

**Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
20th Session**

Review of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Closing Remarks

Delivered by:

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Mr. President,

At the end of this session, I would like to express thanks to all heads and members of delegations on their in-depth interventions and constructive recommendations that presented important thoughts and ideas.

I have sensed the degree of interest expressed by the international community in Egyptian affairs and the situation of human rights in the country. This, no doubt, reflects keenness to present advice and support to the people of Egypt, and support to our efforts in building a strong stable state founded on citizenship, respect for the human rights of its citizens, and ensuring the widest possible guarantees for their preservation .. a state where violence is renounced, and the values of tolerance and dialogue are reinforced. I would like to emphasize here that the recommendations you presented to us today will be carefully studied in a manner reflective of our appreciation to this mechanism and the constructive dialogue it provides.

We in Egypt realize that we have major challenges and the path is still long to reach what we aim for to achieve the aspirations of our people. This relates in particular to the circumstances and political developments Egypt is passing through, within the context of an

impending danger of terrorism .. terrorism that threatens the right of the Egyptian people to peace and security and to life. The sweeping exceptional circumstances and social and political developments have impinged upon the psyche of the Egyptian people. This means that they will require more time to digest the consequences of the events and crystalize their vision for a joint path toward the future.

The people of Egypt realized that the transition process will not be speedy, but rather requires time and tireless efforts, more than what was expected at the onset of the revolution. They also realized that the building of a new state edifice has to be based on more solid foundations ensuring its stability and sustainability.

It is no matter of exaggeration to note that we have already come a long way on our path. We have succeeded in drafting a Constitution, of which we are proud, as it establishes a democratic state and lays the foundations for true social justice. We consider it a pivotal launching point in the field of rights and freedoms, as it includes several State obligations in this regard. We have also elected a new president with a high voter turnout.

In order to translate the relevant commitments into concrete reality, the State has already begun drafting various legislative amendments to be in line with the Constitution. A number of laws, required by the Constitution, are underway as I have previously mentioned. However, efforts in this domain do not and should not stop at legislative reform. This has to be paralleled with reform policies and programmes of action toward development. Such an approach renders itself to the concept of transitional justice in Egypt that has institutional reform, the right to development, and social justice among its pillars. A large part of what we have previously suffered in Egypt could be seen from the lens of political and social marginalization and the absence of true social dialogue. Therefore, and as I mentioned earlier, such issues require close study and working on solutions to come at the core of our plan for reform. Evaluating the achievements realized so far in the area of rights and

freedoms since the first review process in 2010 has to be carried out within the context of the comprehensive view of events and circumstances.

I wish to reiterate that Egypt and its people are full of hopes for a future with a thriving environment for rights, where justice and life in dignity are achieved .. a future created by our own hands and based on our strong will.

Thank you.