National Council for Human Rights

Best Practices Adopted During the Third and Fourth Cycles of the Universal Periodic Review, Submitted by the National Council for Human Rights, and Proposals Related to the Fifth Cycle (2027–2032)

First: Introduction

With reference to the letter dated 14 January 2026 from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the request for a report from National Human Rights Institutions on best practices adopted during the third and fourth cycles of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), as well as proposals related to the fifth cycle (2027–2032), the National Council for Human Rights of the Arab Republic of Egypt is honored to submit this contribution.

This report reaffirms the Council's commitment to its constitutional and legal mandate and its adherence to the Paris Principles, as well as its continued dedication to contributing effectively to strengthening the Universal Periodic Review mechanism as one of the fundamental pillars of the international human rights system.

The Council submitted its third report in 2019. During that cycle, the Egyptian Government received 372 recommendations from Member States of the Human Rights Council. Of these, 270 recommendations were fully accepted, 31 were partially accepted, 24 were considered already implemented, 30 were rejected, two were dismissed outright as they contained politicized and inaccurate allegations, and 15 were rejected for being imprecise and incorrect.

The Council submitted its fourth report in 2024 before the UPR mechanism. During that review, Egypt received 343 recommendations, of which 269 were accepted, while 62 recommendations were noted but not accepted, either because they contained inaccurate information or because they conflicted with constitutional provisions or national cultural particularities.

Second: Best Practices Adopted by the National Council for Human Rights During the Third and Fourth Cycles

- **Follow-up on the Implementation of UPR Recommendations**

The Council played a pivotal role in monitoring and following up on the implementation of UPR recommendations issued to the Arab Republic of Egypt by preparing independent follow-up reports and providing objective observations based on field monitoring, complaints received, and direct engagement with relevant national authorities. The Council also worked to strengthen cooperation with the executive and legislative branches to support the integration of relevant recommendations into national policies and plans.

This was carried out on the basis of:

Constitution and Legislation

- The 2014 Egyptian Constitution and its amendments, which guarantee a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms and establish the independence of national human rights institutions.
- Law No. 197 of 2017 regulating the National Council for Human Rights, which strengthened the Council's mandate and independence and enabled it to exercise its competencies in monitoring, receiving complaints, intervention, and reporting.
- Criminal justice and criminal procedure laws related to fair trial guarantees, levels of litigation, combating torture, and protecting public rights and freedoms.
- The Penal Code (including the tightening of penalties for female genital mutilation and sexual harassment).
- Law No. 214 of 2020 regulating clinical medical research.
- Law No. 19 of 2024 concerning the Rights of Older Persons.

In this regard, the Council prepared legislative observations and submitted its recommendations to the competent authorities to support the harmonization of national legislation with international human rights standards. This contributed to amendments of certain legal provisions that further enhance human rights protections.

• Supporting and Implementing the National Human Rights Strategies

The Council actively participated in monitoring the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) as a comprehensive framework for

implementing a significant number of UPR recommendations, particularly in the areas of:

- Civil and political rights.
- Economic, social, and cultural rights.
- The rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, youth, and older persons.
- Capacity building and the promotion of a human rights culture.

The Council also contributed views and observations aimed at aligning the Strategy's executive action plans with priority UPR recommendations.

• Participation in Relevant National Mechanisms and Committees

- The Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights, which serves as a national coordination and reporting mechanism for engagement with international mechanisms, where the Council participated by providing independent perspectives and objective observations.
- Cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons, within the framework of implementing the national strategy to combat trafficking in persons and protect the most vulnerable groups.
- Coordination with national mechanisms concerned with the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities, contributing to the implementation of sectoral recommendations issued under the UPR.
- Cooperation with the Presidential Pardon Committee in the context of promoting the right to liberty and fair trial guarantees.

• Monitoring Implementation Through Complaints Mechanisms and Field Visits

The Council adopted a systematic analysis of its complaints mechanism, updated databases, and conducted regular field visits, including:

- 14 visits to reform and rehabilitation centers and places of detention during the period 2019–2024.

- Monitoring detention conditions and submitting recommendations for the application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules).

The linkage between individual complaints, field monitoring, and international recommendations represents a best practice that strengthens evidence-based follow-up.

• Consultative Methodology in Report Preparation

In preparing its 2019 and 2024 reports, the Council adopted an extensive consultative methodology, which included:

- Organizing broad regional meetings with civil society organizations in Cairo, Upper Egypt, and the Nile Delta, ensuring geographical representation and diversity of areas of work.
- Holding consultative meetings with representatives of both chambers of Parliament, specialized national councils, and a number of ministries and national authorities.
- Engaging organizations holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- Participating in UPR outcome adoption sessions and following up on accepted recommendations through advocacy and monitoring activities.

This methodology constitutes a best practice that enhanced the quality and accuracy of the contributions submitted.

Third: Innovative Proposals for the Fifth Cycle (2027–2032)

• Linking UPR Recommendations to Time-Bound Legislative and Executive Plans

Proposing the development of a national matrix linking UPR recommendations with relevant legislation and national strategies, identifying implementing entities, timelines, and performance indicators.

• Institutionalizing National Consultations

Establishing a permanent and structured consultation mechanism bringing together the Government, the Council, and civil society, active throughout all phases of the UPR cycle.

• Strengthening Regional Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

Promoting the exchange of legislative and institutional experiences at the regional and international levels within the framework of UPR reporting, and enhancing learning at both regional and international levels.