



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Civil Society Statement and Questions at VNR EGYPT during HLPF 2018

Egypt's VNR, covering all Goals, shows integrated vision and implementation, while introducing good governance and combating corruption and terrorism. Positive, too, is Egypt's energy sector diversification with renewables, balanced with environmental protection, toward Goals 7 and 15, noting the Goal 15 negative trend.

Egypt should highlight how it integrates biodiversity with development, as host of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP14, to support a UN-wide post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Goals 6/7/12/15).

But the VNR is silent about reaching deprived border and other marginalized areas and Egypt's indigenous peoples, including with land-tenure security. Race-based abuses of refugees in Egypt require corrective action.

Toward Goals 1 and 11, social housing eligibility and income brackets need restructuring to reach all families unable to afford market housing. Funding could come from New Urban Communities Authority revenues, instead of current surplus mechanisms. Progressive tax policies are needed also to reach Targets 10.4, 12.c and 17.1, and progress to reclaim Egypt's stolen assets (Target 16.6).

Egypt's educational system is the region's largest, but ranks among the last in quality[i] with low rates of return.[ii] Clarity is needed how Egypt will improve curriculum and methods, and introduce critical thinking.

As in 2016, this VNR still cites data unrelated to Target 5.a.[iii]

Goals 8 and 16 highlight the need for free labor-union development; Egypt shows how progress needs more monitoring and evaluation across the 2030 Agenda.

Can Egypt explain:

1. What actions address root causes of water scarcity and implement related FAO Regional Initiatives since 2016 (Targets 6.1, 6.4 and 6.5)?
2. What have central or local spheres of government done to achieve participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management (Target 11.3)?
3. What correctives will Egypt undertake to remove obstacles to independent civil organizations—not just charities—and their meaningful participation (Goal 17)?