

64



Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Fourteenth Session**

Switzerland

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(Geneva, 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2012)

Amb. Wafaa Basseem

Permanent Rep. of Egypt to the UN

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Madame President,

Egypt warmly welcomes the delegation of Switzerland, and thanks it for the valuable presentation. We also welcome all efforts exerted in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle, especially acceding to a number of international and regional human rights instruments. We commend the ongoing Swiss efforts in promoting women and children's rights, as well as the responsiveness displayed towards requests for cooperation in repatriating illicit funds and assets.

We take note of the measures taken to combat racism, xenophobia, and religious intolerance, yet this particular issue remains a major source of concern. Some Political parties continue to launch "Popular initiatives" that directly undermine the rights and freedoms of others. Referenda on minarets and expulsion of foreign nationals committing serious crimes are remarkable examples in this regard.

In this context, we recommend the following:

- 1) To introduce prompt constitutional and legislative measures ensuring that "popular initiatives" do not violate the human rights of certain individuals or groups.
- 2) To adopt comprehensive Anti-discrimination strategies providing concrete legal measures against hate speech and incitement, including dedicated measures to be introduced through electoral laws and regulations.
- 3) To implement the previously accepted recommendation regarding the ratification of the CRPD.
- 4) And finally, To ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Immigrant Workers, and withdraw the reservations on the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

I Thank you.