

The Arab Republic of Egypt

Position for the League of Arab States

I. Empowering Youth by Providing Equal Access to Education and Employment Opportunities

The Arab Republic of Egypt (Egypt) recognizes the importance of implementing equal access to education and employment opportunities to help provide a more prosperous future for our youth. **Internationally**, Egypt signed the *Doha Declaration*, which implements full work opportunities as well as political participation for all youth. In the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI), Egypt recognized the importance of youth contributing socially and economically for overall growth in the country. Egypt also signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which works towards granting these rights to all citizens, including youths. Additionally labor, health, and education are implemented under the covenant as those rights. The United States-Egypt Higher Education Initiative was launched in 2015 to help provide educational opportunities for high-achieving Egyptians. Through this initiative, students learn skills that will benefit the Egyptian economy in the future. The United States-Egypt Higher Education initiative will also distribute scholarships to underserved Egyptian universities. **Regionally**, Egypt endorses the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, which implemented the international convention for the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in order to include disabled persons into the educational system with equal opportunities that are provided for other students and to eliminate any obstacles that prevent them from doing so. The convention also focused on implementing special training regarding communication skills, community development and administrative skills for disabled persons to apply for future employment. In 2013, Egypt was also the first country in the region to sign a youth-oriented volunteer program with the United Nations, called the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV). Under the UNV, a project called the Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future empowers youth to integrate their passion and energy into socio-economic development throughout the region. The United Nations Population Fund (UNDP) in Egypt focuses on empowering youth by working with organizations and other governments in the region. UNDP in Egypt provides the Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, which ensures that gender equality and the empowerment of girls are included in all of UNDP's work to reduce inequalities and promote the involvement of girls to eradicate poverty. **Nationally**, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Egypt's Ministry of Education launched the Competitive School Project, which works with secondary school students and helps them understand valuable information technology and scientific research skills. In 2014, Egypt's constitution granted numerous rights to its over 10 million disabled citizens. Article 81 of the constitution states that all disabled persons shall have equal educational, social, cultural, health and economic rights. It also comments that the state shall provide work opportunities for disabled citizens. Article 82 of the constitution implements the rights of Egyptian youth noting that the state shall help the youth discover their talents socially, physically and culturally to encourage them to participate and contribute those abilities to public life in Egypt. In addition, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Egypt is working in both Upper and Lower Egypt for women's economic empowerment. UN Women is implementing this by providing both financial and non-financial services that will not only help women gain business skills but also give Egyptian women a sense of economic security. **Moving Forward**, Egypt proposes an all-inclusive **action plan titled, M.E.E.T:** Mobilizing and organizing with nongovernmental organizations as well as governmental organizations within respective borders on the importance of having and demanding an all-inclusive society, Educating employers, teachers, and city representatives as they

play an integral role in re-shaping society, and will be taught on how to provide more disability-friendly opportunities, as well as eliminate any prejudices towards them. Establish an inter-connected online network that will allow youth to connect with each other on a national and regional scale to learn about different skill-based opportunities in the area and serve as a platform to share related resources, advice, and successful education methods. Transition into an all-inclusive society where youth from all backgrounds are included into both the educational and employment world within their borders is the final step. Through the creation of new legislation, it will implement equal access to education and employment opportunities more specifically for all youth, as well as renewing any laws that were already in place to highlight their importance and reaffirm the support for an all-inclusive society.

II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Terrorism

Egypt reaffirms the importance of LAS Member States' commitment to strengthening regional cooperation to combat terrorism in order to prevent the spread of instability and enhance security currently in the Middle East. Egypt further believes that these developments of counter-terrorist activities are essential and paramount to the safety of human rights and state sovereignty of Member States. **Internationally**, Egypt has a pleasing track record of tackling terrorism as evidenced by our continued cooperation with the UN Counter Terrorism Committee. Egypt continually complies with S/RES/ 1373 as well as S/RES/1624. Using Egypt's knowledge, experiences and expertise from the field, it will be possible to make a qualitative leap in the field of criminal justice and counter terrorism. Egypt also strongly supports the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism resolution, A/RES/ 54/103, and assisted in the establishment of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Egypt and the U.S. bilaterally focus on expanding the security relationship and regional balance of power by securing the shared interests and sustaining the peace treaty with Israel. Egypt believes that addressing the conditions to terrorism, the Member States need to agree on removing the political, economic as well as the security conditions that lead to its rise. **Regionally**, Egypt signed and ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted by the Organization of African Unity in 1999 and the Convention of the Organization of Islamic Conference on Combating Terrorism in 1999. Egypt has agreed to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to distinguish terrorism from the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and foreign aggression and let the states they appear in as persons, combat the incident based on agreed international laws. The Suez Canal is a vital international waterway, important to global commerce and also a very important and strategic entrance to the Sinai Peninsula that can serve to help control the possible attempt of Islamic groups on extending its operations through the Middle East. Utilizing help to India has been on the agenda of the African Union, with Egypt as one of the main contributor, to help strengthen the security of the Suez Canal and invest on its development and improvement. Egypt, along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, United States of America, and Jordan, has created a coalition that will work to combat the extremist groups in the Middle East. **Nationally**, Egypt's President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, is working to keep stability and order and fight against Islamist militants in the Sinai Peninsula with the Draft Counterterrorism Bill. This bill would extend judicial jurisdiction over terrorism cases outside of Egypt's borders and also delineate punishments for incitement or attempts to commit or give material support to a terrorist act, even if the intended attack was or is not carried out. Egypt has created an Anti-Terrorism Law that is strictly protecting the social and political issues with preemptive measures and precautionary procedures. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) is a non-profit NGO that has been taking great steps on countering terrorism and praising human rights by condemning all acts of violence and terrorism and calling entities such as the government to bring justice. To further combat the acts and spread of terrorism, Egypt proposes the following **3-step action plan**. **1:** Egypt calls upon the integration of public, private national and international actors to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism by horizontally implementing relevant legal instruments as the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, thereby

enhancing through its mandate its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. 2: Create state-by-state assessments to be done to ensure that proper strategic resolutions are created specifically to promote mechanisms conducive to positive peace using the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which reaffirms respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism as a framework and 3: Promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, respectful of all religions and religious values by establishing and encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes involving all sectors of society as seen in A/RES/60/288.