



Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to
the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Review of Norway

(Geneva, 28th of April 2014)

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Norway, and thanks it for the introductory presentation.

During the four years that followed the 1st review, Norway enacted a number of laws and policies to implement the outcome of the first cycle. Though relative progress was achieved, many areas remain to be a source of serious concern. Reports indicate that the socio-economic conditions and unemployment rates of migrants did not improve, and that the representation of citizens with a migrant background in the new cabinet is almost non-existent, although migrants currently constitute almost one-fifth of the Norwegian population. In the same vein, it was noted that the level of hate speech and incitement from Far Right political forces, particularly the Norwegian Defense League, specifically against Muslims, has significantly increased.

We urge the Government to effectively address these concerns, and investigate allegations of instances of ill-treatment based on racial profiling by law enforcement officials, recorded cases of refoulement of asylum seekers, and disappearances of unaccompanied minors from asylum centers.

On the other hand, we share CEDAW's concerns with respect to the high prevalence of violence against women, and the limited level of prosecution, that did not exceed 25% in 2012 according to some reports, as well as of cases of rape and sexual violence.

In conclusion, we recommend the following:

- 1- To establish a National Human Rights Institution in full conformity with the Paris Principles.
- 2- To incorporate, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation, the Convention against Torture into the domestic law.
- 3- To accede to the ICRMW, and withdraw its reservation on Article 10 of the ICCPR.
- 4- To amend its criminal codes to address hate speech and incitement to violence and discrimination in the context of the media and elections' campaigning.
- 5- To provide, in accordance with its obligations under International Human Rights Law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society.

I thank you.

