion, stability and values of the Family. Egypt works on the international level to promote the respect of the commitment under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants to protect the Family. To this end, the Government declared 2017 as the Year of Women, 2018 the Year of Persons with Disability; and 2019 the Year of the Youth. Moreover, a number of legislative measures were taken, and a series of programmes were launched to empower women, the youth and persons with disabilities, whilst promoting the rights of, and the provision of necessary care and protection to, the child, as detailed in the national report. The Government will continue to pursue these efforts. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

67-176-244-248-293-298-299-300-303-306-308-310-311-313-314-316-318-319-321-323-325<sup>40</sup> -328-329-335-336-337-341-342-349-351-352-354-357

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

20-359

- **Implemented Recommendations**

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<sup>40</sup> The correct wording of the accepted recommendation, as it was read out during the UPR session, and adopted in the report by the working Group on 15 November 2019, is:  
“Implement the 2030 Strategy for Women adopted by Egypt in 2017.”

107<sup>41</sup>-112<sup>42</sup>-221<sup>43</sup>-282<sup>44</sup>

- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**  
108<sup>45</sup>

**g) Civil and Political Rights:**

12. The Constitution considers the freedom of belief as absolute, and prohibits all forms of discrimination. Any action or statement advocating hatred or discrimination is a crime punishable by law. The Government is taking the necessary measures to prevent individual malpractices in this regard. Furthermore, the Constitution and the law establish the rights of association and peaceful assembly by notification. The Government is deeply convinced that freedoms of the media, opinion and expression fundamental pillars of a healthy democracy. All citizens are indiscriminately equal before the law. The Government is endeavouring to fight impunity, in implantation of the rule of law, whilst observing the safeguards for respecting the human rights of those whose liberty is restricted. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

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<sup>41</sup> The Penal Code and the Law of the Child are void of any cruel or inhuman punishment upon the child. Article 111 of the Law of the Child ordains that penalties for crimes are reduced when committed by a child, and prohibits the imposition of capital punishment, life imprisonment and aggravated imprisonment.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> A number of national laws have been introduced to ensure equitable rights for both men and women. A draft law to amend the Law of Personal Status is being deliberated at the House of Representatives, in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, the principles of Islamic Sharia and Egypt's international commitments.

<sup>44</sup> Minors no more than 15 years old are tried in criminal cases before the Juvenile Court, whereas those over 15 years old are tried alongside adults only if they partake in the same criminal offence. In the latter case, the safeguards included in the Child Law are applied to them. They include commutation of sentences and the prohibition of the imposition of the death penalty, life imprisonment and aggravated imprisonment on the child. Sentences of the court of the first instance may be appealed through the judicial course before the higher court.

<sup>45</sup> Article 22 is not relevant to the prosecution of juveniles.



70-71-72-75<sup>46</sup>-76-80<sup>47</sup>-87-89-117-141-161-165-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-177-180-182-185-188-189-191-192-194<sup>48</sup>-200<sup>49</sup>-202<sup>50</sup>-206<sup>51</sup>-207<sup>52</sup>-220-222-272-360<sup>53</sup>-365<sup>54</sup>

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

4-62-163<sup>55</sup>-166-175-193-197<sup>56</sup>

- **Implemented Recommendations**

88<sup>57</sup>-178<sup>58</sup>-186<sup>59</sup>-187<sup>60</sup>-190<sup>61</sup>-198<sup>62</sup>-199<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> All forms and manifestations of torture constitute an imprescriptible crime. Further, international standards are observed with regard to the treatment of prisoners. Immediate investigations of any torture allegations are carried out by the competent judicial authority, to ensure that the perpetrators of individual violations are duly punished, and do not enjoy impunity. *Review* paras. 22-26 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>47</sup> Law No. 80 of 2016 regulating the building and renovation of churches and associated properties has already been enacted, as well as Prime Minister's Decision No. 199 of 2017 to establish a committee encompassing competent ministries, relevant authorities and a representative of the concerned Christian denomination, in order to consider the status of buildings and propose solutions for regularizing them. *Review* para. 16 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>48</sup> Law No. 149 of 2019 regulating the Exercise of Civil Work (NGOs Law) has been enacted, to supersede Law No. 70 of 2017. Its executive regulations are currently being finalized. *See* footnotes 9 and 58. *Review also* para. 12 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> In all cases, the imposition of corporal punishment upon children is prohibited by law. Moreover, Law No. 152 of 2001 abolished the punishment of whipping, being the last corporal punishment that existed hitherto.

<sup>54</sup> Egypt understands the term "minorities" to refer to individuals arriving in Egypt who belong to recognised minorities in their countries of origin, according to the Declaration adopted by UNGA resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992.

<sup>55</sup> According to the Egyptian legislature, the protection of the rights of all individuals is afforded without distinction. There is no need to enact a law to protect certain individuals. *See* footnotes 9 and 48.

<sup>56</sup> *See* footnotes 9, 25, 48 and 58.

<sup>57</sup> Article 201 of the Criminal Procedures Code, amended as per Law No. 145 of 2006, already provides alternatives for pre-trial detention. Accordingly, the investigation authorities may replace pre-trial detention orders with one of the following measures: (a) confining the accused to his/her home or district; (b) ordering the accused to present himself/herself to police headquarters at set times; or (c) prohibiting the accused from frequenting certain places. As an alternative to criminal proceedings that might result in custodial sentences, Law No. 74 of 2007 introduces a restorative justice scheme that endorses reconciliation for certain through a consideration paid by the convicted.

<sup>58</sup> According to the Egyptian legislature, the protection of the rights of all individuals afforded without distinction. The Public Prosecution immediately investigates any claims of intimidation or reprisal. *See* footnote 23. *Review also* para. 12 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>59</sup> *See* footnote 48.

<sup>60</sup> The National Elections Authority is currently working on improving the monitoring of elections. Relevant laws have been amended in conformity with the International Human Rights Law. *Review* paras. 11 and 13-15 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1. *See also* footnote 24.

<sup>61</sup> *See* footnote 24. *Review also* paras. 12 and 13 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>62</sup> *See* footnotes 9 and 58.

<sup>63</sup> *See* footnotes 9 and 24.

- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**

124<sup>64</sup>-126<sup>65</sup>-183<sup>66</sup>-208<sup>67</sup>

- **Unaccepted Recommendations:**

78<sup>68</sup>-81-140-162-372

- **Hostile Recommendation:**

167

**h) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:**

13. The Government has launched the Sustainable Development Strategy (Egypt Vision 2030), with an eye on establishing major projects for the provision of job opportunities, adequate housing, clean and safe drinking water, sanitation, healthcare and improving the quality of education, while respecting cultural pluralism. With the active participation of civil society, private sector and international development partners, the Government is determined to provide decent living conditions for all citizens, without distinction. The Government continues to implement its comprehensive economic reform scheme, along with the integrating informal economy into the formal economy. A chief target is to boost local investment, attract foreign investments and accelerate economic growth rates. **Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

58<sup>69</sup>-59<sup>70</sup>-64-65-66-152-155-159-181-210-217-219-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-245-246-247-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-273-274-275<sup>71</sup>-276-278-283-284-286<sup>72</sup>-287-289<sup>73</sup>-291-295-296-297-302-322-324<sup>74</sup>-362-366-371

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<sup>64</sup> See footnote 23.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. The Government does not block websites on its own. According to Law 175 of 2018, blocking of websites may only take place according to a justified injunction, in line with Article 19 of ICCPR. It may be appealed by those harmed before the relevant criminal court according to Article 8 of the said Law.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> The work of politicians and civil society is not criminalized. See footnotes 9 and 58.

<sup>68</sup> The Military Courts System is independent by virtue of the Constitution and the law. It applies the same fair trial guarantees set out in civil courts. *Review* para. 21 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1. Pursuant to article 184 of the Constitution, any interference in matters of justice or judicial proceedings is an imprescriptible crime.

<sup>69</sup> The Government considers the term “vulnerable groups” to mean women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and inhabitants of remote areas.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Issues of sexual health are taught in Egyptian academic curricula within the framework of reproductive health.

<sup>72</sup> See footnote 69.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> The correct wording of the accepted recommendation, as it was read out during the UPR session, and adopted in the report by the working Group on 15 November 2019, is:

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

277-279-361

- **Factually Incorrect Recommendations:**

57<sup>75</sup>-61<sup>76</sup>

i) **Combatting Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration:**

14. The Government is taking several human trafficking counter measures. This is represented in imposing grave penalties on related offences, or protecting the victims' rights, through the 2016-2021 National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons. While the Constitution guarantees the freedom of movement, residence and migration, and obligates serving the best interests of Egyptians abroad, it prohibits all forms of slavery, forced human exploitation and sex trade, and other forms of human trafficking. To this end, the law criminalizes all forms of migrant smuggling, and acknowledges the right to voluntary return. The government continues to pursue efforts to promote the rights of its citizens in Egypt and abroad, striving to combat such crimes and increasing awareness about them.  
**Therefore:**

- **Fully Accepted Recommendations:**

209-211-212-213-214-215-216-218-367-368-369-370<sup>77</sup>

- **Partially Accepted Recommendations:**

305

j) **Counter-Terrorism**

15. The Constitution obligates combating terrorism in all its forms, while upholding public rights and freedoms, and offering equitable compensations for victims of terrorism, to which the Government is committed. In order to safeguard the citizens' security and allow them to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Anti-Terrorism Law was enacted. Its stipulations ensure safeguarding all human rights, which are held inviolable by the Constitution and law, without derogation. Therefore, all recommendations under this section are **accepted:**

131-132-133-135-137-138-139

k) **Recommendations Irrelevant to the work of UNHRC:**

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“Continue to implement its national strategy to empower Egyptian women 2030, in line with its Constitution and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

<sup>75</sup> Egypt does not recognise the terminology contained in this recommendation.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> See footnote 69.

16. The Government only addressed recommendations relevant to UNHRC and international human rights treaties. Therefore, the following two recommendations are **unaccepted**:

15<sup>78</sup>-36<sup>79</sup>

#### **IV. Explanation of Position on Partially Accepted Recommendations**

**1. Recommendation No. 4:**

Ensure that detainees can have access to medical care, their lawyers and their relatives.

**2. Recommendation No. 5:**

Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**3. Recommendation No. 11:**

Ensure that competent authorities have the right to visit places of detention unexpectedly.

**4. Recommendation No. 20:**

Criminalize all forms of violence against women.

**5. Recommendation No. 23:**<sup>80</sup>

Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

**6. Recommendation No. 62:**<sup>81</sup>

Take steps to protect the rights of individuals and ensure that they are not subject to discriminatory arrest or prosecution.

**7. Recommendation No. 73:**

Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

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<sup>78</sup> Egypt has a reservation with regard to incurring additional obligations in this area, without corresponding measures to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

<sup>79</sup> Egypt agrees with the content of the Code of Conduct, but rejects partial solutions for Security Council reform, bearing in mind UNGA decision 62/557 and the Ezulwini Consensus.

<sup>80</sup> The Government extended invitations to 6 mandate holder to visit Egypt, and is awaiting the confirmation of the exact dates for the visits. Consecutively, it will consider other visit requests to ensure good preparations. *See* para. 89 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1 and para. 15 of document A/HRC/43/16.

<sup>81</sup> Egypt does not recognise the terminology contained in this recommendation. According to the Constitution and Law, all citizens are equal before the law. The rights of all individuals are protected without distinction, regardless of the charges pressed against any individual.

8. **Recommendation No. 79:**<sup>82</sup>  
Conduct investigations, in accordance with international standards, into excessive violence committed by security forces during demonstrations and to bring those responsible to justice.
9. **Recommendation No. 96:**  
Guarantee fair trial, particularly for those accused of crimes punishable by death.
10. **Recommendation No. 116:**<sup>83</sup>  
Ensure that no person who was a minor at the time of the crime is sentenced to death.
11. **Recommendation No. 128:**<sup>84</sup>  
Ensure fair trial guarantees for those remaining in detention.
12. **Recommendation No. 142:**<sup>85</sup>  
Guarantee the right to a fair trial.
13. **Recommendation No. 146:**<sup>86</sup>  
Ensure that pre-trial detention and all court proceedings fully comply with article 14 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
14. **Recommendation No. 148:**  
Guarantee the right to a fair trial in accordance with international obligations.
15. **Recommendation No. 163:**<sup>87</sup>  
Abolish or amend all laws and policies which limit the activities carried out by civil society.
16. **Recommendation No. 166:**  
Respect the right to access information.
17. **Recommendation No. 175:**<sup>88</sup>  
Commit to supporting a free and active civil society.

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<sup>82</sup> Neither the Armed Forces, nor its personnel, have any role in dealing with demonstrations, or dispersing riots resulting thereof.

<sup>83</sup> See footnote 41.

<sup>84</sup> See footnote 23. The law guarantees all fair trial safeguards, based on the Constitution and international standards. See para. 20 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1.

<sup>85</sup> The Constitution and law do not allow for the prosecution of civilians before military courts except in cases of military nature. *Review* para. 21 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1. See also footnote 68.

<sup>86</sup> The Egyptian legislature does not recognise mass trials. *Review* para. 20 of document A/HRC/WG.6/34/EGY/1 and para. 7 of document A/HRC/43/16.

<sup>87</sup> See footnote 55.

<sup>88</sup> See footnote 25. Cases under investigation or being considered by the judiciary may only end through a decision by the competent judicial authority to dismiss the criminal charges, or a final judgment of acquittal.

**18. Recommendation No. 193:**<sup>89</sup>

Foster an environment conducive to an active civil society.

**19. Recommendation No. 197:**<sup>90</sup>

Refrain from all forms of reprisal against human rights defenders.

**20. Recommendation No. 277:**<sup>91</sup>

Ensure adequate access to education.

**21. Recommendation no. 279:**<sup>92</sup>

Continue to increase the number of educational opportunities for women and girls, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

**22. Recommendation No. 305:**<sup>93</sup>

Take decisive actions to eradicate discrimination against women and girls and prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons.

**23. Recommendation No. 312:**<sup>94</sup>

Review the personal status legislation and the Penal Code in order to further modify or delete articles that discriminate against women.

**24. Recommendation No. 326:**<sup>95</sup>

Put in place programmes for men and boys to increase their knowledge of sexual-based violence against women and girls, seeking to extend such programmes to the whole country.

**25. Recommendation No. 327:**<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> See footnote 65.

<sup>90</sup> See footnote 9.

<sup>91</sup> According to the Constitution, there are no minorities in Egypt, and all citizens are equal in terms of rights and duties and before the law, without discrimination. Pre-university education is free of charge for all citizens without distinction, as Article 19 of the Constitution stipulates.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> According to the Constitution, there are no minorities in Egypt, and all citizens are equal in terms of rights and duties and before the law, without distinction.

<sup>94</sup> Reviewing laws is conducted through a totally separate process from that for the reconsideration of reservations on international treaties. Egypt periodically revisits its position vis-à-vis human rights related international instruments and the reservations thereon.

<sup>95</sup> Egypt understands the term “gender” as synonymous to “sex”, referring to the two sexes, male and female, in line with the definition included in Article 7 (3) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid. It is also worth noting that the Egyptian law criminalizes rape, and all forms of violence against women whatever its circumstances.

Introduce legal provisions to combat rape and other forms of sexual-based violence, in line with international law and standards.

**26. Recommendation No. 330:<sup>97</sup>**

Introduce legal provisions to combat rape and other forms of sexual-based violence, in accordance with international standards.

**27. Recommendation No. 332:<sup>98</sup>**

Introduce legal provisions to combat rape and other forms of sexual-based violence, in accordance with international law and standards.

**28. Recommendation No. 340:<sup>99</sup>**

Criminalize all forms of sexual violence against women.

**29. Recommendation No. 345:<sup>100</sup>**

Introduce legal provisions to combat rape and other forms of sexual-based violence, in line with international law and standards.

**30. Recommendation No. 359:<sup>101</sup>**

Prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings.

**31. Recommendation No. 361:<sup>102</sup>**

Adopt measures to ensure economic, social and cultural rights.

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<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> The law prohibits the application of corporal punishments on children in all settings.

<sup>102</sup> The Constitution safeguards equal rights for all citizens, without discrimination.