HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Seventh session
Geneva, 8-19 February 2010

COMPILATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1

Egypt

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core universal human rights treaties</th>
<th>Date of ratification, accession or succession</th>
<th>Declarations / reservations</th>
<th>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>1 May 1967</td>
<td>Yes (art. 22)</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>14 Jan. 1982</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>14 Jan. 1982</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>18 Sept. 1981</td>
<td>Yes (arts. 2, 16 and 29)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>25 June 1986 (a)</td>
<td>Yes (art.20)</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 22): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>6 July 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>6 Feb. 2007 (a)</td>
<td>Binding declaration under art 3; 16 years</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>12 July 2002 (a)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td>19 Feb. 1993 (a)</td>
<td>Yes (arts. 4 and 18, para. (6))</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 77): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>14 April 2008</td>
<td>Yes (art. 12)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other main relevant international instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratification, accession or succession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees and stateless persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) urged the Government to sign and ratify the OP-CEDAW. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism recommended that Egypt ratify the OP-CAT. Egypt was invited to consider making the declaration under article 14 of ICERD, articles 21 and 22 of CAT, and articles 76 and 77 of the ICRMW. CEDAW indicated that articles 2 and 16 are central to the object and purpose of the Convention and that Egypt’s reservations to those articles should be withdrawn. The Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers (CMW) encouraged Egypt to review its reservations to articles 4 and 18, paragraph 6 of ICRMW, with a view to withdrawing them. The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) noted the general and ambiguous nature of the declaration made by Egypt upon ratifying the Covenant and recommended that Egypt either clarify the scope of its declaration or withdraw it.
B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism urged the Government to lift the state of emergency and repeal the Emergency Law, including all decrees issued under it, with a view to restoring the rule of law and full compliance with human rights.\(^{17}\) While acknowledging the right of a State to proclaim a state of emergency as a temporary measure determined by the exigencies of the situation and reiterating that terrorism as a phenomenon should in principle be combated through ordinary penal legislation\(^ {18}\), the Special Rapporteur was concerned that Egypt has been almost continuously governed by emergency law, which includes far-reaching restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms, for more than 50 years,\(^ {19}\) exceptional measures can be used only as a temporary tool, with the primary objective of restoring a state of normalcy where full compliance with international standards of human rights can be secured again.\(^ {20}\) In 2007, CMW noted that Egypt envisaged the possibility of lifting the state of emergency.\(^ {21}\)

3. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism noted that 34 articles of the Constitution were amended in 2007. Amended article 179 is considered to be the basis for an anti-terrorism law under preparation. It established that legal provisions related to the leading inquiry and investigations procedures to encounter these dangers shall not be precluded by constitutional provisions that guarantee judicial oversight of detention, home searches and surveillance or seizure of communications. He noted that article 179 carries features of a permanent state of emergency.\(^ {22}\) As an essential step in this direction, he recommended that article 179 of the Constitution be revised in order to secure compliance with international standards protecting personal liberty and privacy.\(^ {23}\)

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

4. The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) was accredited with “A” status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) in October 2006.\(^ {24}\)

5. CEDAW welcomed the establishment of the National Council for Women (NCW) and that non-governmental organizations are represented in the Council.\(^ {25}\)

D. Policy measures

6. In 2009, UNICEF mentioned that the Children’s Act 1996 as amended in 2008 mandates the formation of Child Protection Committees in every governorate and in district committees.\(^ {26}\) In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that these Committees would be set up at all police centres and departments.\(^ {27}\)

7. In 2000, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) strongly recommended that Egypt develop a national plan of action for human rights.\(^ {28}\)
## II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

### A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

#### 1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Latest report submitted and considered</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Follow-up response</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Aug. 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined seventeenth and eighteenth reports overdue since 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>May 2000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined second to fourth reports overdue since 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Jan. 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined sixth and seventh reports received February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>November 2002</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fifth report overdue since June 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>January 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined third and fourth reports received 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC- AC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report overdue since March 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC- SC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report overdue since August 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMW</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>April 2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Second report overdue since July 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report due May 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing invitation issued</th>
<th>Latest visits or mission reports</th>
<th>Visits agreed upon in principle</th>
<th>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</th>
<th>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism (17-21 April 2009)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (requested in 2003, reminder sent in 2008); Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (requested in 2005); Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (requested in 1996 and 2007); Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (requested in 2008); Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (requested in 2008); Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (requested in 2009); Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism (requested in 2009).</td>
<td>The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism and the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation thanked the Government of Egypt for its cooperation during their visits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow-up to visits -
Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals

During the period under review, 56 communications were sent concerning, inter alia, particular groups and including 17 women. The Government replied to 26 communications, representing replies to 46.4 per cent of communications sent.

Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues

Egypt responded to 4 of the 16 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders, within the deadlines.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

8. In 2009, UNICEF noted that the religious and patriarchal culture as well as the social environment in Egypt are sometimes used to justify discrimination against women and legal protections for women are not enforced by government officials, preventing women from experiencing equal treatment and equal opportunities under the law. The United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA) in 2005 noted that socio-cultural attitudes are deeply rooted and referred to CEDAW’s recommendation urging Egypt to pursue awareness-raising programmes targeted specifically at men. In 2002, the HR Committee, while welcoming steps taken, encouraged the stepping up of efforts to secure greater participation by women at all levels of society and the State, including decision-making positions, inter alia, by ensuring that women in rural areas learn to read and write. CEDAW also recommended that the Government, inter alia, develop additional policies and programmes aimed at the economic empowerment of rural women, ensuring their access to health-care services and to social and cultural opportunities.

9. In 2001, CEDAW expressed concern that article 11 of the Constitution appeared to entrench women’s primary role as mother and homemaker. Treaty bodies also referred to some provisions of the Penal Code, which do not treat men and women equally in matters of adultery; that women seeking divorce through unilateral repudiation by virtue of Act No. 1 of 2000 (khul) must forego their rights to financial support and, in particular, to their dowries; the discrimination affecting women as regards the rules governing inheritance; and the continued legal authorization of polygamy. In 2001, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Egypt take effective measures, including enacting or rescinding civil and criminal legislation where necessary, to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of sex and birth in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life.

10. In 2007, CMW noted that the principle of non-discrimination as defined in article 40 of the Constitution refers only to Egyptian citizens. It was concerned about reports that some migrant workers and their families suffer from discrimination in the area of employment, housing, limited access to health and education and from social stigmatization.

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

11. In 2002, the HR Committee noted with concern the very large number of offences which, under Egyptian law, are punishable by the death penalty and recommended that Egypt review the question of the death penalty in light of the provisions of article 6 of ICCPR. In its follow-up response, Egypt explained how the infliction of the penalty is subject to numerous conditions and legal and constitutional procedures.
12. In September 2008, two special procedures sent a letter of allegation to the Government concerning reports of the use of lethal force by Egyptian border guards against migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees from other African countries trying to cross the border without authorization.  

13. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism drew attention to the comments of CAT and the HR Committee,\textsuperscript{51} which, in 2002, expressed concern at the persistence of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment at the hands of law-enforcement personnel, in particular the security services, whose recourse to such practices appears to display a systematic pattern.\textsuperscript{52} The Special Rapporteur recommended the adoption of a mechanism that provides for the mandatory conduct of independent, unrestricted and unannounced inspections at all places of detention, including SSI premises and military institutions involved in counter-terrorism that have been consistently pointed out as irregular detention facilities.\textsuperscript{53}  

14. CAT in 2002\textsuperscript{54} and the Special Rapporteur in 2009 urged the Government to abolish any legal provisions allowing for administrative detention and to take effective measures to release or bring to trial all detainees currently subjected to that regime;\textsuperscript{55} and explicitly prohibit and end the practice of incommunicado detention as well as ensure that detainees are only held in officially recognized detention facilities in which the prompt and unhindered access to lawyers, doctors and family members is guaranteed.\textsuperscript{56} Additionally, the Special Rapporteur referred to claims that the signature of so-called ‘declarations of repentance’ were used as a bargaining tool or a condition for releasing terrorist suspects who are subject to administrative detention.\textsuperscript{57} He recommended that the Government discontinue the renewal of administrative detention when a person has been granted release by a court.\textsuperscript{58} In 2002, the HR Committee also noted that detention conditions inconsistent with the Covenant persisted.\textsuperscript{59}  

15. The 2007-2011 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) indicated that despite protective provisions in the Penal Code, violence against women is a serious concern, whether occurring in the home, at the work place, or in the public sphere, as highlighted also by UNICEF.\textsuperscript{60} The 2005 CCA\textsuperscript{61} highlighted that according to CEDAW in 2001, the Government needed to take measures to prevent and eliminate domestic violence, marital rape, violence against women in detention centres and so called “honour crimes”. UNICEF noted the need for a law on sexual harassment, with a strong mechanism for enforcement and monitoring.\textsuperscript{62}  

16. The 2005 CCA highlighted that there is particular concern about the welfare of street children and working children.\textsuperscript{63} UNICEF in 2009 reported that there are several incidences occurring in Egypt in organ trafficking among street children and child trafficking associated with illegal immigration and in the form of domestic workers.\textsuperscript{64} CRC, in 2001, noted that 80 per cent of child labour was reportedly concentrated in the agricultural sector.\textsuperscript{65}  

17. UNICEF stated that the Government, led by the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), has prioritized the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. The latest figures show that, among 15-17 year old girls, 74.4 per cent have been cut. In 2007 an important health ministry decree was issued banning everyone from performing FGM/C (77.4 per cent of practices are reportedly performed by trained medical personnel). In 2007, the Azhar Supreme Council for Islamic Research issued a statement explaining that FGM/C has no basis in the core Islamic Sharia or any of its partial provisions.\textsuperscript{66}
3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

18. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism stated that the trial of civilian terrorist suspects in military and Emergency Supreme State Security Courts raised concerns about the impartial and independent administration of justice and did not comply with the right to have a conviction and sentence fully reviewed by a higher court. He also considered that these special judicial regimes seriously undermined the strict distinction between the judiciary and the executive. He urged the Government to ensure that all cases involving terrorism, whether they are prosecuted in an ordinary criminal court or in a specialized court, are tried in strict compliance with each of the guarantees as spelled out in article 14 of ICCPR.

19. Following communications sent by special procedures mandate holders in February, March and May 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, in July 2006, expressed his serious apprehension about the negative impact that the Judicial Authority Law, approved by Parliament in June 2006, may have on the independence of the judiciary. He urged the Government to consider refraining from promulgating the proposed law and to relaunch the legislative process. In July 2006, the Government replied indicating that it is not within the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to comment on laws approved by the Egyptian Parliament, or to attempt to intervene with the executive branch of Government with a view to a veto of these laws.

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

20. In 2002, CAT recommended removing all ambiguity in legislation which might underpin the persecution of individuals because of their sexual orientation. Steps should also be taken to prevent all degrading treatment during body searches. In 2009, UNICEF reported that Egypt is classified as a low prevalence country for HIV/AIDS, but has a potential concentrated epidemic among men having sex with men. In March and August 2009, three special procedures sent joint communications regarding five and twelve men respectively, who were arrested, some subject to intrusive and abusive forensic anal examinations, tested for HIV without their consent and charged under article 9(c) of Law 10/961 for crimes relating to conduct of a homosexual nature. The Government replied to the communication of March 2009 indicating that two men were charged with “habitual practices of debauchery”; that verdicts were not related to the defendants’ “sexuality” or “sexual orientation”; and allegation that defendants were tried simply for being HIV positive or carrying AIDS was also unfounded.

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

21. Between 2006 and 2009, eleven joint and individual communications were sent by six Special Procedures mandate holders, regarding cases of lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists, members of human rights organizations and members of the judiciary some charged with defamation or disturbing public order, who were harassed; intimidated; attacked; arrested, including without a warrant; held in detention, including incommunicado detention; and at risk of torture or ill-treatment by Police and SSI officers, in relation to their legitimate activities in defence of human rights, including participation in peaceful demonstrations and criticizing irregularities in the Government. Where it responded, Egypt indicated, inter alia, that allegations were being reviewed and investigations were ongoing.
22. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, in 2007, expressed concern about the obligation to indicate one’s religious affiliation on birth certificates and identity cards, while noting recent positive developments in that regard with respect to members of the Baha’i community. While in 2002, the HR Committee was concerned about infringements of the right to freedom of religion or belief. It deplored the ban on worship imposed on the Baha’i community.

23. Six treaty bodies referred to issues concerning restrictions placed by Egyptian legislation or practice on the registration or activities of non-governmental organizations, particularly those dealing with human rights issues. In 2007, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders expressed concern for the closure of human rights related organizations. A communication was sent in January 2008, related to a human rights activist working particularly on behalf of the rights of the Sinai community in Egypt, and another in October 2007, related to two advocates for the rights of Egypt's Shia minority. Both men were arrested on charges of having published “false information aimed at agitating public opinion” relating to torture in Egyptian prisons.

24. In 2000, CESCR was gravely concerned over the official censorship imposed on the media, as well as literary and artistic works. In 2002, the HR Committee noted the de jure and de facto impediments to the establishment and functioning of political parties. The 2008 annual report of the Resident Coordinator indicated that, while commentators have acknowledged greater press freedom in recent years, alleged human rights violations and press freedom crackdowns were reported, including imprisonment of journalists, online censorship and curtailing the right to nonviolent protest. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism referred to the arrest and detention of, inter alia, a number of Internet bloggers critical of the Government, and members of the country’s largest opposition group the Muslim Brotherhood. He noted that the Government is seeking to develop an international strategy on combating terrorists’ use of the Internet. He recommended that any counter-terrorism measure that results in the restriction of human rights, particularly freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, be brought into compliance with the requirements of necessity and proportionality and applied in accordance with clearly defined legal criteria. Furthermore, he recommended the enactment and consistent implementation of explicit legal safeguards to prevent any deliberate use of counter-terrorism measures aiming at negatively affecting open dialogue and criticism, including against the Government.

25. In 2000, CESCR was disturbed about the apparent inability of the Government to address the acute problem of unemployment in Egypt as well as the uncertainty of workers’ rights. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to amend sections 7, 13, 14, 17 and 52 of the Trade Union Act so as to secure the right of workers to establish and join organizations of their own choosing at all levels outside the existing trade union structure.

26. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to take the necessary measures to ensure that the categories of workers excluded from the scope of the Labour Code enjoy the right to strike. The ILO Committee of Experts also requested, inter alia, that Egypt amend section 69(9) of the Labour Code to ensure that workers who have participated in legitimate strike action are not penalized on the grounds that the strike notice does not specify the duration of the strike. In 2007, CMW
recommended, inter alia, that the Labour Code be amended in order to apply to domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, or that new legislation be adopted to provide protection to them.  

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

27. The 2005 CCA indicated that root causes of poverty in Egypt relate to, inter alia, unequal distribution of wealth, a growth structure which marginalizes Upper Egypt, excessive centralization of social, economic and political authority for basic service provision and insufficient “voice of the poor” to influence policy making. UNICEF in 2009 reported on the results of a study on the situation of child poverty, which found that shelter and food were the areas with the highest levels of deprivation. Food deprivation is likely to have significantly worsened due to the food price crisis. The 2005 CCA highlighted that with the exception of the baladi bread subsidy, the poverty reduction impact of social safety net programmes appears to be extremely weak. For example the social assistance programmes of the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs have lifted less than 4 per cent of all poor from poverty.

28. In 2000, CESCR was concerned about the massive housing problems faced by the population, as acknowledged by the delegation of Egypt. Forced evictions without alternative housing or compensation had occurred in poor communities. In Cairo people who cannot afford housing are living in cemeteries. CESCR urged Egypt to combat the acute housing shortage by, inter alia, building or providing, low-cost rental housing units.

29. The independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation following her visit in 2009 noted that there are important disparities, particularly with respect to the challenges of water quality, access to sanitation and affordability. She recommended that the Government prioritize access to safe drinking water and sanitation for those living in rural areas, those living in informal settlements, and the poor.

30. The 2005 CCA indicated that in spite of improvements in the health services vast variations still existed. UNICEF, in 2009, noted that today most Egyptian children enjoy their most basic right, the right to survival and that increasing health insurance coverage to 90 per cent of children and providing vaccination coverage to more than 95 per cent of children were among the main goals of the Second Decade for the Protection of the Egyptian Child. UNICEF reported that Egypt has the highest number globally for Hepatitis C infection and that stigma and discrimination against individuals infected with HIV and AIDS is considerably high. UNICEF also stated that implementing the CRPD will be a challenge. Findings indicate that less than 20 per cent of children with disabilities in Upper Egypt were benefiting from public services including health, education and social welfare.

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

31. UNICEF highlighted that Egypt has made substantial progress and is on track to meet the MDG Goal 2 on primary education by 2015 if extra efforts are made and specific attention is paid to selected governorates and specific social groups. Non-enrolment is still problematic, and school dropout rate still remains a challenge. The 2005 CCA indicated that corporal punishment, while prohibited in schools, was commonly quoted by working children and street children as a reason for dropping out of school. Studies show that upgrading school facilities remains an issue, with many school buildings being unfit for use. In 2001, CRC remained concerned at the poor quality of education in general.
In 2000, CESCR urged Egypt to address the economic, social and cultural factors that are the root causes of the problem of inequality of access to education, high dropout rates for boys and high illiteracy rates among adults, in particular women.\textsuperscript{114}

32. CRC recommended that Egypt undertake a process of curriculum reform which stresses the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills,\textsuperscript{115} and the HR Committee invited Egypt to strengthen human rights education and use education to forestall all displays of intolerance and discrimination based on religion and belief.\textsuperscript{116}

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

33. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts requested information on the application of ILO Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention in respect of the Berber population and the situation of the Nubians. It noted that the Government has continued to establish settlements for the Bedouin, and requested further information on: how the collaboration and consultation of the populations concerned and their representatives was ensured in the design and implementation of measures; and how many of the Bedouins continue to lead a nomadic lifestyle.\textsuperscript{117}

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

34. In 2007, CMW appreciated Egypt’s commitment to migrant workers’ rights as illustrated by its being the first country to accede to the Convention.\textsuperscript{118} CMW noted with concern, inter alia, the lack of access to schooling of documented and undocumented migrant workers;\textsuperscript{119} and the situation of Egyptian migrant workers who are the victims of a “sponsorship” or kafalah system.\textsuperscript{120} CMW recommended that the investigation into the events of 30 December 2005 be reopened in order to clarify the circumstances leading to the deaths of 27 Sudanese migrants and that measures be adopted to prevent the occurrence of similar events.\textsuperscript{121}

35. The 2008 annual report of the Resident Coordinator indicated that there was a surge in movement of asylum-seekers and migrants trying to transit illegally through Egypt. Hundreds of individuals from a neighbouring country and others were reportedly detained and forcibly returned from Egypt, despite UNHCR’s repeated appeals to grant it access to detention centres to determine international protection needs, which had largely remained unsuccessful.\textsuperscript{122} On 19 June 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed serious concerns about the recent deportation of some 700 asylum-seekers from a neighbouring country.\textsuperscript{123} She stated that Egypt should respect its international obligations not to send home anyone who could face torture or other serious forms of ill treatment.\textsuperscript{124}

36. The 2005 CCA highlighted that most refugees find it difficult to access state education, public health care, public relief and assistance, social security and food subsidies on the same basis as nationals, partly because of Egypt’s reservations to certain provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.\textsuperscript{125}

11. Human rights and counter-terrorism

37. In 2002, the HR Committee, while understanding the security requirements associated with efforts to combat terrorism, voiced concern at their effects on the human rights situation in Egypt,
particularly in relation to articles 6, 7, 9 and 14 of the ICCPR, and CAT recalled that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever can be invoked for a justification of torture.\textsuperscript{127}

38. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism noted, on the basis of informal reports on the drafting of the proposed anti-terrorism law that the draft anti-terrorism law appears to include in the definition of terrorism acts that do not entail physical violence against human beings.\textsuperscript{128} He recommended that all provisions establishing terrorist crimes, whether those established in Law No. 97 of 1992 or those being drafted for the purpose of the proposed anti-terrorism law, adhere strictly to the principle of legality, and be confined exclusively to activities that entail or are directly related to the use of deadly or serious violence against civilians.\textsuperscript{129} He strongly advised against criminalization based on goals or ends, which would risk targeting legitimate associations, including human rights organizations and opposition groups that should not fall within the ambit of any counter-terrorism law.\textsuperscript{130}

39. Egyptian authorities explained to the Special Rapporteur that a section on international judicial cooperation would be included in the proposed anti-terrorism law. The Special Rapporteur stated that it would be crucial for Egypt to investigate thoroughly all instances of torture, as any shortcomings in that respect unavoidably gave rise to hesitation and refusal by other States to cooperate with Egypt in matters of terrorism.\textsuperscript{131}

40. The Special Rapporteur was deeply concerned about Egypt’s acknowledged involvement in the well-known rendition programme.\textsuperscript{132} He also noted that the removal of a person, including through “diplomatic channels”, without providing him/her with access to any legally prescribed procedures, as well as the detention without charge, or for long periods even when charged, in themselves violate articles 9 and 14 of ICCPR and may, in conjunction with incommunicado detention for long periods, amount to enforced disappearance.\textsuperscript{133} The Special Rapporteur regretted that the Government of Egypt had not started any meaningful internal investigation into any rendition case, and he was deeply concerned about its passive obstruction of investigations by other countries by refusing to cooperate with any judicial or non-judicial inquiry into this phenomenon.\textsuperscript{134} He urged the Government to establish an independent investigatory body to promptly and thoroughly clarify all elements carried out within this rendition programme, and to commit itself to guarantee that such policies are not repeated.\textsuperscript{135}

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

41. In 2009, the Independent Expert the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation noted that at the macro level, the Government has demonstrated a vision and a strategy with the objective of providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all.\textsuperscript{136} She noted as good practice of the Government and other actors, including especially UNICEF, the establishment of revolving funds which provide loans to poor people to connect them to water, and also to sanitation, and allow them to pay back the loan in instalments.\textsuperscript{137}

42. The 2005 CCA noted that the perpetuation of poverty, increasing unemployment rates, particularly among youth and women, food shortfalls, the fragmentation of cultivable land, higher rates of illiteracy, especially among women, gender gaps in educational enrolment and dropouts, the persistence of unmet needs in reproductive health/family planning services, increasing trends of
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urbanization, shortages in housing and water resources and environmental degradation are all predisposed and compounded by the nature of Egypt’s population growth and its composition. 138

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

Specific recommendations for follow-up

43. In 2002, the HR Committee requested that Egypt should provide information, within one year, on the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations in paragraphs 6, 12, 13, 16 and 18 of its concluding observations. 139 These were submitted in November 2003 and October 2004. 140

44. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism 2009 mission report contains recommendations in paras. 49 to 60. 141

45. The Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, following her mission in 2009, recommended, inter alia, that the Government: include water and sanitation as human rights explicitly in their legislation, including in the draft water law currently under consideration; and use the international human rights framework as a guide for the content of legislation and policies related to water and sanitation. 142

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

46. The 2007-2011 UNDAF indicated priority areas including to reduce regional human development disparities and increase women’s participation in the workforce and public life. 143

Notes

1 Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006 (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://untreaty.un.org/.

2 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-ICESCR</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICESCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICCPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CEDAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), para. 10.

For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex I.

28 Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1/Add.44), para. 29.

29 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HR Committee Human Rights Committee
CEDAW Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CAT Committee against Torture
CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child
CMW Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

30 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2.
32 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, para.2.

34 The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate-holder.

35 See (a) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005; (b) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children’s organs sent in July 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in 2006; (e) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006; (f) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices; (g) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people sent in August 2007; (h) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/7/8), questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation sent in July 2007; (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007; (j) report on the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1), questionnaire on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; (k) report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to the eleventh session of the Council sent in June 2009 (A/HRC/11/9), questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes, sent in October 2008; (l) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education sent in June 2009 (A/HRC/11/8), questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention; (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/6), questionnaire on violence against women and political economy; (n) report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (A/HRC/12/21), questionnaire on national legislation and initiatives addressing the issue of bonded labour (o) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to the twelfth session of the Council (A/HRC/12/31), questionnaire on world food and nutrition security; (p) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/12/23), questionnaire on measures to prevent and combat online child pornography.

36 The questionnaire on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention, the questionnaire on national legislation and initiatives addressing the issue of bonded labour, and the questionnaire on measures to prevent and combat online child pornography.

37 See also A/56/38, para. 325.

38 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 7.

39 A/56/38, para.351.
41 Ibid., para. 332.
42 A/56/38, para. 346; CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 9. See also E/C.12/1/Add.44, para. 13.
43 A/56/38, para. 328; CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para.8.
44 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 10.
45 A/56/38, para. 354.
46 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.145), para.30.
47 CMW/C/EGY/CO/1, para. 20.
48 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 12.
49 Comments by the Government of Egypt on the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/CO/76/EGY/Add.1), para. 11.
52 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 3, para. 5.1.1.
54 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 3.
56 UNICEF submission to UPR Egypt, p. 4, para. 5.2.1.
58 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 4, para. 5.1.3. See also, A/HRC/4/21, para. 38.
60 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, para. 57. See also communication in A/HRC/4/20/Add.1, pp. 121-124.
61 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, para. 35.
62 Ibid., para. 57.
64 A/HRC/4/25/Add.1, para.130. See also A/HRC/27/Add.1, para.211.
67 CAT/C/CR29/4, para. 6 (k).
68 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p.3, paras. 4.1 and 4.2.
69 A/HRC/11/12/Add.1, paras.54-60. (See also A/HRC/10/44/Add.4, para.61).
70 Ibid., paras. 62-65. Ibid., para. 66.
71 A/HRC/10/44/Add.4, para. 61.
72 A/HRC/11/6/Add.1, paras.76-88 (See also A/HRC/11/4/Add.1, paras.836-841; A/HRC/10/44/Add.4, para.63; A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras.943-948); A/HRC/11/41/Add.1, paras.103 and 108 (See also A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras. 953-954; A/HRC/11/4/Add.1, paras.846-849); A/HRC/11/41/Add.1, paras.104 and 106 (See also A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras.955-958; A/HRC/11/4/Add.1, paras.850-853); A/HRC/11/41/Add.1, paras.105 and 108;

89 A/HRC/7/10/Add.1, paras.79-85.
90 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 17.
91 CRC/C/15/Add.145, para. 14; E/C.12/1/Add.44, para. 19; CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 21; A/56/18, para. 290; CAT/C/CR/29/4, para. 6 (d), and CMW/C/EGY/CO/1, para. 9.
92 A/HRC/7/28/Add.1, paras.780-782 and 770-776.
93 A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras.938-940 and 770-776.
94 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, para. 16.
95 Ibid., para. 46.
96 Ibid., para. 52.
97 E/C.12/1/Add.44, para. 18.
100 CMW/C/EGY/CO/1, para.39.
101 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 3.
102 Ibid., p. 2.
103 Ibid., p.3, paras. 4.1 and 4.2. See also E/C.12/1/Add.44, para.38.  
104 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 1.
105 Ibid., p. 2.
106 Ibid., p. 2.
108 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Egypt, p. 3.
109 Ibid., p. 1.
110 Ibid., p.3, paras. 4.1 and 4.2. See also E/C.12/1/Add.44, para.38.
112 Ibid., pp. 26-29.
113 CRC/C/15/Add.145, para. 47.
114 E/C.12/1/Add.44, para.40.
115 CRC/C/15/Add.145, para. 48.
116 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 20. See also A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, para.25.
118 CMW/C/EGY/CO/1, para. 5.
119 Ibid., para. 36.
120 bid., para. 48.
121 Ibid., para. 25.
124 OHCHR Press release, http://www.unhchr.ch/Huricane/Huricane.nsf/0e3eb737630f44ea80256601005b87be/4f2034cefe5d5462c125746d00415ebc?OpenDocument. See also A/HRC/10/44/Add.4,para.64.
126 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para.16.
127 CAT/C/CR/29/4, para. 4.
129 Ibid., para. 50.
130 Ibid., para. 51.
131 Ibid., paras. 40-41
132 Ibid., para. 44.
133 Ibid., para. 43.
134 Ibid., para. 45.
135 Ibid., para. 59.
137 Ibid., para. 15.
139 CCPR/CO/76/EGY, para. 24.
140 CCPR/CO/76/EGY/Add.1-3.
141 A/HRC/13/37/Add.2, paras. 49-60.