Egypt and Africa
Past, Present, Future
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Introduction

The African States election of Egypt to take up the presidency of the African union in February 2019 comes as a culmination of its efforts in recent years, along with its active roles towards its African brothers. Egypt has been keen on developing relations with African countries, to reinforce collective African action in all regional and continental organizations in Africa and to defend the issues of the continent, its peoples and aspirations of its sons in all international events and with different communities in other continents.

Egypt’s election to shoulder this task signals the realization of the African States that Egypt, under President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, has succeeded in restoring its position among its African brothers and in fulfilling its responsibilities towards the continent.

From its part, Egypt considers this task a mandate and is honored to bear it. Egypt also endeavors to maintain that trust at the levels of politics, economy, culture and media, to contribute to the advancement of the process of joint African action, to reinforce cooperation among the countries of the continent and to support issues of development, peace and stability in Africa.

Out of its role as an Egyptian media establishment, the State Information Service issues this book as an academic contribution to raise the awareness of citizens on the African continent to which they belong and to consolidate their sense of belonging. In the meantime, this book, throughout its multilingual versions, endeavors to reinforce the cohesion and the ancient ties that bind Egypt with its brothers in Africa for having a shared destiny and common future.

Hopefully, this book would contribute to the achievement of the aforementioned goals.
Preface

Egypt’s African identity

«The Egyptian people are part of the Arab nation enhancing its integration and unity. Egypt is part of the Muslim world, belongs to the African continent, is proud of its Asian dimension and contributes to building human civilization».

(Article 1 of the Egyptian constitution 2014)
First: African identity since the dawn of history

Egypt's belonging to the African continent goes far beyond its geographic and historic dimensions, as Africa constitutes a significant component of Egypt's identity over time and is a key factor in the articulation of the cultural features of the Egyptian character.

Egypt's belonging to the African continent is deeply rooted in history, as Africa holds a special position in the Egyptian civilization. The Egyptian State was keen to send expeditions to the riverhead of the Nile to explore the source of the greatest Nile river; the cradle of civilization in the Valley of Egypt. Subsequently, inscriptions on the walls of Pharaonic temples show the first of those expeditions in the era of Queen Hatshepsut, who arrived in Punt land (Somalia), Eritrea and Al-Habesha country. Afterwards, Ptolemy made an expedition to draw a map of the Nile River corridor to Merowe town. During his trip, he described the Atbarah River as well as the White and the Blue Niles. More recently, Selim Kobtan, commissioned by Mohamed Ali Pasha, had made three missions reaching 4 degrees south of the equator between 1839 and 1842.

The history of the relationship between Egyptian and Ethiopian churches dates back to the first half of the fourth century A.D. when the Athanasius of Alexandria sent bishop Salama; the first bishop to Ethiopia in 330 A.D. Since the introduction of Christianity to Ethiopia i.e 16 centuries ago the Ethiopian church has derived its rituals, traditions and holidays from the Egyptian Church. In addition, the Ethiopian calendar itself is the same Coptic calendar and the official New Year celebration in Ethiopia is the Coptic New Year.

During the Islamic era, the Egyptian African relations had a significant dimension. Many Africans came to study in Al-Azhar
University, most prominently Ibn Khaldun from Tunisia, Al-Jabrati from Ethiopia, Al-Zeilay and Al-Harari from Somalia and Al-Tacrury (named after the Toucouleur people) from West Africa, along with other figures who had studied in Al-Azhar and its corridors are named after them, such as Al-Tacrury Corridor which stands for the West Africa region, the Moroccan Corridor stands for the Arab Maghreb, the Burundi Corridor represents the country of Chad and its regional neighborhood, Al-Jabarti Corridor represents the countries of Ethiopia and Eritrea, Al-Zeilay Corridor represents the countries of Somalia and the Fur and Sennar Corridors stand for Sudan.


The revolution of 25 January 2011 marked a turning point in the history of Egyptian-African relations. Reactivation of the Egyptian role in Africa was one of the most significant political calls in Egypt during that period. In addition, the political powers in Egypt organized visits to Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda in a people-to-people diplomacy.

After the 30th of June revolution in 2013, the Egyptian foreign policy has been developed, according to number of determinants, to express the will of the Egyptian people at a critical stage of Egypt’s recent history, to give a real picture of what happened in Egypt to the World and to restore Egypt’s leading role in Africa and the Islamic and the Arab world as well. It also worked to restore Egypt’s position at all levels in order to affirm its belonging to the Arab region, its African roots and its Islamic identity and to revitalize its role internationally and to deal with urgent issues related to Egypt’s national security.

The promotion of Egypt’s “African” identity and the strengthening of its belonging to the countries of the continent were clearly affirmed by the preamble of the Egyptian constitution 2014 that states “Egypt is the gift of the Nile and the gift of Egyptians to humanity… Blessed with a unique location and history, Egypt is the heart of the whole world. It is
the meeting point of its civilizations and cultures and the crossroads of its maritime transportation and communications. It is the tip of Africa on the Mediterranean and the estuary of its greatest river: the Nile”.

Then comes Article 1 of the Egyptian Constitution 2014 to affirm these historical values and principles by proclaiming that “The Egyptian people is part of the Arab nation and enhances its integration and unity. Egypt is part of the Muslim world, belongs to the African continent, is proud of its Asian dimension, and contributes to building human civilization”.

Within this context, the Egyptian policy is keen to emphasize a set of historical and strategic fundamentals towards its African surrounding:

• Supporting African issues in all international events and forums.
• Working on the development of the African continent on the basis of the African regional integration.
• Egyptian contributions to the AU programs in all areas, especially in relief, peacekeeping and security, and combating terrorism.
• Egyptian initiatives and contributions in the congregations of various continents.
• The diversity of policies and mechanisms of Egyptian-African cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, media, culture and water.
• Egypt supports the efforts of human development in the various countries of the continent, where The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) works in building the capacities in Africa.
• Peaceful settlement of African disputes.
• At the diplomatic level, about 25% of the Egyptian diplomatic missions are located in Africa, and Egypt is one of the largest contributors to the budget of the African Union by about 12% annually.
Exemplifying values of the African identity and entrenching the prominence of the African Union as a pan-african organization, Egypt celebrates the “Africa Day” in the 25th of May each year, along with all African countries, by organizing a number of events involving all State institutions and agencies in order to shed the light upon the African dimension of Egypt and its inherent belonging to the continent.
Chapter I

Egyptian-African Relations
From 1952 to 2014
First: July revolution and the attention to the African circle

Since the revolution of July 1952, the Egyptian policy has paid great attention to its African circle over two decades. In a book composed by the late leader Gamal Abdel Nasser and entitled “Philosophy of the Revolution”, Nasser gave an emphasis to the African continent as the second circle of interest of Egypt's foreign political action. Nasser said “The Egyptian foreign policy shall start with the Arab circle, to which Egypt is associated due to the deep history and common interests… followed by the African circle, not only by virtue of geographic location, but further by virtue of aspirations of the peoples of the continent who seek the help of Egypt to prevail enlightenment and civilization in the depths of Continent”.

Out of the belief in its African identity and its understanding of the importance of the relations with the African continent, Egypt's political policy in Africa has focused on many issues and areas:

1) Egypt and Decolonization in Africa

Since the July 1952 revolution, Egypt has supported the right to self determination in the continent. Egypt has recognized that right for Sudan which regained its independency in 1956. It has taken the initiative to provide support of all kinds and in all forms to the African liberation movements in their struggle for the right to self-determination and independence.

From 1952 to 1967, Egypt has supported the independence of 34 African countries, including five Arab African countries, by supporting the national liberation movements in those countries at the levels of politics, diplomacy, media and military.

During that period, Egypt’s policy on the African continent was based on general principles, most notably: the non-interference in internal affairs, the non-provision of aid to conflicting parties, confrontation of
any foreign party trying to undermine the security and stability of the continent, the non-involvement in conflicts based on interest among major powers and the peaceful resolution of disputes under the Organization of African Unity.

On the level of State executive authority, various Egyptian institutions and agencies endeavored to foster the new relations with Africa. In addition to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Water Resources and Irrigation, there are the Ministries of Education, Culture, Information and Awqaf, along with Al-Azhar, the Coptic Church and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, etc. Egypt has also established organizations and associations working in the field of African relations such as the African Society, the solidarity organizations, the African professional associations, the Institute of African Research and Studies, etc.

The conference diplomacy was the key tool of Egypt’s movements to counter colonialism in the African continent, since it has supported the United Nations Committee on Decolonization and participated in all “peoples of Africa” conferences from 1958 to 1961 with the goal of supporting unity among the peoples of the African continent. Egypt also established a General Secretariat for the Conference in Ghana, in addition to its pioneering role in the Afro-Asian Movement since 1955. Moreover, the severance of diplomatic relations with some colonial countries was one of the tools Egypt used to support the African issues.

2) The Support of African National Liberation Movements

During the ruling of Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt has given the issue of decolonization and the support of national liberation movements in Africa a great attention. Thus, Egypt's policy in Africa, particularly the support of the African liberation movements, was a practical translation of the priorities of the three Egyptian national security circles; Arab, African and Islamic. In this context, the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser says: «How can we ignore the existence of the continent of Africa? It is the will of Destiny that Egypt has a share in this continent... And that any conflict concerning the continent shall directly affect Egypt whether it wanted or not». Thus, the Egyptian policy spared no effort
to support the national liberation movements in Africa in the sixties by all possible means and mechanisms, and the most prominent Egyptian efforts in this area were:

- Supporting of the independence efforts of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.
- Consideration of the year 1960 as the year of Africa.
- Establishment of the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa of the Organization of African Unity.
- Strengthening of relations with national liberation leaders.
- Supporting of the Libyan revolution in 1969 and provision of cultural and media support to the Libyan people.
- Supporting of Somali national powers to preserve the identity of the Somali people and their territorial integrity.
- Supporting of the struggle of the Eritrean people.
- Establishment of the African Association in 1955 to back the liberation movements.
- Egypt is a founding member of the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) established in 1963.
- Supporting of the struggle of the Maoist movement. During the ruling of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt supported the Kenyan Maoist Movement through launching a focused media and diplomatic campaign against the British occupation of Kenya. A radio channel broadcasted from Egypt was named “Voice of Africa” to support the Kenyan people in their struggle to liberate their country.
- Contribution to stop the aggression of Tchomba army against Uganda.
- Opening of the office of the National Democratic Union of Mozambique in Cairo.
- Provision of financial support for the liberation movement in Congo.
- Supporting of the armed struggle of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.
• Provision of small arms to Burundi during the armed struggle for liberation.

• Supporting of the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Central Africa, Rwanda and Cameroon.

• In 1965, the first regional office of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola MPLA was opened in Cairo under the chairmanship of former Minister of Foreign Affairs Paulo Georges to support the Angolan liberation movements against Portuguese colonization.

3) The Establishment of the Organization of African Unity

Historically, Egypt has given attention to the African collective action. Besides, Egypt’s foreign policy affirms the importance of the role of the African continent, as a regional effective consortium, in the international arena. Egypt has therefore endeavored to establish and build effective African organizations in all fields so as to ensure the security and stability of the continent. Egypt is one of the founding countries of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, currently transformed to “African Union”, and assumed the presidency of the Organization of African Unity in 1964, 1989 and 1993.

Egypt participated in the conferences of African countries that preceded the establishment of the Organization in May 1963, including the first conference of independent African States in Ghana in 1958 which called upon independent African countries to participate directly in the liberation of the continent of Africa.

The establishment of the Organization was the culmination of the efforts of the great and historic African leaders such as Nasser, Sékou Touré, Nkrumah, Lumumba and Ben Bella.

President Nasser believed in the idea of African solidarity, as a principle and a responsibility, when he described it as «the close bond between our African peoples and their common interests».

Being a pan African State, Egypt has been working since the establishment of the Organization of African Unity / the African Union to
achieve the political, economic and social interests of African countries, to seek solutions to all the problems facing the countries of the continent and to continue strengthening its relations with the peoples of the continent.

At that early stage of the African action, Egypt has been aware of the West’s critical calls for the separation of the North and the South of the continent, as “Arab North” and “African South”, as Gamal Abdel Nasser confirmed, at the closing session of the First Conference of African Group in Casablanca, held in 6 January 1961, that «the participation of the liberated African countries indicates that the countries have held their freedom in the meantime they achieved a unity that binds all their peoples. The attempts of colonialism to divide the continent and separate it by the Great Sahara into Western Africa in the north and black Africa in the back and the south collapsed in this conference. That meeting affirms that the Great Sahara was a bridge and not a barrier”.

Out of Egypt’s belief in the value of African collective action, late President Gamal Abdel Nasser emphasized, in his address to the first summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on 24 May 1963, the following values and principles, which constituted the outlined principles of Egypt’s policy towards Africa:

− The United Arab Republic recognizes that the African Continent faces today the most serious phase of its struggle. If we consider that the banners of independence which have been hoisted on the continent throughout recent years are a testimony to the fact that the birth of freedom has taken place, the birth alone, even with its spectacular miracle is not enough; freedom must grow and its growth must be sound and complete, and capable of facing the responsibilities of life in our age.

− Outside the Continent… There exists that colonialism which has not totally and fully been eradicated from all parts of the continent and still clings stubbornly and brutally to some of these parts, and in others, attempts to disguise itself behind false masks. There exists the racial discrimination and apartheid imposed on some parts of the continent by those who loot its riches, and enslave its labor;
and in spite of that would not scruple at trampling over its dignity in its most elementary human forms.

- There exists the problem of terrifying under-development, in which the majority of the peoples of the continent suffers from its aftermaths and which provides the frightening gap between the living standards in this continent and those in other continents which embarked on development process. This is a problem that does not only affect the dignity and legitimate rights of the continent, but also has a perilous bearing on world peace.

- There exist the problems of development to face the aftermaths of underdevelopment and to meet the needs of social justice, among which are the problems of planning, financing, and experience. In all those domains, the continent is in need of extensive aid.

- The United Arab Republic has its view on the issue of foreign aid. It finds it an obligation upon those who preceded in progress, towards the underdeveloped peoples, a right that is based on human interdependence and the consolidation of peace. Rather, the United Arab Republic considers this aid a due on great powers with a colonial past.

- There exist the border problems between numerous African States. We all know how frontiers were sometimes planned and how they were laid down.

- The liberation of the African man from all the unseen shackles which bind and impede his movement.

- This scene around us in this beautiful capital Addis Ababa is historic and to be remembered: the continent will look back on this conference for many generations for being a decisive turning point in the progress of humanitarian endeavor.

- The mere holding of this conference is a proof of the existence of a free and united African will. We have not arrived here by chance, neither have we arrived quickly. We have come through various paths and our coming was subject to endeavors which finally succeeded because they emanate from an overwhelming call for unity, which neither we could resist nor were others able
to keep us away from. This is confirmed by the fact that all the
organizations and groupings which emerged in the continent to
face preceding stages of the evolution of the African effort in its
various circumstances and situations have become conscious that
it was time to meet together without reservations to provide the one
and free African will.

− All traditional divisions which imperialism tried to impose on the
continent to rend it apart to North of the Sahara and South of
the Sahara, to white, black and colored Africa, to East and West,
to French -speaking Africa and English speaking Africa have all
collapsed and were swept away by the genuine African reality.
There remains but one language on African land…… the language
of the one destiny no matter what the method of expression.

− Our meeting at this United Nations hall brings constantly to mind the
fact that what we look forward to, is an extension of the aspirations
of the countries which they formed and safeguarded in the face of
every danger threatening them. But as I have already mentioned
what we need are an African organizing mind and an African
dynamic nerve to guide the free and one African will in facing the
problems and challenges which confront the Continent and hamper
its potentiality for the evolution of its life, and as a result; reduces its
contribution to the drive of human progress.

− This is the mission awaiting this Conference, its success in this
mission is measured by its fulfillment of its historic responsibilities
towards Africa and towards humanity. A mind and nerves for the
free and one African will.

− Let us make our meetings an African League. Let there be a Charter
for all Africa. Let there be periodical meetings of the African Heads
of State and representatives in the continent.

− Let us always recall that the African unity will not be achieved
overnight. But will, always derive its aspirations and trace the
plans for its realization from its potentialities and follow up to
their implementation with attentive awareness. This does not only
express its unity but also deepens its feeling for unity, in other
words it emanates from the aspiration for unity and spontaneously adds to its effectiveness through living experience.

− The United Arab Republic has come here with an open heart, an open mind and an appreciation of the responsibility infused with goodwill and is ready to bear its historic responsibilities towards our African Continent… We have come here without reservations or demands. We believe that the joint work will remove our need for any reservations and we believe that the success of this joint endeavor will satisfy all our demands.

− At this conference, which merely by its convening represents the existence of a free and one African will, the United Arab Republic delegation is ready to exert its utmost, honestly and sincerely, for the sake of reaching the formula which provides the free and one African will with an organizing mind and dynamic nerves. Thus, Africa would achieve its African hope for freedom and dignity. Furthermore, Africa would achieve its human hope for peace based on justice.

Under the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt had considerable influence at the African level. There is no African country that does not have a street or an institution named after the late President Nasser. Moreover, the picture of Nasser was inside the African Union headquarters in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa, in addition to the existence of his statute in some other countries, the most recent and the hugest of which is that in Johannesburg, South Africa. When he first came to Egypt, the late leader Nelson Mandela headed directly from Cairo airport to Nasser’s tomb and said that he had wished to visit Egypt while Nasser was alive to have the honor of meeting him. Furthermore, the largest university in Conakry, Guinea was named after him (Gamal Abdel Nasser University), along with the outstanding ties that linked the Egyptian and the Guinean peoples thanks to the two leaders, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Sékou Touré.
Second: The Seventies and the activation of the Arab-African relations

The era of the seventies, especially during the October 1973 war, marked a significant stage in the history of the Egyptian-African relations, as it highlighted the essence of Arab-African solidarity when all African countries stood in solidarity with Egypt in its war to liberate the occupied territories, except for three countries. At that time, the Sub-Saharan Africa played an effective role in backing rights of Arabs by breaking diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity. Accordingly, the North Africa countries and Sudan played an active role in providing financial and military assistance during the war.

The seventies also witnessed the kick-off of a new stage in the Egyptian-African policy; when the Arab-African relations were dynamic, topped by the communications and consultations between the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity. Based on Egypt’s historic role, the Egyptian policy has played a prominent role in that era in establishing and hosting the Arab League, and the Organization of African Unity.

The OAU Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on Arab-African cooperation, which states: The establishment of a seven-member committee to establish contacts with Arab countries through the Arab League to study the effects of the oil embargo on African countries. The Council also recommended the establishment of Arab-African cooperation ties as well as the establishment of a special committee whose first meeting was held in Addis Ababa in 1973.

On the other hand, the period witnessed the establishment of financial institutions aiming to support the Afro-Arab cooperation, such as the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African and Arab Countries, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. These efforts resulted in Egypt’s hosting of the first Afro-Arab summit in Cairo in 1977.

Convened in Cairo in 1977, the Summit adopted pillars for joint Afro-Arab action, where four key documents have been drawn up to affirm the organizational basics of the Afro-Arab relations, they are:
i. The Political Declaration outlining legal and political basis for the Afro-Arab cooperation and principles underpinning it, namely to defend the issues of Arab and African national liberation, to strengthen the economic cooperation and to achieve greater understanding between Arab and African peoples.

ii. Declaration and Program of Action on Afro-Arab Cooperation. The most important provision of that Declaration was the commitment of the Arab and African countries to develop bilateral and multilateral relations in various fields and to establish a permanent joint ministerial committee to follow up the cooperation between the two parties.

iii. Declaration on Afro-Arab Economic Financial cooperation.

iv. Organizations and institutions responsible for setting the Declaration and Program of Afro-Arab Cooperation, namely:

- The Afro-Arab Summit
- The Afro-Arab ministerial council
- The Standing Committee for Afro-Arab Cooperation.
- The Coordinating Committee for Afro-Arab Cooperation.
- The African Arab Court or the Committee for Documentation and Arbitration.
- The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.
- The Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries.
- The Intra-African Trade Fair.
- The Afro-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies.
- The Consultations between the African Union and the League of Arab States.
- The Afro-Arab Joint Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security.

Egypt has been keen to play an active role in all Afro-Arab summits, starting with the Cairo Summit, the Sert Summit in 2010, the Kuwait Summit in 2013 and finally, the Malabo Summit in 2016.
Third: The Eighties and Nineties and the Advancement of Egyptian- African Development Frameworks

If the Egyptian foreign policy in Africa has set the national liberation of the countries of the continent as a priority in the fifties and sixties, Egypt put great emphasis on supporting the efforts of development in the African continent in the nineties. Development and building of African States in the postcolonial era was the main consideration of Egypt’s foreign policy in Africa. Thus, the establishment of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa came as a realistic embodiment of Egypt’s vision for development in Africa. Besides, Egypt has not lost sight of the African debt, in addition to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community in 1991, which was ratified in 1994.

1. Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa

The EFTCA was established in 1980 on a proposal submitted by Boutros Boutros-Ghali the former Egyptian Foreign Minister. The EFTCA has worked to advance Egyptian African joint action according to the formula of supporting South-South Cooperation. It has endeavored to help African countries to achieve sustainable development through provision of technical assistance and training programs so as to build the capacities of African cadres in the areas of agriculture, health, education, security, diplomacy, judiciary and media. It has also provided financial grants, especially in the fields of health and agriculture.

The EFTCA was established by the Presidential Decree No. 620 issued in 16 December 1980. It began its activity in 1981 and its resources are consisted of funds allocated by government in State budget.

The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa aimed to achieve the following objectives:

• Provision of technical assistance programs to African countries through dispatching of Egyptian experts.
• Provision of scholarships and training to African students to empower them in various sectors.
• Contribution to development projects in African countries.
• Provision of aid and humanitarian assistance to African countries in case of natural disasters or wars.

Since its establishment in 1980, the EFTCA, replaced by the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development in 2013, dispatched more than 8,500 Egyptian experts in all disciplines, and afforded training courses to nearly 10,000 African trainees in all fields in Egypt. The EFTCA also offered financial grants and humanitarian assistance to African countries in response to natural disasters, in addition to the dispatching of medical convoys.

2. Egypt and the End of apartheid in South Africa

Since the days of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt has given great attention to support endeavors of the country of South Africa to get rid of Apartheid, as President Abdel Nasser stressed in many African events that Egypt cannot overlook the conflict in South Africa and also cannot give up its responsibility in spreading enlightenment and civilization to the depths of the continent by all means.

In the beginning of the sixties, Cairo received a delegation of representatives of seven popular liberation movements from South Africa to obtain Egypt’s support for their struggle against practices of racial discrimination of the white minority government against the majority of black people. That visit was the beginning of the Egyptian government’s support for the liberation movements in South Africa, where Egypt embraced the legitimate demands of the black majority in the establishment of a democratic state in South Africa. Egypt and South Africa have a long history of cooperation, as Egypt has cooperated with the National Congress Party during its struggle against the former apartheid regime.

In the sixties, Egypt submitted several draft resolutions within the United Nations to condemn the apartheid policy in South Africa, most notably in 1965 when the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution submitted by Egypt, along with 44 countries recognizing the situation in South Africa as a threat to international peace and security.
In May 1992, Egypt was an observer at “CODESA” meeting of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, which included the Pretoria authorities and the African political forces. With the end of Apartheid, former President Nelson Mandela and his cabinet have paid special tribute to the Egyptian policy towards his country, as Egypt was at the forefront of the countries visited by Mandela after taking office in 1994, and declared the need for the establishment of strategic cooperation between South Africa and Egypt in all areas.

3. Egypt and the Support of the Independence of Namibia

In addition to its historic role in Africa, Egypt contributed through the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the independency of Namibia in 1990. Egypt was one of the leading countries to recognize the South West African People’s Organization (SWAPO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people and allowed the opening of its office in Cairo.

The independence of Namibia coincided with Egypt's presidency of the Organization of African Unity (July 1989 - July 1990). Throughout the months leading up to the elections in Namibia, Cairo warned against South Africa's endeavors to put obstacles in the way before the peoples will in Namibia. Egypt also called for abolition of all racial discrimination laws and the release of all political prisoners. Additionally, Egypt contributed to the training of prominent youth from Namibia to manage the transitional period. Those efforts were culminated by the presence of former Egyptian president in the celebrations of the people of Namibia of their independence on 21 March 1990.

During that period, Egypt endeavored to the release of the African leader Nelson Mandela in 1990. Cairo also contributed to the settlement of the conflict that arose between Mauritania and Senegal in 1989 through the signing of a peace agreement between the two countries in 1992 attributed to the Egyptian mediation. Moreover, Egypt pursued to end emerging conflicts in Angola and Mozambique and hosted several reconciliation meetings in Somalia in 1994 and 1997.
4. Egypt and the Presidency of the Organization of African Unity for Two Sessions

In addition to the abovementioned efforts, the African States selected Egypt to preside over the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for two sessions (1989-1990) and (1993-1994). During the two summits, held in Cairo, the OAU established the first African mechanism for preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in 1993 to tackle emerging conflicts between the States of the continent peacefully and in organized effective manner.

At the economic level, Egypt showed especial interest to solving the issue of debts owed by the African States to rich countries in order to enhance the development process. Egypt hosted African mini-summit in 1987 to discuss economic problems of the continent. Egypt launched a dialogue with the seven industrialized countries in 1989 on the issue of debt. It also hosted the International Symposium on African Debt in August 1989 to discuss the most appropriate solutions to this problem. It, additionally, contributed to the African Economic Recovery Program in 1986-1990.

Establishment of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution was one of the most important Egyptian initiatives since the inception of the OAU. Egypt has called for its establishment at the 28th Summit and continued its efforts until announced on 7 June 1993. At the 30th African Summit, Tunisia, June 1994, Egypt also proposed establishment of an Egyptian peacekeeping and training center for African cadres that founded thereafter in 1995.

As for Egypt’s regional roles in supporting the African issues, Egypt actively participated in meetings of the Group of 15, which includes the countries of Egypt, Senegal, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, Jamaica, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, and took part in launching of the African-Latin dialogue and the Arab-African dialogue.

On humanitarian level, during its presidency of the 25th session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Egypt presented a strategic
vision for resolving refugees issue based on three pillars: the support for refugees receiving countries - the assistance to refugee-sending countries – the support for African human rights.

On the level of security, Egypt launched an initiative in 1990 for the denuclearization of Africa and the Middle East and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The 31th African Summit in 1995 considered the security of the Middle East an integral part of that of the African continent.

Fourth: Egypt and the African Union

1. The foundation and the structural reform

During the 1990s, African leaders discussed the need to modify the OAU structures to reflect the challenges of a changing world. In 1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity issued a Declaration (Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union.

The vision of founding the African Union, to which Egypt contributed, was to accelerate the process of integration in the continent, to enable and empower the African countries to play role in the global economy and to address the multifaceted social, economic and political problems of the continent.

In the context of those continental efforts, four Summits have been held leading to the official launching of the African Union:

- **The Sirte Session (1999)**: It adopted the Sirte declaration and advocated for the establishment of an African Union.
- **The Lome Summit (2000)**: It adopted the Constitutive Act of the Union.
- **The Lusaka Summit (2001)**: It drew the road map for the implementation of the AU.
- **The Durban Summit (2002)**: It launched the AU and convened the 1st summit of the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union.
Egypt contributed to the structure of the African Union as the Egyptian delegation in Lome summit in 2000, the founding summit of the Union, introduced some amendments to the draft document, notably: an amendment to Article 4 (h) which restricts the right of the AU to intervene in Member States internal affairs to three specific cases; genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Egypt bears 12% of total contributions of Member States to the African Union budget; therefore, Egypt is among the top five contributors to the AU budget, namely Angola, South Africa, Algeria, and Nigeria. Moreover, Egypt hosted the 11th African Summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh, in June/July 2008.

Egypt has ratified 21 agreements in the framework of the African Union, the latest of which was the African Youth Charter in 1/4/2015, in addition to the Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law which came into force immediately after its approval from Addis Ababa Summit in February 2009 (does not require ratification). Egypt also signed seven agreements of the African Union without ratification.

Dr. Elham Mahmoud (Egypt) has occupied the position of the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy since elected in January 2008, and was re-nominated to the position during the Commission’s elections in July 2012 for the mandate 2012-2016. Currently, Dr. Amani Abu Zeid is occupying the position of the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (2016-2018).

In the frame of Egypt’s role within the African Union, especially with assuming its presidency in 2019, Cairo affirmed its consent to the proposed initiative for the reform and development of the AU Commission, in particular for achievement of the desired gender balance in the five geographic regions.

At the 11th special session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union in Addis Ababa, on 17 November 2018, Egypt expressed its aspiration for completing consultations with the Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner in order to develop an efficient and flexible structure for effective management showing the hierarchy of tasks and competencies from top to bottom.
At the same summit, Egypt stressed the keenness of all Member States not to prejudice the Constitutive Act of the African Union. That was Egypt’s focal point throughout the various phases of discussions as the Constitutive Act provided the necessary institutional stability for the Union. Besides, Egypt asserted the importance of the Member States’ leading of the process of nomination, election and appointment in all stages, taking into account the special political nature of the functions of the High Commission.

2. Most Prominent Egyptian Initiatives within the African Union

- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (currently the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development) and the African Union Commission, aiming to build capacities of the Commissions’ staff via dispatching Egyptian experts to provide training at the Commission’s headquarters.

- Egypt launched an initiative to establish the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Center, stemming from its belief in the importance of supporting stability and rebuilding the African countries post-conflict capacities, as well as the importance of bridging the gap in the structure of the African peace and security system through establishing a continental mechanism to address the situation of countries that have underwent conflicts and to consolidate peace in them.

- In 2005, Egypt proposed the establishment of an African center for endemic, infectious diseases and AIDS to be hosted in Cairo. Egypt offered to transfer its expertise in pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing to the countries of the continent and to offer its expertise in the eradication of poliomyelitis.

- Egypt has called for the establishment of the Council of African Ministers of Electricity and Energy, affiliated to the Economic and Social Council of the African Union due to the significance of electricity and energy sectors as growth engine for the rest of national economy sectors. This initiative has been developed and became known as the 2nd African Smart Grid Forum, which
is supervised by the African Commission on Electrotechnical Specifications. The Committee is responsible for the adoption and adaptation of international standards in the fields of electricity, electronics and telecommunications, as well as the supply, transmission, distribution and consumption of electricity within Africa.

- Egypt participated constructively in Rome Declaration in November 2014 on the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative to help the horn of Africa countries to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

- Egypt participated in the Valletta Summit on Migration in November 2015, where it defended the African view as the Chairperson of the African Union-Horn of Africa and the European Union-Horn of Africa initiatives in coordination with the AU Commission.

- During the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2015, Egypt submitted a proposal to include a unit for mediation and conflict prevention within the Commission’s structure, and to build on the Union’s endeavors in this regard, with the aim of strengthening the African mediation capabilities, and the creation of a real African Union capacity in the field of mediation similar to the Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs. The Summit approved the Egyptian proposal which is currently being coordinated with the African Union Commission.

- During the Addis Ababa Summit in January 2015, Egypt expressed eagerness to host the headquarters of the African Union Space Agency; the Summit has been informed of the Egyptian proposal.

3. African institutions hosted by Egypt

- The African Union Permanent Delegation to the League of Arab States in Cairo.

- The Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and Professions, affiliated to the African Union
- The COMESA Regional Investment Agency.
- The field office of the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund.
- The African Federation of Construction Contractors' Associations.
- The African rehabilitation Institute.
- The Office of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.
- The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.
- The Confederation of African Football.
Chapter II

Egyptian Foreign Policy towards Africa under President Sisi

“Egypt is the throbbing heart of Arabism … its thinking mind … beacon of the Islamic world and the center of enlightenment for moderate religious knowledge that renounces violence whatsoever its motivations … and terrorism whatsoever its reasons. Egypt with its African origin and roots is the leader of liberation movements and independence in the black continent. Egypt… the Mediterranean country … the pride of civilization and the record of the glories of history”

(Part of the speech by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi after signing power handover document in June 2014)
First: Foundations and mechanisms of Egyptian foreign policy towards Africa under President Sisi

At both the regional and international levels, the Egyptian foreign policy movement emphasizes the importance of the African continent to Egypt. It, in the meantime, affirms and strengthens the identity and belonging of African Egypt. In this context, the analysis of the political discourse of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi since 2014, represented in the Egyptian foreign policy movements towards the continent of Africa, reveals the following principles:

• The promotion of Egypt's belonging to the African continent and the pride of its African identity. Egypt's belonging to Africa is a major component of the Egyptian identity throughout ages and a central factor in shaping the cultural features of the Egyptian character. This is confirmed by the provisions and preamble of the 2014 Constitution.

• The political discourse of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, both internally and externally, emphasizes the historic and strategic importance of the Egyptian-African relations and Egypt's pride of its African identity. It also affirms Egypt's constant efforts to cooperate with the countries of the continent to encounter challenges of terrorism, organized crime, epidemics and environmental degradation.

• "Egypt's openness to the African continent and its keenness to continue to strengthen its relations with its countries in all fields and to boost communication and coordination with them indicate the importance of the continent at the level of Egypt's foreign policy. In this context, the objective analysis of President Sisi foreign visits and meetings since taking office in June 8, 2014 shows that the African continent is on the top of the agenda of the presidential activities.
• The promotion of regional cooperation principles and Egypt's
adopted role in the field of human and economic development.
It can be said that the slogan of "Development and Regional
Integration" has turned into a message conveyed from Egypt to
the countries of the continent on the one hand and a leading
approach in international forums on the other hand.

• The multiplicity of pivots and circles of Egypt’s action at the level
of the continent; the Horn of Africa, East Africa, the Nile Basin
States, the Central African States, the Southern African States
and the West African States. This is confirmed by the President’s
visits to the countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,
Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, Rwanda, Gabon and Chad.

• The plurality and diversity of Egypt's ties and relations with its
African dimension at the levels of culture, media and religions,
while we may call it the “unity of civilization”.

• The participation of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in most African
summits since he took office in 2014. This was appreciated by the
African countries and reflected in the African countries support
for Egypt's representation of Africa in the Security Council as a
non-permanent member. Egypt also chaired the African Union
Climate Change Commission and a member in the African Peace
and Security Council. Furthermore, Egypt will chair the African
Union in 2019.

• The Egyptian political presence was not limited to the active
participation in African forums and summits, but extended to
include all regional and international strategic partnerships
and forums with Africa, most notably: the EU- Africa Summit in
Brussels in April 2014 and the US- Africa Summit in Washington
in August 2014, The India-Africa Summit in October 2015, the
Forum on China–Africa Cooperation in December 2015 and
October 2018, the German-African Business Summit in 2017

• Egypt hosted several important African summits and meetings,
such as: the Tripartite Summit (COMESA-SADC-EAC), the Africa
Investment Forum for three years since 2016, meeting of the Ministers of Defense of the Sahel-Saharan States, meeting of African Central Bank Presidents in 2018, meeting of the Supreme Constitutional Court heads of Africa in February 2018 and the Conference and Exhibition of Intra-African Trade in December 2018, along with other African meetings and events.

- Whether through State visits or attendance in African or international forums, Cairo received many African heads of States, in addition to visits of African ministers and officials to Egypt.

- At African level, the Egyptian policy adopts the principle of "win-win", especially with regard to Egypt’s vision for the development of the Nile Basin countries, which was clearly confirmed by President Sisi at the Nile Basin Summit in Entebbe in June 2017:

  “The Nile River brings us together and does not drive us apart…our common interest, and the leverage from our natural and human resources to build and develop our societies, is far greater and more important than any differences that have constrained our attitudes and wasted our energy over decades. The Nile Basin States are now in desperate need to pursue joint cooperation for real sustainable development that will provide a decent life for its people”.

- Egypt’s emphasis, in more than one occasion, on the importance of the 50 year strategic document of the African continent, known as "Agenda 2063". President Sisi stressed that the Agenda “reflects our African hopes for the achievement of economic and human development that our citizens deserve, and promotes our efforts to reinforce political and security stability in our countries”.

- The significant role of the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development, which succeeded the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa, as an Egyptian-African mechanism to support human capacities in Africa, through sending Egyptian
expertise and receiving African citizens for training in Egypt in the following fields: judicial cooperation, police cooperation, education, medical assistance, food assistance, courses for African diplomats and media cooperation and training.

• As member in the African Peace and Security Council since 2016, and the Security Council in 2016-2017, and as president of the African Commission on Climate Change 2016-2017, Egypt was keen to adopt the African issues and sought to support the African peace and security structure. Egypt has intensified its participation in the UN peacekeeping missions in the continent, as it regained its position among the top ten States contributing to those missions.

Second: Summits Diplomacy and the Reinforcement of Egypt-Africa Relations

Since assuming presidency in 2014, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has been keen on opening up to the African continent and strengthening Egypt’s relations with its countries in all fields. In this context, the quantitative analysis of President Sisi’s foreign visits and international meetings in Egypt until the end of 2018 reached 25 visits to African countries out of the total of 86 foreign visits by Mr. President, accounting for about 30% of the total foreign presidential visits.

1. Seven Visits to Africa in the First Year of Presidency

• From June 8, 2014 to June 7, 2015, the President paid 27 visits to African countries, including seven visits to the countries of: Sudan (3 visits), Ethiopia (two visits), Equatorial Guinea (one visit) and Algeria (one visit).

• The President held meetings and encounters with officials during their visits to Egypt, or through participation in conferences and forums hosted by Egypt, which amounted to 213 meetings, among them 45 meetings to the African countries of: Ethiopia - Sudan - South Sudan - Morocco - Algeria - Libya - Mali - Burkina
2. 42 Meetings with African Officials in the Second Year of Presidency

• From June 8, 2015 to June 7, 2016, the President carried out 17 foreign visits; two of them were related to African countries. The first visit was to Ethiopia and the second was to India to take part in the India-Africa Summit.

• The President also held 175 meetings and encounters with officials during their visits to Egypt, or participation in conferences and forums hosted by Egypt. 42 of these meetings were to African countries, including: Eritrea - Zimbabwe - Malawi - Mozambique - Uganda - Gabon - Niger - Mauritania - Nigeria - Togo - Ethiopia - Sudan - South Sudan - Algeria - Libya - Comoros - Equatorial Guinea - Chad - Burundi - South Africa - Morocco - Democratic Republic of Congo and others.

• This also included meetings with delegations of the African press editors, the Ethiopian people-to-people Diplomacy, the African Development Bank, the General Secretary of COMESA, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, the Ministers of Defense of the Sahel-Saharan States and others.


• From June 8, 2016 to June 7, 2017, President Sisi held 18 foreign visits, 6 of which were related to African issues, they are the participation in the African Summit in Kigali, the Africa-Arab Summit in Malabo, and the African Summit in Addis Ababa, in addition to bilateral visits to Sudan and Uganda.
• Besides, President Sisi held 155 meetings and encounters with officials during their visits to Egypt, or participation in conferences and forums hosted by Egypt, among them 25 meetings to discuss the African-related issues.

4. Official visits to four African countries in 2017

• The year 2017 witnessed the visit of the President Sisi to Uganda on 22 June 2017 to attend the Nile Basin Countries Summit as well as his attendance at the German-African Summit on 3 July 2017, along with the presidential tour during which Sisi visited four African countries: Tanzania, Rwanda, Gabon and Chad in August 2017.

• With regard to Egypt's relations with Central and South African countries, President Sisi met with President of Zambia Edgar Lungu in mid-November 2017.

• On the sidelines of Africa 2017 Forum held on 8 December 2017, President Sisi met with the Presidents of Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Guinea.

5. 2018 … year of Egyptian - Sudanese summits

• In 2018, five Egyptian-Sudanese summits were held in January, March, July, August and October, with a total of 24 Egyptian-Sudanese summits since 2014.

• The end of January 2018 witnessed the participation of President Sisi at the 30th AU Summit in Addis Ababa. As Egypt chaired the African Peace and Security Council, the institutional reform of the African Union has been discussed thoroughly.

• On the sidelines of the Summit, President Sisi held several meetings with presidents of African countries. He also held a tripartite summit with the Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and the then Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to discuss means to strengthen relations between the three countries, especially efforts to establish a free trade zone.
• In the framework of Egypt's historic relations with the countries of the Horn of Africa, President Sisi received the President of the Republic of Eritrea Isaias Afwerki in Cairo in January 2018.

• In the context of the distinguished relations with the Nile Basin countries, Cairo received the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in May 8, 2018.

• At international level, President Sisi continued to attend international summits and forums on Africa, most notably the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing in September 2018 and the G20 Summit on Partnership with Africa in Germany at the end of October 2018.

• Moreover, President Sisi took part in the EU-Africa Forum, hosted in Austria in December 2018.

Third: Africa in the political discourse of President Sisi

Analysis of the political discourse of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi regarding the African continent reveals the following points and aspects:

• The President emphasized that “Egypt will remain supportive of the causes of the African continent out of pride of its African belonging and tremendous interest in supporting all efforts of economic integration among countries of the continent”.

• Egypt's keenness on ending divisions among Nile basin countries and the importance of overcoming differences hindering joint cooperation within the framework of the Nile-Basin Initiative.

• The President underscored that “Africa falls at the heart of Egypt’s foreign policy. It is the mother continent where Egyptian roots enjoy historic depth, from which we derive pride of our identity and inherent belonging”.

• Egypt is part of Africa and its relations with its brothers have returned stronger.

• The need to the collaborative efforts of the countries of the con-
tinent to work on achieving their economic and social development.

• The faith in the economy of entrepreneurship as a mechanism for the development of the continent.

• The importance of developing cooperation between governments and private sector in Africa.

• In his speech at the inauguration ceremony at Al-Qubba Palace after taking office on 8/6/2014, President Sisi affirmed that the African Egypt is the pioneer of the liberation and independence of the continent, and cannot be separated from its African context, as Egypt is African by virtue of existence and life.

• In his address to the 23rd opening Session of the African Summit in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea held in June 26, 2014, President Sisi underscored that Egypt's participation in Africa is not only by the consideration of history and geography, but also by virtue of correlated roots, common identity and destiny, future relations, and heroic joint struggle initiated by the founding fathers: Gamal Abdel Nasser, Nkrumah, Sékou Touré, Ben Bella and Haile Selassie.

• In his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 24, 2014, the President stressed that Egypt gives special attention to the issues of its African continent, pointing out that the solidarity and brotherhood that brings together its peoples alongside the common challenges they face require us to work more seriously and with clear vision to realize the aspirations of our peoples to achieve democracy and development, and to preserve the dignity of the individual.

• In his meeting with editors of some African newspapers from the Nile-Basin countries on 19/2/2015, President Sisi affirmed that Egypt is always contributing to the management and settlement of conflicts in the African continent and is reluctant to fuel conflicts and divisions and added that the relations between Egypt and its African brothers are decisive. Since the first moment of President Sisi inauguration, he stressed that the next era will witness
Egypt’s openness to Africa and a comprehensive advancement in all aspects of Egyptian relations with various countries of the continent.

• During the reception of African Ambassadors accredited to Egypt on 8/3/2015, President Sisi affirmed the importance of building on the historic ties that brought Egypt together with the African countries aiming to enhance cooperation and overcome the common challenges, especially in the fight against terrorism.

• In a press interview with the French language pan-African weekly news magazine "Jeune Afrique" on 14/2/2016, President Sisi described Egypt's relationship with the African continent as historic and so close, stressing that Egypt is seeking to return to Africa strongly to regain its status as one of the main pillars of African common action. He added that Egypt had interpreted its rhetoric into action through the signing of the agreement on the establishment of a free trade zone with three African economic blocs, in Sharm El-Sheikh in June 2015, and the convention of the Africa 2016 Forum in the same city aim to promote policies of cooperation and exchanges with the African brothers.

• Egypt's full commitment to open up to African countries and to pave the way before the Egyptian private sector to work in the continent.

• The President affirmed that Egypt has increased its contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the continent, as it has regained its position among the top ten countries contributing to these missions. Besides, Egypt calls for the adoption of a comprehensive approach in the fight against terrorism, through addressing not only the security dimension, but also the intellectual one. From that perspective, Egypt will host the Sahel-Saharan Community Anti-Terror Center. Egypt also stresses the importance of examining any emerging sources of tension, taking into account the phenomenon of desertification, water scarcity and the development needs related to transboundary water management.
• Addressing the opening session of the 4th Arab-African Summit in the capital of Equatorial Guinea “Malabo” on 23/11/2016, President Sisi said that the Arab-African relations are historic and multifaceted, drawn by the geographical cohesion as well as the cultural and civilization integration, as experience revealed the association between the deterioration of the international peace and security and the challenges related to poverty, illiteracy and declination of development rates.

• During the first Nile Basin States Summit in Entebbe, Uganda on 21-22 June 2017, President Sisi calls for the adoption of common vision that realizes the fact of the existence of sufficient water resources that have not been totally utilized yet. He added “we shall realize that our duty towards ourselves and our peoples is to cooperate together and to use modernized scientific and sound means to reach the best and most sustainable mechanisms to benefit from these resources in a way that would fulfill our aspirations for development, avoiding the negative impacts of spells of drought, ensuring water security for all Nile basin countries and establishing the principle of non-damage.

• In his address to the United Nations Security Council on Reform of UN Peacekeeping Operations in 21 September 2017, President Sisi confirmed that the key responsibility of preserving the international security and peace is shouldered by the Security Council. There must be a pivotal and important role for regional organizations operating in conflict areas as set forth in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. We would like here to mention the African Union whose successful partnership with the United Nations is considered a role model, in particular the peacekeeping missions led by the AU to settle disputes and that moved to the UN, and also the hybrid missions led by both the UN and the AU, especially the African peace and security mechanism that became of a key role in settling disputes in the African continent, not only managing them.

• In his address to the joint press conference with the Ethiopian Prime Minster Abiy Ahmed in 10 June 2018, President Sisi
underlined that the relation between Egypt and Ethiopia is based on strategic partnership and that Egypt’s strategic policy relies on cementing common interest with Ethiopia in all fields.

• In his speech to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit, held in September 2018, President Sisi affirmed that realizing sustainable development, providing further job opportunities to the African peoples, upgrading the continental infrastructure, promoting freedom of trade within the framework of the African Free Trade Agreement, developing and diversification of the African economic system and enhancing the industrial system are all main elements among the priorities of the agenda of the Egyptian presidency of the African Union in 2019.

Fourth: The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)… the Development Arm of Egypt’s Foreign Policy in the African continent

The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) has been established upon the Prime Minister’s decree no. 959 for the year 2013, announced by President Sisi in a speech at the twenty-third Summit of the African Union in Malabo (June 2014) and chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The ministerial decree determined the duties of the EAPD as granting technical cooperation and humanitarian assistance to African and Islamic countries, organizing training courses and workshops, dispatching of specialized expertise, contributing to finance and fundraising of African development projects, and promoting the collaboration with the United Nations and its agencies and the developed countries within the framework of North-South cooperation, in addition to cooperation with number of Asian and Latin countries, along with the international development bodies within the framework of South-South cooperation for the favor of African countries. The EAPD works in accordance with the international development agencies operating rules.

Since its establishment, the Agency is seeking to enhance the existing trilateral cooperation relations and to prospect the available
cooperation potentials with various advanced states and international development bodies so as to provide further resources and to assist the African brothers. This should be done through offering technical assistance and training to African countries; thus contributing to enhancing the African role, to encouraging various international bodies to contribute to such efforts and to getting the international community acquainted with the needs and priorities of such countries.

The Agency is also keen to select the best Egyptian centers to provide training programs according to each center discipline. Such centers have high training potentials and good regional and international reputation. Those Centers are, among others, the Armed Forces Training Body, the Police Academy, Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation, Children’s Cancer Hospital, Dr. Mohamed Ghoneim’s Urology and Nephrology Center, the National Center for Judicial Studies, the Egyptian International Center for Agriculture, Alexandria Regional Center for Women’s Health and Development, the Hydraulics Research Center, Cairo and Suez Canal Universities in the field of health, National water research center, Egyptian Electricity Holding Company and Cairo University Center for Arabic Language Studies.

The Egyptian Agency has trilateral cooperative relations with various countries and international development bodies within the framework of north-south and south-south cooperation and has contributed to organizing training programs in favor of African countries, such as the Islamic Development Bank, the African Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

As part of its continued commitment to Africa, the Egyptian Government allocates a yearly independent budget for the EAPD. Additional resources are raised from donor agencies and international organizations based on agreements with the Agency. The cost-sharing mechanism has been successfully utilized by EAPD through both bilateral cooperation with the recipient African country, and triangular cooperation with a donor country (or with a UN agency or an international organization).
- The expertise which Egypt provides includes the following areas:
  - Diplomacy.
  - Transportation.
  - Communication and Information Technology.
  - Health Care.
  - Agriculture.
  - Police, Crime Prevention and Counter Terrorism.
  - Water Management and irrigation.
  - Tourism.
  - Industrialization.
  - Relief and Emergency Assistance.
  - Electricity and energy resources.
  - Security and defense.
  - Privatization and Public Sector Reform.
  - Industrial Management.
  - Environment.
  - Pilot Farms/ Feasibility studies for small projects.

- Main Trilateral Cooperation partners include:
  - Japan.
  - United Arab Emirates.
  - Italy.
  - Brazil.
  - China.
  - Italy
  - Singapore.
  - African Development Bank.
  - Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.
  - Islamic Development Bank.
  - Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries.
Fifth: Development of the African continent... Africa Forum and Model of “South - South” Cooperation

The South-South cooperation formula is the ad-hoc approach to address the needs and challenges of the African continent. Based on the belief of the Arab Republic of Egypt in assisting the African countries to achieve sustainable development, Egypt provides technical cooperation programs and training programs to build the capacities of African cadres in various disciplines, topped by agriculture, health, education, security, diplomacy, judiciary and media, as well as financial grants, especially in the fields of health and agriculture.

In this context, Egypt, under President Sisi, is keen on focusing its policy towards its mother continent on the economic and strategic virtues of the African regional integration. The integration process, adopted by Egypt, offers many economic and strategic privileges to African countries, as follows:

1. The regional integration process helps bolster economic units that could be sustainable and permanent and builds wider markets capable of addressing the deficiencies in the production factors in the African countries.

2. Due to the fact that integration acts as the momentum for economic development, the regional integration process offers a suitable frame for mobilizing resources and markets in Africa countries.

3. Regional integration leads to competition among the regional products in the African countries, thus increasing the productive efficiency of the economic projects and realizing the optimal utilization of the resources.

4. Regional integration helps limiting the deterioration of the position of African countries on international level and increasing their negotiable and bargaining skills concerning commercial exchange conditions which require experiences exceeding those of the African countries individually.

5. Realizing independence in the international political economy. Regional integration in Africa could also be an essential factor for the social and political stability of several States as it provides a
framework for settling and solving the costly conflicts and getting rid of the sources of tension and conflicts.

In this context, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi confirmed, in his inaugural speech in Africa 2017 Forum, that “despite the obstacles facing the world economy, yet the African economy is still preserving its distinguished position as an attractive destination for world investment, nonetheless, we need to redouble our efforts to entrench economic cooperation and integration so as to realize the development and progress which our African nations aspire to.”

Africa Forums of 2016, 2017 and 2018, held in Sharm Al-Sheikh, represent one of the Egyptian strategic pillars in the movement towards Africa. Those Forums were partially organized by the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, the regional investment agency of COMESA and the African Development Bank, with the participation of heads of states and governments, senior government officials in Africa and the world, as well as international entrepreneurs who are investing or have potential investments in Africa, representatives of international financial institutions, experts and academics concerned with African economy.

1. Objectives of the Africa Investment Forum
   - Egypt supports the development process in Africa, stemming from the fact that Egypt's economic power is an additional thrust for the African continent.
   - This Forum is regarded the first African-African forum, unlike the other forums (Chinese-African, Indian-African, Turkish-African), thus permitting the chance to discuss the African issues according to an exclusive African vision and an accurate African national Agenda.
   - Resuming the efforts of establishing a free trade zone which started its first steps in Sharm Al-Sheikh in 2015, through the declaration of the free agreements of the three blocs; COMESA, SADC and EAC.
• Activating the three African commercial blocs which include the membership of 26 states with a total population of around 625 million individuals and with a total domestic product of around US Dollar 1.2 trillion; an important step towards establishing an African economic union by 2063, thus providing Africa with the competitive ability of attracting investments, liberating the movement of trade among all states and merging with several African alliances.

• The Forum is an actual kick off for the development role of the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development; being the development tool for the Egyptian policy in Africa.

• Through organizing the Forum, Egypt aims to create a state of balance between the African economic relations on the one hand, and the traditional international partners and donors on the other hand.

2. 300 Meetings of 1200 African and international Figure during the Africa 2016 Forum

The Africa 2016 Forum, held in 20-21 February 2016, included more than 1200 high-level delegations from public and private sectors from 45 States. The participants included the presidents of Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Nigeria and Sudan, in addition to the Aga khan, 45 ministers and chairmen of international organizations, 97 high-level spokespersons representing 30 States and 522 members from local, regional and international media outlets.

The Conference, also, witnessed the organization of more than 300 meetings; around 100 private-private and private-government meetings, in addition to the organization of 200 private-private meetings through the platform of Africa 2016 for commercial action. Moreover, seven understanding memorandums had been signed between African governments and private sectors in the fields of energy, infrastructure, health care and waste management.

At the end of the Forum, several recommendations that aim at consolidating the economic ties among African states had been drafted.
In this respect, the participants had agreed on the necessity of upgrading mechanisms of joint African action, implementing a regional integration and setting a unified action plan to address challenges and eliminate hurdles. The Forum, also, recommended the importance of fostering a suitable environment for investors in a manner that permits Africa to perform an influential economic and political role on the international level.

On the other hand, Africa 2016 Forum was an important chance for discussing several strategic projects, especially those related to regulations concerning activating an African economic free zone which was declared in the African Summit in Johannesburg, July 2015. It also discussed hurdles facing inter-regional trade between African States; on top of which are the customs hurdles.

3. Africa 2017 Forum... An Ambitious Development Agenda for the African Continent

The second session of Africa 2017 Forum took place in 7-9 December 2017 with the participation of around 1500 political, executive, economic and financial figures. The Forum sought to search for investment opportunities in projects that need fund, in addition to the companies that realized high growth rates in the private sector in Africa and the government projects that require direct foreign investments.

Africa 2017 Forum dedicated a day for the pioneering emerging companies and the businessmen who conducted dialogues over their commercial works and their offers that should attract investments and partnerships for some of the most innovative projects from Cairo to Cape Town.

Recommendations of Africa 2017 Forum
1. Promoting economic integration and encouraging new investments in Africa so as to raise the economic and development growth rates.
2. Establishing joint projects especially in the field of infrastructure so as to foster investment and commercial exchange among African states.
3. Enhancing the role of the African private sector among investment institutions in order to increase the investment rates and reciprocate experiences among African states.

4. Implementing entrepreneurship motivation programs and adopting finance initiatives so as to increase the participation of youth; being the current pillar of African economy.

5. Empowering women in various economic fields; being an active element in the developmental process in Africa and as a main pillar for realizing economic stability.


- Africa 2018 Forum... Entrepreneurship and Empowerment of African Women

  • The third session of Africa 2018 Forum was held in 8-9 December 2018, under the title "Bold Leadership, Collective Commitment: Advancing Intra-African Investment".

  • As the previous sessions, the Forum took place with the participation of number of leaders of African countries, major investors in the continent and number of international entrepreneurs and financial institutions. The Forum aimed to promote regional and international dialogue on enhancing investments in strategic sectors of the African continent and infrastructure, advance development and intraregional trade, reinforce regional integration and increase cooperation between the private sector and African governments to establish a modern innovation-based African economy.

  • The Forum discussed several issues of interest to the countries of the continent relevant to investments, including mechanisms of fair competition, protection of intra-COMESA investments, new orientations of economic opportunities, digital transformation, entrepreneurship, understanding of the future prospects of block chain technology and modern financial technology and competition mechanisms for opportunities in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
• On the sidelines of Africa 2018 Forum, the Young Entrepreneurs Day has been convened to discuss the stimulation of the entrepreneurial movement and the establishment of the start-ups in the continent and its international reach, which has become an urgent necessity to increase the added value of the business environment in the continent, and to create positive economic and social waves affecting the job market and benefiting from the enormous number of young people across the continent.

• The Forum also included the conference entitled "Empowerment of Women in Africa" to discuss means of engaging women in shaping the economic and political schemes of the continent and its future as well. It also tackled women occupation of leading positions in the field of politics and economy, their representation in the boards of institutions and companies and their participation in helping the countries of the continent to formulate a better strategy to promote the policies relevant to women empowerment and the highlight of successful female models in their societies.

- Most Significant Recommendations of Africa 2018 Forum

1. Establishment of a fund to provide guarantees against risks of investing in Africa to encourage Egyptian businessmen to direct their investments to Africa, to contribute to achieving development of the continent and to take advantage of the enormous opportunities available there.

2. Negotiation with international organizations -our development partners- to support infrastructure, as the cornerstone of real development, including accelerating the completion of the Cairo-Cape Town route, so as to integrate the different regions of the continent and to expand trade among our countries.

3. Stimulation and facilitation of the African companies’ action in Egypt to enhance joint investments and benefit from the continuous development of the Egyptian economy.

4. Increase of technical cooperation with the countries of the continent
in the areas of investment in human capital, digital transformation, management of international finance, governance as well as follow-up and evaluation process.

5. Establishment of a fund to invest in information infrastructure, in order to support the technological development and digital transformation in the continent so as to build modern economies based on the latest technological systems.

6. Joint cooperation between Egypt and its brothers from the countries of the continent, in areas of governance and fighting against corruption, through exchange of experiences, training and rehabilitation of concerned bodies in the continent, in addition to spreading the culture of governance and curbing corruption.


Sixth: President Sisi and climate change

In recent years, Egypt has directed much attention to climate change in the African continent. During the African Summit in January 2015, President El Sisi has chaired the Committee of African Heads of States and Governments on Climate Change CAHOSCC, for two years until the end of 2016. This has coincided with Egypt’s presiding over the Conference of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment AMCEN for the years 2014-2016.

In this context, Egypt sought to consolidate the following issues in relation to the impact of climate change on the continent of Africa:

- During participation at a lunch meeting organized on 28/9/2015 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at its headquarters, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi discussed the international negotiations on climate change in New York. The President spoke about Egypt's positive participation in climate change
negotiations, in response to its responsibility of representing the continent and coordinating its stances. President Sisi presented the Egyptian and African vision on climate change issues. He also put forward the important initiative of the African continent on mobilizing international support for climate change adaptation activities in Africa, in order to push forward efforts to address climate change by providing funding and technical cooperation for human and institutional capacity building.

- In his address to the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris on 30/11/2015, President Sisi stressed that Egypt has been and is still undertaking a constructive role throughout the various rounds of negotiations about climate change including this conference out of its responsibility for representing the African continent and expressing the unity of the African rank as all African nations are speaking in one voice to defend the interests of the African continent and achieve prosperity for the their peoples.

- In his address to the Summit of Climate Challenges and African Solutions in Paris on 1/12/2015, the President briefly outlined the relentless efforts of the African continent to promote the use of renewable energy in the countries of the continent, in line with the international actions to meet challenges of climate change and parallel with our plans to achieve sustainable development. Since presiding over the African Commission on Climate Change last year, President Sisi has been keen to push forward the African efforts to develop and crystallize a comprehensive initiative on renewable energy in Africa. Besides, he pointed out that Egypt has organized a number of important events in this regard, with the participation of the AU Commission and the African Union Commission and a number of African commissioners, and in cooperation with our regional and international partners such as the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Program, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the African Development Bank. The issue that contributed to setting a comprehensive frame for the initiative to reflect the magnitude
and strength of challenges faced by African countries due to climate change, especially that Africa is the most affected by these changes, despite being the least contributor to the harmful emissions to the environment.

- President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said at the African Summit in Addis Ababa on 20/1/2017 that our African continent is the least continent responsible for the escalation of the phenomenon of climate change. Even though it is the most affected by the negative impacts of this phenomenon and pays a high price due to its needs to acclimatize with these harmful effects which we see now either in the increase of sea level in the deltas of African rivers, including the River Nile, or in harming basic sectors and major residential activities of our economies such as agriculture due to spells of drought and floods as in the case in southern and eastern Africa.
Chapter III

Egypt ... and the Structure of Peace and Security in the Continent of Africa
The Egyptian policy has given special importance to the issue of peace and security in the African continent on many levels, such as: official initiatives, organizational frameworks and international contributions.

First: Egypt’s Contribution to Peacekeeping Operations in Africa

Egypt participates in 8 out of 9 United Nations peacekeeping missions at the level of the African continent in Côte d’Ivoire, Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Dessert, Liberia, South Sudan, Darfur and Mali, as follows:

- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINURSO) in Western Dessert to regulate the referendum.
- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to achieve stability.
- The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).
- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).
- The African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).
- The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

Egypt’s first contribution to UN peacekeeping was during the civil war in the Congo in 1960-1963 with 2 balloon brigade that contains 258 members. Egypt also participated in the peacekeeping forces in Somalia with a mechanical infantry battalion of 240 members from
December 1992 to May 1993. From May 1993 to February 1995, number of Egyptian troops in Somalia was 1,680, and ranged from a military brigade and 3 mechanized infantry battalion assigned to protect the Mogadishu airport and to train Somali police forces.

From June 1998 to March 2000, Egypt sent a mechanical infantry battalion of 125 members, an administrative unit and a medical unit of 294 personnel as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Central Africa. It also participated in peacekeeping forces in Angola with 28 military monitors throughout the years 1991-1999.

Since the outbreak of the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan, the Egyptian forces were the first peacekeeping mission in the region, where Egypt has sent in August 2004, 34 military monitors and three commanding officers as part of the African Union protection forces in Darfur.

This is in addition to the participation in the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), estimated at 1507 personnel, alongside 2,375 members of the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, as well as a 140-member police unit and other effective and important contributions to support peacekeeping efforts.

According to the United Nations Information Center in Cairo, Egypt currently contributes more than three thousand Egyptians serving under the banner of the United Nations in a number of missions around the world, marking Egypt the seventh largest contributors to police forces in international peacekeeping operations, and the first Arab country in this area.

Second: Egypt’s Membership in the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

In January 28, 2016, Egypt won, for the first time, the membership of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for 3 years on the capacity of the North region, with the support of 47 African Union countries, during the meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union.
Egypt’s membership in the Peace and Security Council came within the framework of its efforts and endeavors to play an active role in supporting and strengthening the peace and security structure in the African continent, especially in light of the growing threats of terrorist and armed groups.

This is the first time for Egypt to be elected to the Peace and Security Council for three-year term. Egypt has already occupied the seat for the two-year terms from 2006-2008 and from 2012-2013. During that period, an initiative was launched to establish a mechanism for consultation between the Peace and Security Council on the one hand and the Security Council on the other; the initiative upon which the annual consultation mechanism between the two councils has been established and is still in place.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is one of the key AU organs in charge of enforcing the Union decisions. It is patterned somewhat after the UN Security Council. The PSC has been founded as a dispute settlement body under the African Union, and was established by the Council’s Protocol issued in July 2002 and entered into force in December 2003, and thus becoming the decision-making mechanism for the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts and the keeping of peace and security in Africa. The council is composed of fifteen countries, of which five are elected to three-year terms, and ten to two-year terms.

The primary task of the African Peace and Security Council is to promote peace, security and stability in the African continent. In order to achieve this core task, the Protocol establishing the Council has identified a number of sub-functions, including early warning, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, in addition to the use of good offices, mediation, reconciliation, investigation and peace support and intervention operations. The functions of the African Peace and Security Council are:

1. To promote peace, security and stability in Africa in order to ensure the protection and preservation of the life, property and well-being of African peoples and their environment, as well as to create conducive environment for sustainable development.
2. To consider and prevent conflicts, and in case of conflict, the Council becomes responsible for peacebuilding and peacekeeping in order to settle such conflicts.

3. To promote and implement post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction activities so as to spread peace and to prevent the renewal of violence.

4. To coordinate and harmonize the continent’s efforts aiming to prevent and combat international terrorism in all its aspects.

5. To develop the AU’s common defense policy in accordance with Article 4 (d) of the Constitutive Act.

6. To reinforce and encourage democratic practices, good governance and rule of law, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law as part of the efforts aiming to conflict prevention.

Egypt’s membership in the African Union Peace and Security Council coincided with its membership in the United Nations Security Council. This has helped Egypt to coordinating between the agendas of the African Union and the United Nations in the field of international peace and security. Egypt played a key role in supporting African issues and expressing the aspirations of African States. In addition, Egyptian diplomacy contributed to achieve the following results in both Councils:

1. Egypt sought to issue decisions that reflect its vision in dealing with various aspects of the phenomenon of terrorism, such as combating extremist ideology and preventing weapons from reaching terrorists.

2. During its membership in the UN Security Council (2016-2017) Egypt organized about 30 events, some in Cairo and others were in the Council, as well as hosting a number of workshops and training courses in cooperation with the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding basically targeting the African States.
3. Egypt has played an important role in enhancing cooperation between the Security Council and the African Peace and Security Council and in highlighting the African point of view, especially with regard to issues impacting the continent. This effort has been embodied in Egypt Permanent Mission’s hosting of the 10th annual consultative meeting between the two Councils in New York. In addition to the organization of visits of the Security Council members to a number of African countries of concern to the Council, as well as Egypt’s success in holding the first consultative meeting between the Security Council and his counterpart at the League of Arab States at its headquarters in Cairo in May 2016.

Third: Egyptian mechanisms to support peace and security in the African continent

1. Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

   The strategy of the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding is based on the vision of “A secure, peaceful and prosperous Africa capable of realizing its full potential. The Center has been founded under the title of “Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa”.

   - The Center targets to achieve the following goals:

   • Facilitating and supporting diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution.

   • Supporting political processes and institutions in post-conflict stage.

   • Providing training to African peacekeepers troops and to peacebuilders as well as strengthening the capacities of national, regional and continental organizations working in the field of peace and security.

   • Analyzing conflicts’ root causes.
• Facilitating national dialogue aiming to resolve conflicts by peaceful means.

• Enhancing the capacities to build strong and effective institutions and to create specialized African cadres capable of resolving the problems of Africa.

• Submitting practical recommendations to decision-makers.

In addition to its traditional areas of action in the fields of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict management and resolution, the Center’s training activities encompassed crisis management, combating human trafficking, combating smuggling of small and light arms and the integrated border management, through which Egyptian and African journalists have been trained on skills of professional media coverage of conflicts.

In the light of these efforts, the Center has maintained its distinguished position in the African Union as one of the Centers of excellence in the field of accredited training. Culminating these endeavors, the Center has hosted the most important annual training course organized by the AU; the training of leaders of African peacekeeping mission in Cairo since October 2014.

- Regional Counter-Terrorism Center for the Community of Sahel-Saharan States

On 24 June 2018, Egypt announced the completion of the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Center for the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. The establishment of the Center comes within the framework of President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi’s keenness on providing support to the CEN-SAD members’ states within the framework of enhancing ongoing partnership and cooperation to counter terrorism and back security and stability efforts in the region.

At the seventh meeting of defense ministers of the member Community of Sahel-Saharan States held in Abuja, Nigeria in 20-22 June 2018, the participating delegations hailed Egypt’s efforts in establishing the Regional Counter-Terrorism Center for the Community
of Sahel-Saharan States and acknowledged gratitude and appreciation to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisifor the fulfillment of his promise to establish the Center in record time, as well as the provision of 1000 scholarships for military students from the Members States in the field of security and defense, in addition to the provision of 1000 new grants to study in the Arab Republic of Egypt in support of the countries of the CEN-SAD members and the collaboration on organizing periodic joint trainings in the field of combating terrorism.

The 14,300 sqm Center is fitted with the latest audio and visual equipment and updated computers to help achieving greater cooperation among Members States on issues of mutual interest, foremost of which are combating terrorism and enhancing security, economic and political relations.

In December 8, 2018, the Center inaugurated its activities by hosting the joint counter-terrorism exercise between contingents of the Sahel and Sahara States in Mohammed Nageeb Military Base, with the participation of members of the special forces of Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria and Burkina Faso, in the first group, who were trained on way to deal with various terror threats such as the armed groups and the release of hostages.

The exercise aims at harmonizing the African special troops, training them to work as a team with the troops of friendly countries as well as training them on emergency tactical responses according to the actions of the troops on the ground.


Egypt participates in the activation of the African Standby Force “ASF” since its inception in 2005, including the participation in the “Amani Africa II” training and its related workgroups and military maneuvers and trainings. In this framework, Egypt seeks to activate the role of the North African Regional Capacity “NARC” in the framework of the ASF, in light of the growing trend towards strengthening regional peacekeeping capacities.
In this context, Egypt hosts the NARCs brigade command headquarters, and one of its two administrative bases. It also nominates officers from the armed forces and the Interior Ministry to work in the planning unit of the Capacity’s Secretariat. In addition to the organization of a number of training courses for the military, police and civilian contingents of the Capacity’s Member States at The Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa, for being one of the most significant centers for training in the continent and the NARC accredited training center.

- **African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises ACIRC**

The African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises ACIRC consists of voluntary military contributions from the African Union Member States willing to, as being a standby force ready for rapid responses whose units are positioned at the contributing countries and are deployed in areas of conflict under the decision of the African Peace and Security Council or at the request of the concerned State in accordance with a strengthened mandate “include the power to use force”.

The process of establishing ACIRC evolved since the adoption of the AU Summit of its establishment decision in May 2013 as a transitional arrangement until the fully operational phase of the African Standby Force. 14 countries have so far pledged to contribute military troops to the ACIRC, they are Egypt, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Chad, Burundi, Mauritania, Algeria, Senegal, Niger, Ethiopia, Angola, Sudan and Burkina Faso.

Egypt has also pledged to contribute to ACIRC’s with a level II field hospital, military engineers, commanding officers and training programs as part of continued national engagement in supporting African peace and security structures.

In addition, two officers from the Ministry of Defense are participating in ACIRC cell at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa since August 2015.

After being elected as a non-permanent membership in the Security Council for the 6th term (2016-2017), Egypt has reaffirmed its commitment to bear its historic responsibilities in defending the Arab and African issues, along with the issues of international security and peace as well as the support of the pillars upon which the United Nations charter is based for being a founding State of the UN and a major contributor to the peacekeeping operation of the UN.

Egypt’s non-permanent membership of the Security Council (2016-2017), coinciding with its membership of the African Union Peace and Security Council, has provided it an opportunity to showcase the pivotal African dimension of its foreign policy and its influential role in addressing the various delicate issues and seeking to settle the Continent’s disputes.

Egypt has successfully affirmed the importance of building a strategic partnership with the African Union in support for peacekeeping and peacebuilding, while taking into account the African concerns, its priorities and independence. With the same attention to and interaction with the political issues, Egypt has tackled the peacekeeping operations file targeting the expansion of the scale and scope of its contribution to those operations. Indeed, Egypt has succeeded to be among the top eight countries contributing to those operations during that period through its various military, civil and police contingents.

During its first term as chair of the Council, Egypt has succeeded in May 2016 in the adoption of the Security Council resolution no. 2286 on the medical care in armed conflicts by the consensus of 85 countries.

On the economic level, Egypt has directed special attention to the debts to the rich countries and to the help of the continent to overcome its severe economic crisis. Subsequently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has suggested number of proposals to alleviate the situation of debts, such as the remission of certain amount of debts to rich countries and the reschedule of other. In addition to the endeavors of the World Bank
to perform more effective role in financing economic development, along with the necessity to revive the economy of African countries and to increase their exporting capacities and opportunities. On the other side, Egypt continues to offer technical assistance and training grants to African countries via the Egyptian fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa.

Some examples of Egypt’s efforts to support issues of the African continent during its non-permanent membership in the Security Council are as follows:

- Support efforts to maintain peace and security at the international and regional levels, pay attention to the crystallization of policies and concepts related to peacekeeping at the levels of the United Nations and African Union and contribute to the review process for peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

- Egypt reaffirms - in all regional and international forums and events - the importance of strengthening the mutual cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in order to prevent and resolve conflicts in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, in terms of strengthening the efforts of the United Nations to support building the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations in the field of preventive diplomacy, including mediation, early warning and reconstruction and development in post-conflict countries.

- Egypt's keenness on building the capacity of African countries in the areas of peace and security comes within the framework of its efforts to advance the human resources of the continent, through the provision of training courses conducted by the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & peacebuilding.

- Culminating its efforts to combat rhetoric and ideologies of terrorism, the Egyptian mission at the United Nations has succeeded in 25/5/2017 in unanimously adopting the UNSC
Resolution no. 2354 on the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives and to put it into action. Egypt has previously succeeded in the adoption of the Security Council of that framework as an official document and obtained unanimous approval of the Council’s members.

- Emphasize that the impacts of current and extended climate changes for decades are the result of emissions from industrialized countries throughout the post-industrial revolution period. Also, there are obligations to the industrialized countries towards the developing countries in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol either in terms of emission reduction, or transfer of technology, or funds for adaptation to climate change, or research, observation and identification of risks and threats, and the compensation to developing countries that are vulnerable to the aftermaths of climate change.

- Egypt considers the fulfillment of developed countries of their commitments to developing countries, especially the most vulnerable to climate change, is a key pillar in the success of negotiations on the future commitments of developed countries.

- Egypt believes that the discussion of climate change issues should remain within the framework of meetings, negotiations and conferences organized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and that the issue should not be politicized so as not to adopt approaches against the interests of developing countries.

Fifth: Egyptian political discourse in the United Nations... And the Issues of Africa

Issues of the African continent, especially peace and security, have been strongly presented in Egypt’s political discourse before the United Nations in recent years. This has been emphasized in the speeches of President Sisi which tackled issues such as the development and terrorism in Africa, the Libyan issue, the climate change, etc.
- President Sisi’s speech to the 69th meetings of the United Nations General Assembly 24 September 2014

• Egypt has actually launched, in cooperation with Libya neighboring countries, an initiative outlining specific steps and clear horizon to end the crisis of this sisterly country. This initiative could be used as a basis for reaching a political solution that supports the elected legitimate institutions in Libya and reaching a comprehensive solution that guarantees ending fighting and maintaining the territorial integrity of Libya. Until this goal could be achieved, smuggling weapons to Libya should stop and no leniency is allowed for extremists who carry weapons and resort to violence and do not recognize democracy.

• We cannot ignore pointing out to the interest given by Egypt to the issues of the African continent. Solidarity and fraternity binding the African peoples and also the joint challenges facing them require us to work harder and have a clear vision for attaining the aspirations of our peoples for democracy and development along with maintaining the dignity of the citizen and giving more attention to our young people and their aspirations for a brighter future. Our success in this regard is the guarantee for the future of our countries.

• I urge from this podium the international community, out of our common humanity, to stand up to the epidemic of Ebola that is plaguing several West African countries. Fighting this disease is a collective responsibility for lifting the suffering off poor people and providing protection for our world where spaces are becoming shorter due to the nature of our age and rapidity of interconnection.

- President Sisi Speech to the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly 1 September 2015

• Egypt's great keenness on the future of Libya and its safety and stability was the first motive behind supporting the United Nations' efforts for reaching a political settlement to the Libyan crisis. This support has played a clear role in reaching Sukhirat agreement that should be a landmark event that is followed by unifying all efforts by the international community and its siding with the will of the
signatory parties for reconstructing the Libyan State and empowering it for fighting terrorism effectively and enhancing its potentials to uproot terrorism before it would create there a base that threatens Libya neighboring countries that could spill over to the depth of Africa. Within this framework, I would like to underline the necessity of maintaining efforts to create a propitious atmosphere for more participation by Libyan parties who believe in the modern State. These efforts should go side by side with relentless confrontation for eradicating terrorism.

- President Sisi’s speech to the 71st meetings of the United Nations General Assembly 22 September 2016

• We have reached last year an agreement which is based on the principles of the United Nations agreement on climate change. I confirm, in my capacity as the coordinator of the group of African heads of state on climate change, Africa's commitment to confronting climate change according to its potentials. I also confirm its desire to activate mechanisms for implementing the agreement on technology transfer and sustainable finance. This is why Egypt has set up a track for a renewable energy initiative and put it forth within the framework of its leadership of the committee of African leaders on climate change in implementation of the related African Union resolutions. Egypt confirms its importance for channeling finance to Africa and that confronting the climate change should take into consideration fairness and right to development along with commitment to the international law principles the most important of which is not harming of and enhancing cooperation with all countries in the proposed projects in line with regulating rules of the international finance institutions atop of which comes the World Bank.

• The Libyan issue is affecting the Egyptian national security. Libya is passing through a critical situation and a deep political crisis. Although we have achieved progress last year by signing the Sukhirat agreement, its implementation is still facing impediments. Egypt is undertaking an active role for uniting the rival Libyan parties
and supporting the implementation of the agreement as a means of restoring the unity and power of the Libyan State on its territories and operating through its legitimate institutions represented in a presidential council, a national unity government, a House and a national army. Egypt also hosts meetings of the Libyan brothers for facilitating the implementation of the Sukhirat agreement and forming a national unity government, representing all Libyans, to be endorsed by the Libyan House so that it could start rebuilding Libya while the national army would be able to stand up to terrorism. Also, the arms embargo on the Libyan army should be lifted as soon as possible to end the presence of terrorism and militias in Libya as it is high time to restore the institutions of the Libyan State.

- Adhering to the same commitment, Egypt is shouldering its responsibility towards the stability and security of the African continent. Egypt is the current chairman of the African Peace and Security Council and is keen on enhancing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations at a time when the trans-border threats, including terrorism and organized crime, are growing. This is meant to achieve progress in handling disputes in accordance with the principle of "the national ownership and leadership" for rendering peace building efforts a success. Egypt was keen through its membership in the African Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council to coordinate stances between the two bodies. This has been positively reflected on African issues in the UN Security Council where Egypt has placed African issues on top of priorities during its chairmanship of the UN Security Council.

- Egypt has worked for supporting the African peace and security structure; especially through activating the African Standby Force. Egypt has intensified its participation in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa where it restored its status as one of the big 10 countries contributing to these missions. Egypt is calling for adopting a comprehensive vision for fighting terrorism through an approach that does not include only the security dimension but also includes the intellectual side as well. Therefore, Egypt will host the center for fighting terrorism which is affiliated to the Sahel and Sahara Grouping. Egypt also confirms the importance of studying any new
sources for tension taking into consideration the phenomenon of desertification and scarcity of water along with the development needs that are related to the trans-border water management.

• At the level of our African continent, Egypt is confirming the importance of providing support for the Somali government to complete the elections during this year.

• In Burundi, Egypt is seeking to reach solutions to the political crisis there through the African Peace and Security Council and, with a greater degree, through the UN Security Council. Egypt is seeking to address the crisis in the appropriate way for calming down the political situation and empowering all parties concerned in Burundi to enhance political dialogue and steer away from violence.

• Since the outbreak of the crisis in South Sudan, Egypt has been working to participate within regional frameworks to address the crisis. Egypt has been contacting the two conflicting parties and the regional and international parties concerned for establishing peace there. Egypt is also seeking through its chairmanship of the African Peace and Security Council that the Council would contribute with a wider role to the establishment of peace there and enhancing cooperation with the joint observer and assessment mechanism. Egypt is calling for working within the framework of a South Sudanese transitional national unity government in a way that will help restore stability to Juba.

• As for Sudan, Egypt is highly appreciating the Sudanese government's efforts that resulted in signing the road map that was proposed by the high-level African mechanism last April.

• The phenomenon of terrorism, with what it represents of aggression on the right to life, became more of a threat to international peace and security given the fact that terrorism is threatening the entity of the State in favor of extremist ideologies that are committing barbaric acts and tampering with the potentials of peoples under the cloak of religion. This situation requires an intensified regional and international cooperation. Egypt has always been keen on confirming that fighting terrorism will not bear fruit except through addressing its root causes and through firm confrontation with terrorist
organizations along with standing up to the extremist ideologies which constitute the base of terrorism and fighting also those who are spreading these ideologies. I would like to highlight at this point Egypt's initiative during its chairmanship of the UN Security Council in May for crystallizing an international mechanism for fighting the ideologies feeding terrorism.

- Egypt is calling on the international community to take all required measures to prevent terrorism from using technological and information progress that contributed to adding more dangerous dimensions to the phenomenon of terrorism and intellectual extremism that led to its spread in today's world. This state of affairs requires pooling all efforts together for halting the transmission of channels and electronic websites instigating violence and extremism.

- President Sisi’s speech to the 72nd meetings of the United Nations General Assembly 19 September 2017

- As Egypt's geographical home, Africa lies at the heart of Egypt's foreign policy, for it is in Africa that our historic roots lie. From Africa, we derive the pride in our identity and our deep sense of belonging. This continent has also become subject to the same security threats facing the Arab region, and a witness on the crisis of the international economic system, which cements poverty and economic disparity. This global order bears a major responsibility in the economic, political and social crises that threaten international peace and stability, rendering any discussion on sustainable development goals futile.

- It is impossible to envisage a future for the regional or international order without a definite and comprehensive confrontation with terrorism. This should be approached in a manner that leads to its eradication and the elimination of its roots and causes, in addition to openly confronting any party that supports or finances terrorism, or that grants it political, media fora, or safe havens.

- Settling disputes in our world today can only be achieved through respect for the principles of international law, and negotiation on the
basis of legal, historic, and moral principles, as well as the respect of the sovereignty of States and of the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs... More than seven decades have elapsed since the establishment of the United Nations, force and zero-sum games cannot remain as a means to realize interests, especially in today's world, which is based on mutual interdependence among nations, and where significant horizons for cooperation and understanding exist to achieve the common interests of everyone.

• Based upon those principles, Egypt has been at the forefront of countries that have been keen on initiating the Nile Basin Initiative in 1999. It has also pursued the conclusion of a trilateral agreement between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia to address the Renaissance Dam issue from a cooperative perspective, in a manner that establishes a clear legal framework to manage this issue in accordance with international law and established principles, along with the well established rules governing relations between states sharing basins of trans-boundary rivers all over the world... This agreement remains as the legal framework that can translate the value of cooperation and sharing between the three parties, as long as good faith persists and the parties apply the agreement fully and with integrity. In this regard, it is of paramount importance to carry out what has been previously agreed upon between the parties in the context of this agreement, especially given the pressing time factor, in order to avoid squandering the opportunity of presenting a successful model for the management of relations between three sisterly countries in the Nile basin.

- President Sisi’s speech to the 73rd meetings of the United Nations General Assembly 25 September 2018

• We should not forget that a year has passed since the adoption of the United Nations action plan on Libya, which sought to comprehensively address the Libyan crisis, without achieving progress in its implementation. This requires us to renew our commitment to a comprehensive political solution, as set forth in the said United Nations Action Plan. If we are to halt the loss of life, the
depletion of Libya's resources, and move towards the reconstruction phase.

- We need to strengthen partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations. Here, I would particularly like to emphasize the successful partnership that exists between the United Nations and the African Union, as a model for burden sharing and leveraging the comparative advantages of each organization to address the complex challenges facing our continent, particularly in the fields of peacekeeping, as well as humanitarian and developmental assistance. As Egypt will shortly assume the presidency of the African Union in 2019, we look forward to strengthening the strategic partnership between the Union and the United Nations, through programs that have a real impact on the continent, and building on the progress made to consolidate the African Union’s post-conflict reconstruction and development policy. This is in addition to Egypt’s hosting of the African Union Center for Post-Conflict, Reconstruction and Development and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States Counter-terrorism Center.

- We need to continue our efforts to implement the initiative launched by Egypt during its membership of the UN Security Council, to put in place a comprehensive International framework to develop policies and bolster cooperation, in order to counter terrorism. In this context, we welcome the Secretary-General’s initiative to convene the United Nations Conference on Counter Terrorism last June, following the periodic review of the United Nations Counter Terrorism strategy.
Chapter IV

Egyptian-African Economic Relations
Economic relations with the African continent are of important dimension in the framework of the strategy adopted by Egypt toward cooperation with African countries. Over many decades, Egypt has strengthened economic partnership, bilaterally and regionally, with all African countries and has taken many mechanisms to develop the volume of Intra-African relations between Egypt and the African continent. Egypt, also, seeks to open African markets to develop Egyptian exports, to expand the marketing base of the Egyptian products and to increase and strengthen the Egyptian imports from the African countries, in order to achieve more African cooperation and integration based on its African belonging and its desire to enhance it.

The Egyptian policy aims to strengthen its economic relations with Africa as a strategic priority by increasing Egyptian investments in Africa and strengthening economic cooperation in areas closely related to development, especially in light of the reforms in the field of investment which included the issuance of several laws as the Investment Law and its executive regulations and the Bankruptcy Law. Egypt, also, has taken institutional measures to improve the investment climate, develop the investor services center, and implement an ambitious national economic reform program, in cooperation with international financial institutions, which includes a package of Financial, monetary and legislative reforms to improve the business and investment climate and remove barriers facing the private sector and foreign investors. This is in line with the G20 Initiative for Partnership with Africa and Egypt’s commitment to support the implementation of the African Union Agenda of 2063, which represents the basic development framework for the African continent and sets out the objectives that will be achieved during Egypt’s presidency of the African Union in 2019 under a comprehensive vision and strategy for all organs and institutions of the state.
First: Trade exchange between Egypt and Africa

Egypt has taken a number of mechanisms to revitalize trade exchange with the African continent, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to enhance the Egyptian presence on the continent and to increase Egyptian exports, which cover only 5% of the total African imports, as well as increasing Egypt’s imports from the African continent, which represent only a very small percentage of the total Egyptian imports.

1- Rate of trade exchange between Egypt and the African countries

Over different periods, the value of trade exchange between Egypt and the African countries varied. After, achieving a significant increase in Egypt’s exports and imports with the African countries during 2008-2009 compared with the 1990s, there was a decline in the years following 2011 due to the conditions of the Egyptian economy. The country’s interest in cooperation with Africa, has increased steadily since 2015, in December 2018, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the total trade exchange between Egypt and the African countries increased to $4.2 billion during the first eight months of 2018 compared to $3.4 billion during the same period of 2017 with an increase of $777.4 million. The value of Egyptian exports amounted to $2.8 billion between January and August of 2018, while the value of imports from African countries reached $1.3 billion during the same period.

Kenya topped the African countries in terms of the volume of trade exchange with Egypt with $418 million, as the Egyptian exports reached $224.4 million during the first eight months of 2018 compared to $191.9 million during the same period of 2017 with an increase of $32.5 billion.

Meanwhile, imports from Kenya rose to $193.5 million during the first eight months of 2018 compared to $152.5 million during the same period in 2017 with an increase of $41 million.

South Africa came in the second place with $195.2 million trade exchange with Egypt, as the Egyptian exports reached $63.4 million compared to $131.8 million during the first eight months of 2018.
Ethiopia came in the third place with $125.7 million trade exchange with Egypt between January and August of 2018. The Egyptian exports amounted to $119.3 million compared to $6.4 million imports.

2- Egypt's efforts to increase value of trade exchange with Africa

The trade relations between Egypt and the African countries face many challenges that affect the flow of goods among countries, most of which are obstacles related to shipping and transport of goods between African countries markets, as well as the high risk rates in African markets.

Therefore, the Egyptian government has developed many mechanisms to enhance the volume of Intra-African trade between Egypt and African countries and to remove all obstacles facing the trade movement with the countries of the continent, including:

A) Strategy for Developing Egyptian Export to the African Continent

The Egyptian government announced a strategy to develop Egyptian exports to the African continent from 2018 to 2020 in cooperation with five export councils: Chemical Export Council (CEC), Export Council for Building Materials, Refractory & Metallurgy Industries (ECBM), Engineering Export Council (EEC), Food Export Council (FEC), Export Council Of Medical Industries (ECMI), whose exports represent 80% of the total Egyptian exports to the African market.

The strategy includes a clear plan of action with specific time frames defining target markets, implementation mechanisms and export opportunities available for Egyptian products. The strategy is based on six main axes: analytical study of African markets, logistic support, development of export markets, financing and guarantee of exports and trade agreements as well as the development of the export support program targeting the African market.

The strategy also includes analytical studies of all African markets, the competitive advantages available for the Egyptian product in each market and the opportunities available for each product. In this context,
the role of the bodies affiliated to the Ministry of Trade and Industry becomes very clear in enhancing the access of Egyptian products to the African market and the role of the Egypt Expo & Convention Authority (EECA) to organize a number of specialized exhibitions and the financing role of the Export Development Bank and the Export Risk Guarantee Company, where the cost of shipping to Africa has increased to 50% to activate trade movement between Egypt and African countries.

In order to complete the system of logistic centers, the first logistic center was inaugurated in Kenya for the development of Egyptian exports to African countries, in preparation for the establishment of a number of logistic centers throughout the continent in the countries of East Africa (Tanzania, Zambia) and West and South African countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Senegal).

Developing export markets, through establishing an electronic portal to disseminate all the basic information about the targeted African countries and the concluded commercial agreements and their advantages and availability to the Egyptian companies, is also required. Workshops for the Egyptian companies to be held in the target sectors for raising awareness of the export requirements and technical specifications required by African countries such as Kenya, Sudan, Zambia and Uganda. The principle of exchange to be applied with African countries through the exchange of Egypt’s imports such as meat, leather, milk and others in exchange for payment of 50% of its value in the form of foreign currency, and 50% in the form of Egyptian goods and products.

The strategy also included the importance of opening sub-accounts for exporters in the target markets, through the main centers in Egypt, so that customers can deposit the proceeds of the sales orders to be transferred such as the National Bank of Egypt, Banque du Caire and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, as well as activating export financing mechanisms, in cooperation with several banks such as: African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and African Development Bank.

In this context, the role of the Export Development Bank and
the Export Risk Guarantee Company becomes very important. The banking programs and services to encourage Egyptian companies to export to the targeted African countries include insurance and reinsurance programs in cases of non-payment by importers, as well as bank guarantee programs to finance Egyptian exports in contracts with African governments.

B) Supporting Egyptian exports to Africa

The Egyptian government has established a program to support Egyptian exports to African countries through the contribution of the Egyptian Export Development Fund to the transport and shipping fees to African countries in order to reduce the transport expenses to these countries. Through this program, the Fund will afford 50% of the land and sea freight cost for the Egyptian exports destined for African countries.

An agreement was signed between the Egyptian Export Development Bank (EBE) and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) at the 2017 Africa Forum in Sharm El Sheikh to provide $500 million finance through the Egyptian Export Credit Support Program (EPDP). The program aims to increase the exports and investments of Egyptian companies to African countries as one of the main initiatives to assist Egyptian exporters, to enhance trade and industrial exchange between African countries to support Egyptian exports, to strengthen the relationship between the African Export-Import Bank and the Egyptian Export Development Bank, to find investment and commercial opportunities and to achieve the desired sustainable economic development. The program, also, aims to assist export councils and business associations to promote Egyptian exports of products and commodities in African countries, to provide assistance to commercial bodies that carry out export promotion activities and provide electronic connectivity and twinning services by facilitating the awarding of contracts by African governments to major Egyptian exporters and supporting the partnership between those bodies.

On the other hand, the African Export-Import Bank has allocated $2 billion to Egypt's financing programs in 2018, of which $500 million
is earmarked for small and medium-sized enterprises. The volume of Egypt's portfolio reached 18% of the bank's funding programs in 2017, amounting to $1.5 billion, of which $500 million was directed to the promotion of Egyptian-African trade, a program launched by the bank in 2015 aimed at supporting Egyptian trade and investment projects across the continent. Thus, it is clear that there are many opportunities to establish Egyptian-African projects in cooperation with the African Export-Import Bank in the fields of energy, chemical industries, construction and communications. Financing of Intra-African trade projects is a top priority for the Bank, especially since Egypt is one of the pivotal countries of the African trade system.

C) The first Intra-African Trade Fair

Egypt hosted the first Intra-African Trade Fair under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi from December 11 to 17, 2018, in cooperation with the African Export-Import Bank, the African Union Commission and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the participation of 1063 African companies including 300 Egyptian companies and 34 countries with national pavilions including 5 non-African countries including: Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, UAE and China. The fair received international attention and wide participation as Secretary General of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Vera Songwe and Secretary-General of the UNCTAD Conference Mukasea Kitwe attended as well as a number of African Ministers, Executive Chairman of Export-Import Bank of China Hu Xiaolian and Executive Director of the African Finance Corporation Sanjiv Gupta.

The fair represents an important step in the path of joint African economic cooperation as it has contributed to enhancing communication among business communities, suppliers, importers and investors, particularly in African countries to enable buyers, sellers, investors and countries to enter into trade transactions that contribute to increasing trade exchange among African countries, especially in light of the low volume of intra-African trade.

Egypt’s aim of the fair was to focus on the African trade promotion strategy to support and encourage the production of goods and
services in order to promote participation in regional trade and to seek
capacity building to expand production capacities. The fair also aims to
highlighting opportunities for African companies to participate in major
projects implemented recently by the Egyptian government. During the
fair, several trade deals were signed at all levels, including the signing
of agreements worth $30 billion, in addition to agreeing to conclude
several commercial transactions at the African and international levels.

D) In support of the Egyptian exports movement, the Egyptian
government agreed in December 2018, with Al-Nasr Company for
Export and Import, one of the companies of the Holding Company for
Maritime and Land Transport, under the Ministry of Public Business
Sector, to support partnership with the private sector in Africa in
order to boost trade between Egypt and the African countries, by
benefiting from the branches of Al-Nasr Company for Export and
Import in Africa as well as giving guarantee for the exporters that
their products will reach the African markets permanently.

Second: Egypt and investment in Africa

Egypt is keen to strengthen investment and economic relations
with the African continent, based on its political and historic relations
with African countries. Egypt looks forward to enhancing its trade and
investment relations in order to stimulate investment and development
on the African continent within the framework of joint cooperation with
African countries.

1- Egyptian investments in Africa

Egyptian investments have been on the African continent since
the 1960s, including construction, chemicals, mining, pharmaceutical
and pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, electronic components
and financial services. African investments in Egypt are directed to
agriculture, industry, finance, services, tourism, construction and ICT.

These investments continued despite their diversity and varying
value from time to time. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced at
the Africa 2018 Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh that Egypt’s total investment in Africa is $10.2 billion, while African investments in Egypt amounted to $2.8 billion.

In this context, many international bodies and organizations praised Egypt as the most attractive African country for investments. Egypt has been selected as the best country to invest in 2018 in Africa by Rand Randant, one of the largest investment banks operating in the African continent, in its report entitled “Where to invest in Africa” as Egypt is the largest African market in terms of GDP and the largest consumer market in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Bank has based its report on several axes, the most important of which are the large projects implemented by Egypt during the four years (2014-2018) in the field of infrastructure, which contributed to creating an attractive environment for investments and implementing projects for infrastructure developing and upgrading which were commended by all international institutions. In addition, Egypt makes several major reforms in the field of investment, including issuing the investment map, facilitating and raising the efficiency of the establishment of investment companies and procedures, holding several agreements to create an investment climate in Egypt and establishing several investment zones. Egypt also ratified number of laws such as the Investment Law and its executive regulations, the Bankruptcy Law and the Financial Leasing Law and amended the Companies Act and the Capital Market Act, in addition to the institutional measures taken to improve the investment climate and develop the investor service center.

According to the 2018 World Investment Report issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Egypt led the African countries in absorbing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows during 2017, with total FDI $7.4 billion, followed by Ethiopia with $3.6 billion, Nigeria with $ 3.5 billion, Ghana with $3.4 billion then Morocco with $2.7 billion.

2. Investment opportunities in Africa

The African continent is moving to regain its place on the map of the world economy as the second largest continent in the world in terms
of area and population census. This coincides with strong economic activity for a number of countries in the continent given that the youth group has the largest share of Africa's population, currently estimated at 1.3 billion.

The African continent witnessed many economic developments and comprehensive reforms adopted by African governments, which contributed to the improvement of economic conditions throughout the continent. This led to remarkable changes in the structure of many African economies. The GDP growth in Africa reached 3.6% in 2017 as many African countries achieved high economic growth in 2017: Djibouti achieved 7% growth rate, Côte d’Ivoire 6.9%, Tanzania 6.8%, Senegal 6.8%, Rwanda 6.1%, Kenya 5.3%, Sierra Leone and Uganda 5.0%, the Central African Republic 4.7% and Mozambique 4.5% (according to the estimates of the International Monetary Fund in 2017).

The African Trade Report issued by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) also highlighted its expectations for increasing economic growth rates on the African continent, particularly in light of the implications of the signing of the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AFCFTA) in March 2018. The agreement is an important step towards the African common market to boost the ambitions of the continent to regain its place on the global trade map as its impact will be reflected on the volume of intra-African trade to reach 52% by 2022, according to the results of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. One of the factors that will increase economic growth rates on the African continent is the support of the international institutions of the African continent. The World Bank announced in 2018 that it will invest about $45 billion in Africa over the next three years, which will affect the growth of the African continent. The investments will target the development of education programs, basic health services, clean water, sanitation, agriculture, business climate and infrastructure especially that the African continent is in transition from agriculture to manufacturing industries, including the automotive industry and shipbuilding.

In light of Egypt’s keenness to cooperate and coordinate with its brothers in African countries, especially in the economic and developmental fields, and the firm conviction of the material and human
resources possessed by the African countries, which, if exploited optimally, can contribute to creating joint trade and investment opportunities to meet the needs of development of African countries, it is clear that there is a need for consistency between national and regional efforts, and the UN goals of achieving development, with cooperation and integration among African countries to achieve this. Africa has many economic assets in various fields as it is rich in natural resources, including agricultural resources, mineral and oil resources, fishery resources, and so on. Thus, there are many investment opportunities in Africa including: energy, trade, tourism, logistics, infrastructure and creative industries that provide multiple jobs and develop their financial and human resources.

In his address to “Africa 2018 Forum” in Sharm El-Sheikh, President Sisi affirmed:

“Africa is the future of the global economy and entrepreneurship and it has all the elements needed to achieve a boom in which projects implemented by entrepreneurs strongly and effectively contribute to”.

The most important investment opportunities in Africa can be presented as follows:

A) Human resources

The investment in training and building human capacity is one of the important and promising areas of cooperation among the African countries. This is due to the fact that the continent has the highest rates of population growth in the world regions at 2.55% per annum in the period 2011-2018 and the proportion of people under 30 years of age exceeds 65% of the continent's total population. This requires working on two parallel tracks: controlling population growth rates and taking advantage of the current human resources through training and capacity building.

B) Agricultural and Animal Investments

The African continent has enormous agricultural potential, which qualifies it to be the “world food basket”. Africa is famous for its multiple...
water resources, high rainfall rates in some of its diverse climatic zones and its vast reservoir of groundwater. Due to Africa's wide geographical area, it is characterized by its diversity of climatic regions, different levels and types of rich soils, and various agricultural seasons, which makes it "a suitable environment for the cultivation and production of all crops, grains and vegetables. The percentage of arable land is 35% of the continent's total area, of which only 7% is used in agriculture of all kinds. Thus, investment in agriculture is one of Africa's best options for investors to contribute to economic growth and food security in Africa.

The African continent also has livestock wealth such as animal husbandry and grazing, as well as fish wealth as the continent has coastlines on the Indian and Atlantic oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea. The continent, also, possesses freshwater fishing resources such as the Nile River and the Great Lakes of Central Africa. West Africa is one of the most important fishing areas in the world and the production of fish from freshwater sources in the continent accounts for about two-thirds of the world's production.

C) Mineral Resources

The African continent has about 30% of the world's mineral wealth as Africa's petroleum is estimated at 8% of the world's total reserves, which is equivalent to 80-100 billion barrels of crude oil. The oil fields are located on the continent in many of its countries and on its western shores, where there are 21 oil producing countries. The continent also holds 7% of the gas reserves in the world, 89% of platinum, 81% of chromium, 61% of manganese and 60% of cobalt, as well as one fifth of the world's diamond and gold reserves. Africa is characterized by large amounts of uranium in the nuclear industry, where the continent produces more than 18% of the total world production of uranium as studies indicate that Africa owns one third of the world's reserves. The African continent has the largest reserves in the world in the ore bauxite element which is the main element used in aluminum industry.

There are also several promising investment sectors in the African market, including energy, infrastructure, software, information technology, tourism and transportation.
The African continent has many investment opportunities in the fields of mineral and oil resources, agricultural resources, fishery resources and forest resources, as well as other opportunities in the construction of basic amenities and infrastructure such as roads, railways, airports and ports, electricity generation, dams, reservoirs, etc.

D) The role of the private sector in promoting Egyptian investments in Africa

The private sector plays an important role as a key partner in the African economic development process, especially after the Egyptian government and the World Bank signed a $1 billion agreement at the Africa 2018 Forum, held in Sharm El Sheikh, to support the role of the Egyptian private sector in achieving integrated growth. This helps to achieve the objectives of the economic reform program, especially with regard to facilitating the establishment of companies and creating more job opportunities.

The Egyptian companies that invest in Africa are: Arab Contractors, Qalaa Holdings, El Sewedy Electric (El Sewedy Cables), Orascom Construction, ASEC Cement, Ahly Capital Holding, Reyada Construction, Ascom Geology and Mining, Egyptian International Pharmaceutical Industries (EIPICO), Mobiserve Holding Company and Acrow Misr metal scaffolding.

- Arab Contractors Company

The company has been operating in Africa since 1964, and has implemented projects in Nigeria, Ghana, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Uganda and elsewhere. Roads projects account for 75% of the company’s operations in the African market as they are the main focus of action on the continent, in addition to service projects such as hospitals and public buildings. The company’s contracts in Africa are estimated at about $1.5 billion in more than 18 countries in Africa.

In Uganda, the company has implemented several projects, including the $54 million project for the renewal and development process of Masaka-Bukakata Road in southern Uganda, which is part of the Uganda National Roads Authority, the development and modernization
of the Dirt Road with a length of 67 kilometers, and 200 kilometers away from Kampala, another road project with a length of 44 kilometers in addition to the drainage and industrial works along the road with a total cost of USD 133 million to be finished in 36 months. Other projects included the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Kainuoja Hospital with a total value of $13.6 million and the Development and Rehabilitation of Mulago Specialized Hospital in Kampa for the Ugandan Ministry of Health with a total value of $22.3 million. The Company completed the works of the Project of Mitigating Kasese floods which included drilling, dredging, rock removal, and the placement of gabions and rocks removed from the main waterway to protect and strengthen the bridges to prevent erosion and control flood with a high efficiency with a total value of $2.7 million. Another project is the construction of the first phase of the concrete structure of the Busija commercial market on a 7000 square meter for the Ugandan Ministry of Local Administration in Kampala with a total value of about $5.8 million.

In Nigeria, the Arab Contractors Company implemented a number of construction works, including the building of the Insurance Authority, the headquarters of the stock market in Abuja, the Sultan of Sokoto’s Palace and construction of Administrative Building for the Egyptian Embassy. The company also implemented some of the major projects in Abuja and the southern states, with a turnover of about $767 million from 2010-2012. In 2012, the company acquired a contract for the establishment of the headquarters of the government of the state of Enugu, in southern Nigeria worth $10 million, in addition to many projects estimated at $165 million and the implementation of the ministries complex in Anju state, Nigeria worth $86 million. In 2013, the company’s total contracts with local governments and the federal government totaled $147 million for projects that include roads, buildings and infrastructure across Nigeria, and roads in a southern state worth $24 million.

In July 2013, the Arab Contractors Company in Nigeria implemented two roads in the state of Lagos and a road in the Imo State worth $65 million. In addition, the company has won a project for the re-establishment and development of the Enugu-Port Harcourt Road, Nigeria, with a total value of about $320 million.
The company aims to increase its investments in the African market. It announced its plan in 2018 for the implementation of new infrastructure projects in four African countries at an expected cost of $400-450 million for new projects including roads, bridges, water networks and sewage lines. The new projects are in Mauritania, Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal. The company also completed several projects in African countries during 2018, including a huge project for the establishment of a large network of drinking water in Mauritania and the expansion of Abidjan Airport. The company also has won the implementation of a 114 km road project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at a cost of about $100 million.

One of the company’s most recent projects in Africa is the design and construction of Stiegler’s Gorge Hydroelectric Power Station, Tanzania. The project is joint ventures between the Arab Contractors Company and El sewedy Electric Company with a total cost of $3.6 billion in a period not exceeding 36 months. The Tanzanian Government is considering this project one of the most important national projects for electricity generation. The contract was signed on December 12, 2018 in Tanzania. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Arab Contractors Company, El Sewedy Electric and the African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank) to cooperate in the construction of the Tanzania Dam during the first Intra-African Trade Fair 2018 on 11-17 December 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh.

On the other hand, the Arab Contractors Company is implementing several projects in Cameroon at a cost of $250-300 million for infrastructure works and roads, in addition to other projects in Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia and Mauritania.

In recognition of its efforts, the Arab Contractors Company received a commendation from many African countries. It was awarded the Order of Merit by the Kenyan President Ahroo Kenyatta due to its great role in the development of the infrastructure of the Kenyan state. The Vice-President of Uganda, Edward Sikandi, awarded the Arab Contractors Company the award of the best contracting company in Uganda for the year 2018 for its participation in the implementation of several development projects and for its distinguished work which
meets the international quality and performance standards, as it follows the funding plans targeted by African and Islamic banks and foreign financing institutions so that they can increase their business in Africa.

- **Qalaa Holdings**

  Qalaa Holdings is a leading investment company in Africa and the Middle East, focusing on investment projects in several strategic sectors including energy, cement, construction, transportation, logistics, food and mining.

  The company is investing in East Africa with an initiative to rehabilitate the national railway of Kenya and Uganda with funding worth more than US $300 million. To fully fund the turnaround program for Rift Valley Railways, a group of leading development finance institutions and specialized investors around the world participated in the initiative.

  Qalaa Holdings has established Wafra to be Qalaa Holdings' platform company for agricultural production in Sudan and South Sudan. The expansion of agricultural investment is aimed at owning more than 500,000 feddans through its subsidiaries:

  - Sabina: the Sabina firm completed the rehabilitation of more than 200 km of irrigation canals that will supply water to its own land as well as 13,000 feddans for local farmers.
  
  - Concord Agriculture (250,000 feddans in South Sudan): It is working in large-scale cultivation of cash crops including grain sorghum, maize, sunflower, rice and various grain legumes.

  Qalaa Holdings’ investments in the African continent are worth about $650 million in a number of countries, including Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan, according to the Qalaa Holdings chairman during his participation in the Africa 2018 Forum in Sharm El Sheikh.

- **El-Sewedy Cables**

  Since 1999, the company has been investing in the energy sector and has established several factories in Ghana, Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda. The company also signed a
$12.5 million deal with ZESCO (Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited) in Zambia to set up factories to manufacture transformers and meters used in the electricity sector.

It is worth mentioning that the company, in cooperation with Arab Contractors Company, is implementing Stiegler’s Gorge Hydroelectric Power Station, the most important national projects to generate electricity in Tanzania. It contributes to linking the networks of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Arab Contractors Company, El-Sewedy Electric and the African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank) to cooperate in the construction of the Tanzania Dam during the first Intra-African Trade Fair 2018 on 11-17 December 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh.

The company’s investments in Africa are estimated at LE3.4 billion in 2017 as the company seeks to maximize its investments and exports to the continent.

E) Efforts to increase investments in Africa

As part of the trend to increase the volume of Egyptian investments in Africa, Egypt has taken many steps to implement joint projects among African countries in the fields of infrastructure, new and renewable energy, telecommunications and information technology. The most important of these are the issuance of several recommendations by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during Africa 2018 Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh, including:

- Establish an investment risk guarantee fund in Africa to encourage Egyptian investors to channel their investments to Africa, participating in the development of the continent and taking advantage of the enormous opportunities available in Africa.

- Negotiate with international institutions and development partners to support infrastructure as the basis of real development, including expediting the completion of the Cairo-Cape Town route, to expand trade between the continent's countries.

- Facilitate the work of African companies in Egypt to stimulate joint
investments and benefit from the continuous development in the Egyptian economy.

• Enhance technical cooperation with the African States in the areas of investment in human capital, digital transformation, management of international finance, governance, and monitoring and evaluation systems.

• Establish a fund to invest in information infrastructure, with the aim of supporting the technological development and digital transformation in the continent to build modern economies based on the latest technological systems.

• Cooperate with African countries in the fields of governance and anti-corruption through the exchange of expertise, training and rehabilitation of concerned bodies in the continent to spread the culture of governance and eliminate corruption.

The Egyptian government is interested in providing technology and investing in new and renewable energy projects which requires the use of all available mechanisms to achieve this goal, including encouraging joint investment between the public and private sectors and local, regional and international funding institutions to provide sustainable financing for the implementation of infrastructure projects. Cooperation between Egypt and African countries is very important for mobilizing different efforts, resources and available potentialities to maximize the use of them, for facing, in an integrative manner, many economic problems and for working to establish the infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable growth and to support intra-trade and mutual investment.

Recent estimates by the African Development Bank indicate that the financing needs of the continent for the implementation of infrastructure projects are estimated at $130-170 billion annually, with a funding gap of $68-108 billion. There are several challenges facing the continent in the field of infrastructure due to the absence of regional connectivity and the increasing rates of urban growth, which puts pressure on infrastructure as well as the low population density in some areas, which increases the cost and reduces the return of infrastructure.
At the same time, the Ministry of Planning has announced that it will make use of the funding available to sovereign wealth funds as Africa is the most dynamic region in the world in the current decade with the increasing rate of sovereign wealth fund creation. There are 21 African sovereign funds with total assets of about $165 billion in Algeria, Libya, Botswana, Angola, Gabon, Congo, Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, Ghana, Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, as well as Egypt. These funds play an important role in supporting the development of infrastructure and industrial development, which increases productivity and structural transformation towards long-term and sustainable development, in addition to its main purpose of establishing the economic stability, which ensures the stability of revenues and expenditure level in light of the fluctuations in commodity prices which the economies of many African countries depend on.

Third: Economic relations between Egypt and regional communities in Africa

Egypt is linked to the African continent with close historical, political, economic and social ties. In the light of the international trend towards regionalization and the growth of economic blocs, the political leadership has been keen to strengthen relations of cooperation with African countries and blocs, thus contributing to opening new horizons for economic, commercial and industrial cooperation, and establishing joint investment projects for achieving sustainable development for Africa through international agreements, whether bilateral or multilateral.

Egypt’s accession to several economic blocs in Africa reflects its keenness to strengthen cooperation with different countries and blocs in the light of mutual political, economic and strategic interests in different circles and trends. The following is a presentation of the development of Egypt’s economic relations with the regional communities in Africa including: COMESA, Sahel-Saharan States, CEMAC, UEMOA and ECCAS.
1- COMESA

- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was established in November 1993, succeeding the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), which was established in December 1981.

- The Treaty establishing the COMESA was signed on 8 December 1994, by 22 African countries, and the launch of the Customs Union was scheduled on 8 December 2008.

- A number of countries joined the COMESA since its inception, notably Egypt and Libya; besides, a number of countries withdrew from its membership, including: Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Somalia, the Kingdom of Lesotho, and Angola (froze its membership). Thus COMESA currently include 19 member countries, namely: Egypt, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Libya.

- COMESA is the first regional economic community Egypt acceded to, as it joined it in 1998.

- Egypt played a pioneering and leading role in order to achieve the objectives and principles adopted by the Community, as Egypt has become one of the leading countries on the Community’s inter-regional trade list. Egypt also owns growing investments in a number of COMESA countries.

On June 29, 1998, Egypt joined the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). On February 17, 1999, customs exemptions from other member states were implemented on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and for goods accompanied by a certificate of origin approved by the respective authorities. Since it joined COMESA, Egypt has been an active player at the organization’s meetings. Egypt has also been especially dynamic in the areas of economic, trade, investment and tariff cooperation.

Egypt’s accession to the COMESA is very important for increasing of trade opportunities between Egypt and the member states, resulting
from the adoption of policies that would remove all tariffs and non-tariff barriers related to trade between the member states. Thus, the deficit of the Egyptian trade balance will reduce through encouraging opportunities to open new export markets in those countries and benefiting from the size of the market and the increase in the trade opportunities.

The GDP of the COMESA countries is more than $1.2 trillion. The COMESA countries have experienced a sustainable growth rate of 5% over the last five years. This sustainable growth is a key factor in achieving investors’ long-term investment plans to reach the consumer base in the COMESA region, which is estimated at half a billion consumers with an average population growth of 2.2% annually for member states.

The COMESA Member States seek to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, deepen the concept of mutual economic interests, remove domestic and foreign trade and investment barriers, jointly adopt macroeconomic policies by cooperation and integration, through joint development in all economic fields, and achieve an integrated and competitive regional economic community.

The COMESA agenda is therefore an integral part of the continental integration policy agenda in the field of trade and investment. Its objectives are in line with the initiatives of African countries such as the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), which was signed in 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, and which integrates the three largest African trading blocs: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). The new agreement aims to implement tariff liberalization from 85% to 100%. The first phase of the agreement includes tariff reduction, rules of origin, the establishment of a joint customs union, non-tariff barriers and health standards, while the second phase includes trade in services, property rights and the promotion of competition. It was agreed to develop the tripartite integration process, focusing on three main axes: integration of markets, infrastructure development and industrial development, as well as the African Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). Egypt was keen to be at the forefront of the signatory countries to the agreement establishing the African Free
Trade Area in the extraordinary summit of the African Union in March 2018.

The COMESA countries accounted for 47% of the total volume of trade between Egypt and Africa during 2018. The volume of trade exchange between Egypt and COMESA states increased by 18.5% during the first 10 months of 2018 (January-October 2018) to reach $2.282 billion, compared with $1.859 billion during the same period of 2017. The volume of Egyptian exports to these countries increased by 16.5% during the same period of 2018 to reach about $1.502 billion, compared with $1.289 billion in 2017. During the same period of 2018, the volume of Egyptian imports from these countries amounted to about $780 million, compared with $570 million during 2017.

A report issued by the COMESA Regional Investment Agency pointed out that the total investments of Egyptian companies in the 21 member states reached about $4.4 billion during the period from 2003 to 2018. These investments concentrated in eight countries and included about 38 projects. The real estate sector accounted for more than 40% of the total investment, equivalent to $1.73 billion dollars.

2- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

- The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was established on 4 February 1998, in response to the initiative of former president Muammar Al-Gathafi. The Community was announced during the Conference of Leaders and Heads of States held in Tripoli, Libya. Six African states have signed on the agreement establishing the Community; they are Libya, Sudan, Mali, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso. Egypt's delegation participated in the Summit as an observer.

- The Community of Sahel-Saharan States is considered the largest regional blocs in Africa after the African Union. The CEN-SAD included 27 member States: Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Chad, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mali, Niger, Senegal, the Gambia, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Conakry Guinea, Sierra Leone and São Tomé and Príncipe.
− CEN-SAD has been recognized as a regional economic community during the thirty-sixth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Governments of the Organization of African Unity, held in Lomé, Togo, from 4 to 12 July 2000. The CEN-SAD gained the observer status at the General Assembly under resolution no. 45/92.

− CEN-SAD aims to promote economic, cultural, political and social cooperation based on the following basic pillars:

  • Establishment of a comprehensive Economic Union including integrated development schemes in consistence with the national development schemes of each Members States in the fields of agriculture, industry, society, culture and energy.

  • Facilitation of free movement of individuals and capitals; including the movement of national goods and merchandise, in addition to the encouragement of inter-trade among Member States.

  • Coordination of development and educational systems among Member States, along with the improvement of means of transportation.

  • Adoption of a strategy for development and national security in the CEN-SAD space, that basically targeting the strengthening of collective security, addressing of conflicts, promotion of culture of peace and combating of threats in the region on the one hand and the integration with the strategies of the African Union, ECOWAS, the Lake Chad basin, the European Union and the United Nations on the other.

− Egypt enjoys full membership of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States since 2001, and ratified the treaty establishing the Community in 2006.

− Egypt regularly participated in the CEN-SAD Summits since its membership.

− Egypt proposed an initiative to the CEN-SAD Summit in N'Djamena in February 2013 calling for combating armed groups, drugs and weapons. Egypt also participated at the recent CEN-SAD ministerial
meeting in Khartoum in March 2014, the first ministerial meeting following the signing of the CEN-SAD revised treaty in N'djamena Summit. Additionally, Egypt submitted several proposals that were accepted by Members States and included the following:

- Taking advantage of the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Africa.

- The CCCPA hosted a workshop for experts from the Community of Sahel-Saharan States specialized in the development of a common vision for the management of shared borders based on the concept of integrated management and national ownership, in addition to the establishment of appropriate frameworks between the concerned national bodies taking into account the cohesive bond between security and development.

- On June 24, 2018 Egypt announced the completion of the establishment of the CEN-SAD Counterterrorism Centre in Cairo. The establishment of the Center comes within the framework of Egypt's keenness to support the member states of the Sahel and Sahara with the goal of strengthening partnership and continuous cooperation to combat terrorism and support the efforts of security and stability in the region.

- Although the CEN-SAD faces difficulties and obstacles, Egypt and a number of member states are playing a prominent role in order to address these problems and obstacles and to reactivate the role of the CEN-SAD, especially relevant to the security and political aspects along with actions to combat the growing phenomenon of terrorism in the region. Egypt participated in the CEN-SAD conference in Brussels in February 2017. It also pledged to support the joint regional force of the Sahel region through the provision of 250 training courses for troops and 110 armored vehicles to support the United Nations peacekeeping Mission in Mali, as well as the provision of ongoing assistance and training courses organized by the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Africa (CCCPA) to the Sahel countries in the fields of peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Economic relations between Egypt and the Sahel and Sahara

The trade exchange between Egypt and the Sahel and Sahara Community witnessed a decline from $4.16 billion in 2010 to $3.48 billion in 2014. Egypt’s exports to the Sahel and Sahara countries amounted to $2.7 billion, while, imports amounted to $746.81 million.

Among the most important factors reflected on trade exchange between Egypt and the Sahel and Sahara countries, are many political, economic and security reasons and the geographical and desert nature of the Sahel and Sahara Community.

Egypt continues to focus on strengthening cooperation with the Sahel and Sahara countries in a comprehensive manner, to include broader horizons by focusing on development projects mainly as a locomotive of economic growth, social services, enlightenment and cultural awareness and official and non-official exchange of visits at various levels and in various fields, especially those of popular attention, such as in the health aspect.

3 - Central African Economic and Monetary Group (CEMAC)

The Central African Economic and Monetary Group (CEMAC) was established on March 16, 1994 in the city of N’Djamena, Chad, and entered into force in June. It has six member countries: Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

- CEMAC objectives are:

  - Establishing a more integrated federation among the countries of the group and promote solidarity among their peoples based on geographical and human ties.
  - Strengthening national markets by removing barriers to intra-group trade, coordinating development programs and cooperating in industrial projects.
  - Strengthening solidarity among member states in favor of disadvantaged countries and regions.
  - Establishing an effective African common market.
- Egypt and CEMAC

Egypt was recognized as a friendly State of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) on January 16, 2014, which allows it to attend the meetings of the group on a regular basis.

Egypt's exports to the bloc countries increased in 2014 to reach US $95.13 million, compared to US $66 million in 2013. Egypt’s main exports to the bloc are aromatic mixtures, cars for transporting people, resins, plastics, tires, sugar products and paints.

Egypt’s imports from CEMAC increased in 2014 to reach $23.58 million compared to $7.05 million in 2013, while the main imports are negative poles of copper, pure copper, wood sheets and wood charcoal (report by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2015).

Egypt has signed a framework agreement to conclude a free trade area between Egypt and the CEMAC. Egypt also supports the Central African Economic and Monetary Union (CEMAC) agreement, which aims to achieve economic integration and harmonization between the various economic regulations of its member states.

4- West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)

In June 2004, a free trade agreement was signed between Egypt and UEMOA to strengthen economic relations. The agreement stipulates the necessity of reaching a free trade and investment agreement between the two sides within two years from the date of signing. The Egyptian draft law stipulates the liberalization of Egyptian imports from the UEMOA countries once the Agreement enters into force, with, the UEMOA countries liberalizing their imports from Egypt over a three-year transitional period.

− UEMOA was created by a Treaty signed in Dakar on 10 January 1994, and its headquarters is located in Burkina Faso. Unlike the Monetary Union for West Africa (UEMO) established in 1963, the UEMOA targets the achievement of economic integration among its members through the enhancement of the competitiveness of economic activities in the frame of open market and good governed legal environment.
UEMOA is one of the most important axes of the Egyptian approach to strengthening economic relations through the West African Gateway, thus, the Egyptian economic cooperation is integrated with COMESA in the east and south, and CEMAC in the middle of the African continent and ECOWAS in the West.

5- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 in Nigeria and has a membership of 15 countries from the West African region; they are the Ivory Coast, Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana, Cape Verde and Guinea. The ECOWAS Treaty was signed in July 1993, focusing mainly on agricultural and industrial development, liberalization of Intra-trade and free movement of elements of production with a view to establishing a free trade zone and establishing a unified currency.

Egypt is an observer member of the ECOWAS Group. The Ministry of Industry and Trade noted that the volume of trade between Egypt and the ECOWAS in 2014 was characterized by a surplus in the trade balance for the Egyptian side. In 2014, the value of Egyptian exports decreased to reach $291.35 million, compared to $336.95 million in 2013. The Egyptian imports from the ECOWAS countries increased during 2014 to reach $63.42 million, compared to $41.47 million in 2013.

During 2015, the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and ECOWAS amounted to $58.21 million. The total exports of ECOWAS, during 2015, reached $52.86 million, while Egyptian imports reached about $5.35 million.

6- Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The organization was established on August 17, 1992. The SADC aims to promote economic development in Southern Africa and includes 16 member countries: South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mauritius, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Seychelles.
The value of trade exchange between Egypt and the SADC countries reached $729 million during the period from January to October 2018, compared to $662 million during the same period of 2017, with an increase 9.2%. This increase due to the increase of Egyptian imports from these countries by 25.2% to reach $437 million, compared to $349 million, while Egyptian exports to those countries decreased by 6.7% to reach $292 million, compared to $313 million.

**Fourth: Areas of Economic Cooperation between Egypt and Africa:**

The various economic cooperation areas between Egypt and Africa include: financial and monetary cooperation through annual meetings of the World Bank (WB) Group Africa and International Monetary Fund (IMF), cooperation with the African Development Bank (AFDB), hosting the annual meeting of the Association of African Central Banks, the role of Egyptian banks in Africa, the automation of government services, the training courses and the cooperation in the field of agriculture and technology.

1- **Financial and Monetary Cooperation between Egypt and Africa:**

The financial and monetary cooperation between Egypt and Africa witnessed many recent developments, reflecting the level of distinguished relations between the two sides. The Egyptian leadership supports the African continent’s issues in the international financial institutions and forums to promote comprehensive economic growth in Africa including:

**A) Annual meetings of the WB - IMF African Group**

In August 2018, the meetings were held in Sharm El Sheikh and organized by the ministries of investment, international cooperation and finance, in cooperation with the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE). The ambitious vision of a comprehensive economic and social reform program adopted by Egypt to re-correct the course of the Egyptian
economy is to reform the investment climate and the business environment through a legislative institutional and structural system. This system has won the confidence of international institutions, including the WB and the IMF, which have always been strategic partners with the Egyptian government, especially recently. Egypt’s aim to implement the AU Agenda of 2063 is to achieve the international development goal in order to deepen cooperation among African countries through specific programs of economic integration, especially in the fields of investment, trade and infrastructure development, and investment in human capital through the promotion of education and health care to increase employment opportunities, fight poverty and fair participation in reaping the fruits of growth.

In light of Egypt’s presidency of the African Group to the World Bank and the IMF, the Egyptian government called on the international financial institutions to play a bigger role in achieving the comprehensive economic transformation adopted by African countries over decades.

B) Annual meeting of the Association of African Central Banks

In August 2018, Egypt hosted for the first time the annual meeting of Association of African Central Banks at its forty-first session in Sharm El Sheikh, which is the most important economic and banking event on the African continent. It aims at developing cooperation and supporting efforts to achieve financial and monetary stability in Africa among the central banks in the fields of monetary and banking. The annual meetings of the Association of African Central Banks aim to establish solutions and procedures to combat the flow of illegal funds, and strong financial institutions and to meet the challenges facing Africa’s economy. The desired African development needs financing as the infrastructure sector needs $130 billion a year, especially since the growth of African economies in 2017 is 3.6%. The Association expects that the economic growth of the continent will reach 4.1% in 2018 and 2019, with the need to strengthen these rates in the coming period.

C) Egyptian cooperation with the AFDB:

In September 2018, in the framework of activating the strategic partnership between Egypt and the African Development Bank to
advance development, Egypt receives the final $500m tranche of AFDB’S 1.5bn funding allocated to support the government’s economic and social program. This funding will contribute to supporting development projects which are considered a top priority of the government in support of the social axis in Egypt’s economic reform program.

The support of the AFDB and the international financial institutions (IFIs) to Egypt is a message that the Egyptian economy is moving steadily towards achieving the comprehensive and sustainable development and that the AFDB is confident in the actions taken by the Egyptian government to create job opportunities for the youth, support entrepreneurship projects and small and micro enterprises.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Planning carried out a number of training courses in cooperation with the AFDB on “Managing the National Strategic Plan” for about 20 participants from 18 African countries, and on “Feasibility studies and project evaluation” for 20 participants from 9 African countries.

D) Role of Egyptian banks in Africa

The Egyptian banks are active in the African continent. In this context, the General Secretariat of the Union of Arab Banks issued a report in February 2017, in which Egypt was ranked first in terms of the number of banks on the list of the 100 largest banks in Africa (15 Arab banks and 3 banks belonging to Foreign banks with 18 Egyptian banks including:


Several Egyptian banks have announced their intention to expand on the African continent to achieve greater international expansion and increase their activity. Bank Misr has confirmed that it has a plan
to expand in several African countries in the coming years including Senegal, Tanzania and South Africa. The National Bank of Egypt and the Commercial International Bank will study the available opportunities to enter and work in African markets. One of the main reasons for some Egyptian banks to enter the African countries is to expand their activities to support their profits, especially with the availability of many investment opportunities within the continent.

E. Automation of Government Services

In light of Egypt’s interest in exchanging its experiences and successful experiences in the field of automation of government services with its African brothers, cooperation between the Ministry of Planning and South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Mauritius and Morocco has been strengthened. This cooperation aims to benefit from Egypt’s experience in “automating the birth and death certificates and linking them with other ministries through the platform of the exchange of government services. This came after winning the Golden Shield Award for Administrative Innovation, which was held during the 93rd Conference of the African Association for Public Administration, in Gaberoni, from 5 to 9 November 2018.

H. Training courses in planning and development

In light of the special attention given by the Egyptian side to cooperation with African countries, the Ministry of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform and the National Planning Institute have undertaken several important initiatives, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to convene a high-level policy dialogue on African development planning under the theme of ‘Financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa: Strategies for Planning and Resource Mobilization’, which was attended by 40 African countries.

The Institute of National Planning and the National Institute of Administration have organized a number of training courses for African youth and leaders on the “Basics of planning for development” in cooperation with the African Institute for Economic Development
and Planning. The Institute, also, organized a training course for the Nile Basin countries on “Feasibility studies and projects’ preparation and evaluation” in Sharm El Sheikh in cooperation with the African Development Bank. There is also cooperation with the National Academy for Training and Rehabilitation of Youth, including the Entrepreneurship Program in Africa, which aims to spread the culture of entrepreneurship among African youth, and help them develop their ideas and develop Skills.

2- Agricultural cooperation

In the framework of the Egyptian orientation towards the continent, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reclamation announced in February 2018 establishing Egyptian farms in cooperation with the African countries and implementing the Egyptian plan to start the agricultural activity of the new joint farms with Malawi, Eritrea and Algeria, after all the procedures have been met, during the 1st half of the investment plan for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

The main aim of establishing joint farms with African countries is to enhance Egyptian cooperation to achieve sustainable development in sub-Saharan countries, transfer Egyptian agricultural expertise and technology to African countries, activate agricultural cooperation with African countries, open new fields for the Egyptian private sector to invest in African countries, increase trade exchange and agriculture comprehensive development in the continent and establish database about land available for agriculture in the continent.

Egypt also aims to transfer its experience and technology in the field of agriculture, train promising African cadres in the field of agriculture, apply modern technologies in the field of irrigation and aquaculture, start production of the seeds of Egyptian crop varieties (wheat, maize, faba bean, rice, Varieties of Egyptian vegetables, peppers) – which was evaluated in a number of existing farms such as Zambia, Zanzibar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger, and increase technical competence of experts in African countries in agricultural fields through the courses.
3. Technological areas

In an effort to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and African countries, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced the launch of the African Digital Games and Applications Initiative in November 2018. It is a step towards training Egyptian and African youth on digital applications to contribute to the exchange of experiences between Egypt and the African countries.

The games will have several positive results, including enabling Egypt to lead the digital application software industry in the coming period, consolidating relations between Cairo and the African continent and pushing the youth to develop their technological skills. In this regard, and in order to complete the Egyptian vision towards supporting and empowering young people, especially in the field of entrepreneurship, Egypt has taken the following measures:

- **First**: The state institutions were assigned to unify their efforts to establish the first regional center for entrepreneurship in Egypt with the aim of providing all necessary support to the emerging companies in Egypt and the countries of the region, as well as redesigning an integrated approach to rehabilitate and train young people for entrepreneurship.

- **Second**: The Arab African Fund for Entrepreneurship in the Arab World and Africa will be established.

- **Third**: Launching an initiative to train 10 thousand Egyptian and African youth as developers of games and electronic applications in the next three years.
Chapter V

Egypt’s Process towards Integration and Development in Africa
Egypt supports efforts to achieve the development goals of the Agenda of 2063, whose main objective is to achieve prosperity on the African continent. The Egyptian role is crystallized through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), to ensure the enhancement of the Egyptian presence in the African region at the political and economic levels for developing the critical sectors of the continent, to establish infrastructure that will lay the foundation for the development process, to develop the agriculture sector for achieving continental food security and satisfaction and to promote intra-African trade.

Egypt also hosted the launching of the «Tripartite African Free Trade Agreement» on 10 June 2015 in Sharm El-Sheikh, to establish a continental free trade zone to liberalize trade and achieve economic integration within the continent and eliminate all trade barriers that obstruct the flow of trade among member states. The agreement is one of the important steps taken to accelerate regional integration within the continent as it is one of the leading projects in the Agenda of 2063.

First: Egypt and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development «NEPAD»

NEPAD is an African vision of a comprehensive strategy for the economic and social development of the continent, drafted and adopted by the five heads of state: Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, South Africa and Senegal, and adopted by Organisation of African Unity “OAU” in Lusaka in July 2001. NEPAD has been incorporated into the organs of the African Union in Addis Ababa in February 2010 as a technical body of the African Union, to facilitate, coordinate and mobilize resources for the implementation of priority continental and regional programs and projects.
The main objectives of the initiative include supporting peace and security on the continent, achieving good political and economic governance, deepening the concepts of democracy and respect for human rights, increasing agricultural productivity and food security, maximizing intra-African trade, accessing African exports to world markets improving the environment, developing education and scientific research, maximizing the use of information technology, enhancing health, combating endemic diseases, especially AIDS and malaria and achieving human development and capacity-building in Africa and working in this context to provide the necessary resources for the development of projects and operational programs necessary to achieve these objectives.

In this context, the five founding members of NEPAD (Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, South Africa and Senegal) agreed on the sidelines of the NEPAD Steering Committee meeting in January 2012 to hold regular meetings for a working group composed of the five founding countries of NEPAD, before the meetings of the NEPAD Steering Committee, in order to maintain the NEPAD path and provide the necessary support for the Initiative so as to serve the interests of the continent as a whole, as Egypt suggested the need to formulate clear procedural rules that govern the relationship between the working group of the NEPAD five founding countries, the Steering Committee, the NEPAD Agency, and the African Union Commission.

It is worth mentioning that the NEPAD Summit in 2014 allocated $368 billion to implement a number of infrastructure projects in the African continent under the African Infrastructure Development Program (BIDA), including the construction of the Abidjan-Lagos maritime corridor, the Brazzaville–Kinshasa Bridge, the extension of the Dar es Salaam bridge in Tanzania, the gas pipeline in Algeria, the modernization of the Dakar-Bamako railway and other projects in the communications technology sector.

In this context, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, in his speech at the Africa 2017 Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh, said:
«Egypt supports all initiatives of the African Union and the regional projects aimed at developing the infrastructure of our continent and the establishment of road networks to strengthen the integration of the countries of the continent, such as the line of navigation linking Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean, and the construction of the Cairo - Cape Town Road.»

Within the framework of Egypt’s support for the NEPAD Initiative, the following efforts have emerged:

- Egypt has participated in all NEPAD summits since 2001, whether separate summits or on the sidelines of the African Union summits or even held with the participation of major industrial countries. Egypt has also announced the establishment of vocational and research training centers to serve African countries since 2005.
- Egypt sent a letter to the Group of Seven industrialized countries in 2001 urging them to support the initiative.
- Egypt participated in Evian Summit in 2003 with participation of the industrial countries and the initiative countries.
- Egypt hosted the 13th session of NEPAD Orientation Committee in 2005.
- Egypt hosted the 19th session of NEPAD Summit with the participation of heads of 20 African States on the sidelines of the 11th AU Summit held in 2008. The summit discussed the steps being taken to integrate NEPAD into the AU system.
- Egypt assumed the post of Vice-Chairman of the Steering Committee from 2013 to 2017.
- Egypt hosted the second NEPAD conference, held in Egypt for the first time in 2017, and was the first scientific conference to include African countries to discuss the development process in the region on scientific basis.
- President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi participated in the NEPAD summit on the sidelines of his participation in the 30th ordinary meetings of the African Union held in 28 - 29 January 2018.
- During Egypt's presidency of the Conference from 2015 to 2017,

- Egypt is a member of the Peer Review Mechanism relevant to governance and democracy issues. Egypt also participates as the coordinator of the agriculture file in NEPAD.

1. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program “CAADP

Egypt implements the CAADP, supports the objectives of the program and puts all its agricultural research and training centers in cooperation with NEPAD, the African Union Commission and the African regional organizations in this area by using their agricultural research center to help African countries increase their agricultural productivity, improve soil and expand fertilizer use.

As part of its membership in the Presidential Initiative for Infrastructure Development (PICI), Egypt is responsible for water and river resources and land and rail transport projects.

2 – The Navigation line project linking between Victoria Lake and the Mediterranean sea

In 2015, Egypt launched an initiative to achieve African development and integration through the Lake Victoria, Mediterranean Sea navigation line linking project. The project provides easy transport of goods, commodities, agricultural and animal products between the Nile basin countries and the establishing a range of training and research centers along the waterway.

It represents a step to add more geopolitical importance to the Nile Basin region in particular. It is considered one of the cornerstones for achieving the project’s vision of «one continent, one river - common future» to stimulate trade among the Nile basin countries and between them and other countries. The project includes establishing development corridors that include riverbeds in the Nile River and Lake Victoria,
railways, land roads, internet networks, logistics centers, commercial and tourism development among the Nile Basin countries.

Egypt sent the preliminary and final report of the Lake Victoria, Mediterranean Sea navigation line linking project, received from the International Advisory Office, to the member states of the AU NEPAD Initiative, including the vision of the Advisory Office regarding the institutional and legal structure of the proposed regional body to establish the project management, the terms of reference on which an international tender between international offices will be conducted for the economic feasibility studies of its implementation, the contribution of each member state and the criteria for determining this ratio, the training courses needed for the human cadres of the Member States and the mechanisms for exchanging experiences and information among the participants.

The project is an implementation of the agreement between the African Water Ministers’ Council and the African Union’s Agricultural Development Commission, and one of the regional projects sponsored by the secretariat of NEPAD’s Presidential Initiative for Infrastructure Development.

The implementation cost of the project in full is $10-12 billion. Egypt has financed and prepared a pre-feasibility study for the project. The African Development Bank is financing the $650,000 first phase of the project, which aims at developing capacities in the field of river transport in Africa as well as preparing the study of the legal and institutional frameworks for navigation in the Nile River and preparing the terms of reference for the feasibility study.

The project includes establishing development corridors that include riverbeds in the Nile River and Lake Victoria, railways, land roads, internet networks, logistics centers, commercial and tourism development among the Nile Basin countries. The project is scheduled to begin in 2020, once funding is available and feasibility studies are completed.

The project aims to connect the Nile Basin countries with a maritime corridor that supports the movement of trade and tourism. It works to
create job opportunities and increase the possibility of the landlocked countries to connect with the sea and the international ports. It will provide a sea port to the African landlocked countries, optimize the use of river water and maximize benefits for all countries, which will lead to a renaissance in cooperation and trade exchange between the Nile Basin countries.

3 - Construction of «Cairo - Cape Town Highway»

The Cairo-Cape Town Highway is one of the most modern development projects as it aims at developing trade between the various African countries. It is the longest road linking North Africa and South Africa with a length of 9700 km to promote trade between Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Gabon and South Africa.

The idea of the project dates back to June 2015. The Egyptian government announced the launch of the «Cairo-Cape Town» land project linking the African countries, in addition to the participation of Cairo in the implementation of the infrastructure works. It aims to facilitate land transport between African countries thus, any investor will be able to transport his goods to any of the countries in which the road passes in record time not more than 4 days, unlike the sea route, which takes months.

The road is one of the most important economic projects. It is not only a road connecting Africa, but also a route to European markets through the coastal ports of Egypt and North Africa, as well as creating many economic opportunities and promoting intra-African trade.

4 - Toshka-Arqin Road and Arqin port:

Egypt has implemented the «Toshka-Arqin» road, which connects Egypt and Sudan. The cost of the 110 km Tushka- Arqin road which is 11 m wide is EGP 190 million.

In parallel, the Egyptian government implemented the Arqin port on the Egyptian-Sudanese border, which was opened by President Abdel
Fattah El-Sisi in January 2016 via video targeting to increase trade exchange between Egypt, Sudan and African countries.

The land port of Arqin is the first starting point of the Alexandria-Cape Town axis, especially since it connects the largest African conglomerate from the Mediterranean Sea to the Pacific Ocean, thus, serving the commercial traffic between the 15 African countries located on the commercial road. The land port of Arqin is the second land port after the port of Qustal, east of Lake Nasser, which was inaugurated in August 2014. The implementation of this project comes in light of the State’s interest in increasing trade with Nile Basin and African countries, and developing bonds of cooperation between them and the various countries of the African continent. This project will contribute to the development of southern Egypt and Toshka region through the movement of trucks and passengers on this vital road.

5 - Cooperation between the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and «NEPAD»

In the framework of Egypt's participation in the African Initiative for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators, in which representatives from NEPAD, public and private universities and research centers of different ministries participated; Egypt hosted the International Workshop on the Use of International Standards for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators. The Initiative was organized by the Academy though the Egyptian Science, Technology and Innovation Observatory (ESTIO) in collaboration with NEPAD experts in November 2015.

6 - Egypt hosts 2nd NEPAD Regional Conference on Arts Education

As part of Egypt’s interest in arts education in the African continent, the Egyptian Ministry of Education held the 2nd NEPAD Regional Conference on Arts Education, which was held for the first time in the Arab Republic of Egypt from 23 to 25 May 2017. The Conference emphasized the role of Egypt in teaching arts in the African continent, including art education for pre-school children such as painting, theater, music, sculpture, and others.
Second: Egypt and the trend towards regional integration in Africa:

Egypt has undertaken intensive diplomatic activity to activate its role in these gatherings and to support and promote its objectives. The most prominent of these moves is Egypt’s hosting of the COMESA-SADC-EAC summit in Sharm El Sheikh in June 2015, with the participation of heads of state and government of 26 African countries representing a gross domestic product of about $1.3 trillion, representing around 57 percent of the total African population.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in June 2015, said:

«The launch of the Free Economic Zone contributes to the promotion of intra-African trade to achieve economic integration, stressing his desire to remove customs barriers between African countries to achieve economic integration.»

A) Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) was signed in Kigali in March 2018. The agreement is expected to be activated after the ratification of the parliaments of 44 countries within 120 days in 2019. This free zone is expected to increase trade opportunities among African countries by 52% by 2022, in accordance with the results of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) is the first step in Africa’s Vision 2063, «The Africa We Want,» and is one of the flagship projects of the Agenda of 2063, the long-term vision of the African Union aimed at achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

The integration of the African continent dates back to the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty of 1991, where the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC) started negotiations among themselves to conclude a bloc agreement for the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)
- Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta described AFCFTA by saying:

“The African Continental Free Trade Area means ending poverty, which means prosperity for our continent, job opportunities for our youth who are fighting today and fleeing from our continent, peace and security means that Africa is capable of self-reliance and means AU discussing what to do with our prosperity, not what to do with the problems we are facing.”

The agreement will make the African continent the largest free trade area created since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is a crucial step towards the establishment of a common African market. African economic integration is expected to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and increase economic growth for all African economies.

B) AFCFTA objectives

- Elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers for African trade movement, and the creation of a market for all goods and services within the continent, especially that the size of the market will contain more than one billion people representing a gross domestic product of more than $3 trillion.

- Increasing trade exchange among African countries, as the rate is 16%, which is very low compared to trade among Latin American countries 19%, Asia 51%, North America 54%, and European countries 70%.

- Establishing the African Customs Union, applying the unified customs tariff to the imports of the African continent from abroad and, at a later stage, declaring the Union of African States.

C) Egyptian diplomatic efforts

Based on its support for regional cooperation towards integration adopted by the African Union in cooperation with the economic blocs established in the African continent, Egypt has developed a strategy for the development of Egyptian-African trade relations to achieve a set
of objectives, foremost of which is the formation of common interests, benefits and close integration with the countries of the continent by re-shaping its relations with the African countries from only having a share in the Nile water to a new and comprehensive concept that depends on advancing economic development in a balanced framework between the countries of the continent and working to increase the volume of intra-trade.

In this context, the Egyptian government has adopted a number of economic fundamentals that underlie its strategy in the coming period, including open policies and market economy, welcoming all external investments and enabling the private sector to participate effectively in advancing the development of the country, in addition to attracting more investments in the priority sectors.

The Egyptian government has initiated several diplomatic negotiations among African countries to sign the agreement. Consultations on the African continent’s continental bloc agreement have been underway since 2008, where the first summit was held in Uganda, which witnessed the consensus and affirmation of the participating countries to lay the foundation stone for achieving the regional economic community.

During the second Summit in South Africa, which witnessed the start of negotiations for the establishment of the FTA in 2011, the institutional framework, principles and stages of negotiation were also developed.

Several discussions were held during the 18th African Summit held in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa in 2012.

The free trade agreement was signed in Sharm El-Sheikh in June 2015 between the three economic blocs (COMESA-SADC- EAC), with the participation of 26 African countries, which contributed to resolving the negotiations in Kigali to complete the agreement.

In his speech at the Africa 2017 Forum, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said:

«The signing of the Free Trade Agreement in Sharm El-Sheikh in June 2015 is an important step towards establishing a continental free
trade area comprising all African countries. These efforts are aimed primarily at facilitating trade at the continent level, as well as supporting African countries in their quest to achieve development and prosperity, and push regional integration efforts forward.

D) Economic results of Egypt's accession to the agreement:

- Increasing the volume of trade between Egypt and the three bloc countries on the continent, while overcoming the customs barriers between the signatories of the agreement. The Agreement includes a market with a population of 1.2 billion and a gross domestic product of $2.5 trillion. It also encourages African trade to achieve diversify away from the traditional exports from outside the continent.

- Achieving an added value of the manufactured goods within Egypt, increasing the competitiveness of these commodities and the movement of intra-trade, and benefiting from raw materials and natural resources.

- Increasing Egyptian investments with the countries of the bloc and providing free movement of capital, individuals and businessmen, will have positive effects on the provision of more employment opportunities. Egyptian products can access the markets of more than 40 African countries without paying customs fees due to mutual exemptions.

- Benefiting from the structure of imports of the member states, Egypt can export many goods that have high advantage in its production including: food, medicine, engineering products, household appliances, building materials, especially ceramics, sanitary ware, aluminum products, iron and steel and leather products.

- Importing many raw materials for the industry with special customs exemption as most of the three bloc countries depend on exporting raw materials and commodities such as copper, tobacco, coffee, tea, raw leather, meat and sesame.

- Benefiting from the financial assistance provided by the African Development Bank and other international financial institutions in the field of export development to African countries.
The African Free Trade Agreement is therefore the starting point for African economic integration, which is essential for the sustainable development of all African countries to eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living. African economic integration will enhance Africa’s position as an effective force in the international arena economically, politically and socially.
Chapter VI

Egypt and Development Diplomacy among Nile Basin Countries
The Principle of «Win-Win»
Egypt is closely associated with the African continent, geographically, historically and culturally. Egypt and Africa constitute a long history of relations formed along the Nile River. Egypt has endeavored to support the development needs of the Nile Basin countries according to their priorities in various fields, either through the Egyptian initiative to develop the Nile Basin or the leading role of the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various sectors, including energy, irrigation, health, agriculture and technology, and building capacity of African cadres to contribute to raising the development rates in the Nile Basin countries.

For this reason, Egypt has held several bilateral cooperation agreements and joint committees with the Nile Basin countries to discuss new areas of joint cooperation and joint coordination on the African continent issues, both in regional and international forums.

The Egyptian policy - at the African level - adopts the principle of «win-win» for the development of the Nile Basin countries, which was confirmed by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at the Nile Basin Summit in Entebbe in June 2017:

«Nile River brings us together and does not separate us, and it is our common interest to benefit from our natural and human resources to build and develop our societies. The Nile Basin countries need more than ever to pursue joint cooperation for real sustainable development that provides a decent life for their peoples.»

The Egyptian policy followed many policies to ensure stability in the Nile Basin through the peaceful resolution of disputes and support mechanisms of cooperation between the Nile Basin countries, governed by many constants of the Egyptian water policy, including:

1. Interests among Nile Basin countries should not be in conflict, but should integrate to achieve maximum benefit for all.
2. Principle of fair and equitable use should be applied instead of the fair shares.

3. Principles contained in the conventions governing the uses of the Nile, should not be compromised.

4. Egypt’s water projects should be implemented within the framework of its quota (55.5 m $^3$).

5. The Egyptian policy supports the principle of non-transfer of water Nile Basin beyond the borders of its states in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Treaty 1966.

**First: Water Agreements between Egypt and the Nile Basin Countries**

Egypt has sought to regulate its relationship with the Nile River countries in order to reach the optimal method of exploiting the river water for the benefit all the countries of the river and not to harm Egypt’s interests or its need for the Nile River. Indeed, many agreements have been signed since the end of the nineteenth century. Hereinafter an outline of these agreements:

**1- Bilateral Agreements:**

**A) Agreements with Ethiopia:**

There are a number of agreements that regulate the relationship between Egypt and Ethiopia, of which 85% of Egypt’s total share of the Nile water is from:

- The Rome Protocol signed on April 15, 1891 between Britain and Italy, which was occupying Eritrea at that time, on the determination of the areas of influence of each of the two countries in Eastern Africa. In article III of the Convention, Italy undertook not to establish any facilities for irrigation on the River Atbara that can affect the actions of the Nile.

- The Addis Ababa Agreement signed on May 15, 1902 between Britain and Ethiopia, in which Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia
pledged to construct or allow any work to be constructed across the Blue Nile, Lake Tana, or the Sobat, which would arrest the flow of their waters except in agreement with the British government and the Sudanese government.

- The London Agreement signed on December 13, 1906 between Britain, France and Italy. Article four states that these countries should act together to safeguard the entry of the Blue Nile water and its tributaries to Egypt.

- The Rome Convention is a series of letters exchanged between Britain and Italy in 1925, in which Italy recognizes the acquired water rights of Egypt and Sudan in the waters of the Blue and White Nile and their tributaries, and undertakes not to make any activity on them that would reduce the amount of water destined for the main Nile.

- The framework of cooperation signed in Cairo on July 1, 1993 between President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. This framework played a major role in improving the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations. This framework included cooperation between Egypt and Ethiopia regarding Nile water as follows:
  - No state can undertake any activity relating to the Nile water that may cause harm to the interests of the other state.
  - The need to preserve and protect the Nile water.
  - Respect for international laws.
  - Consultation and cooperation between the two countries for establishing projects that increase the volume of water flow and reduce losses.

B) Tropical Plateau:

The second source of Nile water, with 15% of its water reaching the Nile, comprises six countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. To regulate the water relations with Egypt, several agreements were signed.
1. The London agreement signed in May 1906 between Britain and the Congo – is an amendment to an agreement already signed between the two parties on May 12, 1894, stipulating that the Congolese government undertakes not to establish or permit any acts of exploitation on the Smelky River or the River Asango or nearby that would reduce the amount of water flowing into Lake Albert unless agreed with the government of Sudan.

2. The 1929 Convention is a two-letter exchange between the then Egyptian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahmoud and the British High Representative Lloyd. Both letters were signed on May 7, 1929 and attached to a report of the Water Committee, prepared in 1925, thus, this report is part of the Convention. Britain signed the Convention on behalf of Sudan, Uganda, Tanganyika (Tanzania currently) as they were all occupied by Britain at that time. The most important points of the Convention are as follows:

- Without prior agreement with the Egyptian government, no acts of irrigation, power generation or any measures on the Nile and its branches or lakes originating in Sudan or in the countries under the British administration shall be carried out that would reduce the amount of water reaching Egypt, modify the date of arrival or reduce its proportion in any way that harms the interests of Egypt

- The Convention also states Egypt's natural and historical right to the Nile water

3- The London Convention signed on November 23, 1934 between Britain on behalf of Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and Belgium on behalf of Rwanda and Burundi (Rwanda and Burundi now) related to the use of both countries for the Kagera River.

4. The 1953 agreement signed between Egypt and Britain on behalf of Uganda regarding the establishment of the Owen Reservoir at the exit of Lake Victoria. It is a series of exchanged letters during 1949 and 1953 between the Egyptian and British governments. The most important points of the Convention are as follows:
• The mutual agreements referred to the 1929 Convention, pledged to abide by it and stipulated that the agreement to build the Owen reservoir would be in accordance with the spirit of the 1929 Convention

• Britain pledged in that agreement on behalf of Uganda that the establishment and operation of the power plant will not reduce the amount of water reaching Egypt, modify the date of arrival or reduce its level that would cause any damage to the interest of Egypt

5- The 1991 agreement between Egypt and Uganda signed by President Mubarak and Ugandan President Museveni. Some of the articles of the agreements are as follows:

• Uganda affirmed in that Convention its respect for the provisions of the 1953 Convention signed by Britain on its behalf, which is an implicit recognition of the 1929 Convention

• The agreement stipulates that Lake Victoria's water regulatory policy should be discussed and reviewed by Egypt and Uganda within safe borders, without affecting Egypt's water needs

C) Water agreements signed between Egypt and Sudan:

There are two agreements to regulate the water relationship between Egypt and Sudan:

1. 1929 Convention

• The agreement regulates the water relationship between Egypt and the countries of the tropical plateau, as well as the water relationship between Egypt and Sudan. The articles regulating the water relationship between Egypt and Sudan were mentioned in the letter sent by the Egyptian Prime Minister to the British High Representative. Some of the articles of the agreements are as follows:

  - The Egyptian government is interested in the reconstruction of Sudan and agrees to increase the quantities the Nile water used
by Sudan without prejudice to the natural and historical water rights of Egypt

- The Egyptian government agrees with the report of the Nile Water Committee in 1925 and considers it an inseparable part of this agreement

- No irrigation, power generation or any measures shall be carried out on the Nile and its branches or on the lakes that originate from Sudan or the countries under the British administration without prior agreement with the Egyptian government, which would reduce the amount of water reaching Egypt, modify the date of arrival or reduce its level that would cause any damage to the interest of Egypt

- All facilities should be provided to the Egyptian government to conduct water studies and research of the Nile River in Sudan and enable it to implement works there to increase the Nile water in favor of Egypt in agreement with the local authorities

2. The 1959 Convention:

This Convention was signed in Cairo in November 1959 between Egypt and Sudan and is considered a complementary to the 1929 Convention, thus, it does not nullify it. It includes the complete control of the Nile water reaching both Egypt and Sudan in light of the new changes that have emerged on the scene at that time due to the establishing of the High Dam, Upper Nile projects to increase river revenues and number of reservoirs in Aswan. This Convention is the first agreement that provides an explicit text on the distribution of water quotas for Egypt and Sudan. The Convention on the full use of Nile water includes a number of articles as follows:

- Egypt has retained its right of the Nile water estimated at 48 billion cubic meters per year, as well as the right of Sudan estimated at 4 billion cubic meters annually.

- The two countries agreed to establish the High Dam in Aswan as the first of a series of continuous storage projects on the Nile to control the water of the river and control the prevention of the flow of water
to the sea, as well as the establishment of the Sudanese Rosieres Irrigation Project on the Blue Nile and the consequent work that binds Sudan to exploit its share.

• This article states that the High Dam water interest that estimated at 22 billion cubic meters per year will be distributed between the two countries so that Sudan gets 14.5 billion cubic meters and Egypt gets 7.5 billion cubic meters, bringing the total share of each country annually to 55.5 billion cubic meters to Egypt and 18.5 billion cubic meters to Sudan.

• Sudan, in agreement with Egypt, to establish projects to increase the river revenues in order to exploit the lost water in Sudd, Bahr El Zeraf River, Bahr El Ghazal River and its branches, the Subat River and its branches and the White Nile Basin. The water interest and the financial cost of these projects shall be divided equally between the two countries.

• Establishment of a permanent joint technical body for the Nile water between Egypt and Sudan, with the following competencies:
  - Draw the main lines of projects aimed at increasing the Nile’s revenues
  - Supervise the implementation of projects approved by the two governments
  - Prepare business operation systems for works that are held on the Nile within the borders of Sudan and outside the borders of Sudan

Second: Cooperation at the regional level

The cooperation between the Nile Basin countries dates back to the 1960s. Egypt had a pivotal role in strengthening the cooperation that included the Nile Equatorial Lakes project then followed by the Technical Co-operation Committee for the Promotion of the Development and Environmental Protection of the Nile Basin (TECCONILE project), which culminated in 1998 with the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative.
Since the signing of the initiative in February 1999 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the initial work and activities have focused on building confidence and strengthening relations among the basin countries through joint vision programs for co-ordination by the secretariat of the initiative established in Uganda in September 1999.

In 1999, the eight project documents for the joint vision program focused on confidence-building and benefit-sharing, as well as studies on the transboundary environment and optimum water utilization in agriculture and hydropower generation were prepared. In 2000, a joint investment project plan was implemented in the Nile sub basins as the Blue Nil basin and the basin of the Nile Equatorial Lakes, as Egypt is a member in both. In 2001, the International Donor Conference was held in Geneva to present the documents of the initiative projects to the countries, institutions and funding agencies. In this conference, $21 million pledges were obtained to carry out studies on these projects. The most prominent regional cooperation projects are as follows:

1 - Hydrological studies project in the basin of the plateau of the tropical lakes (Hydromet)

In October 1961, after the East African countries gained their independence and demanded a share of Nile water, the regional cooperation steps started with informal technical discussions between representatives of the Permanent Authority for Nile Water (Egypt and Sudan) and technical representatives of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. In 1967, the first project for cooperation among Nile basin countries (Hydromet) was approved including: Egypt, Sudan Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and in 1971 Rwanda and Burundi joined the project and in 1977 Congo joined the project, while, Ethiopia was co-observer. The main objective of the project was to collect and analyze the hydrological data of the Victoria, Kyoga and Albert lakes in order to study the water balance for the Nile Equatorial Lakes. The first phase of the project began from 1967 until July 1972, the second phase from March 1976 until 1981 and the third stage, which was financed by the countries’ contributions, lasted until 1992.
2. The Andujo Community

Andujo means the brotherhood in the Swahili language. Egypt was the founder of the idea of establishing it with the support of Zaire (currently Congo) and Sudan. It includes most of the Nile Basin countries in the East and Central Africa region. It was established during the First Ministerial Conference of the Nile Basin Countries, held in Khartoum in November 1983. The objectives of the Andujo are:

A. Consulting and coordinating in the stance among the member states towards regional issues

B. Supporting cooperation among the member states in the field of development

C. Exchanging experiences in all fields in order to support regional cooperation

D. Holding Andujo meetings within the framework of regional cooperation in accordance with the Lagos Economic Action Plan of 1980

E. Supporting economic integration among the member states of the Convention, but this gathering was met by many obstacles that prevented achieving any objectives

3- TECCONILE project

It is a technical cooperation between Nile Basin countries to achieve development and environmental protection. The Technical Co-operation Committee for the Promotion of the Development and Environmental Protection of the Nile Basin (TECCONILE) was established in December 1992 with the participation of six countries as working members: Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the other countries were observers. The project of TECCONILE continued during the period from 1992 to 1998 as the first mechanism organized by the basin countries in a comprehensive plan which included 22 projects, the most important of which is the draft of a regional legal and institutional cooperation framework between the
Nile basin countries. A legal technical committee with representatives from the Nile Basin countries was formed to meet several times a year. In 2002, the committee was transformed into a joint negotiating committee.

4- Nile Basin Initiative

The Nile Basin Initiative was established with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation between the Nile basin countries. It was inaugurated in 2000 in Tanzania. Its members include all the Nile Basin Upstream countries: Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the Nile Basin Downstream countries: Sudan and Egypt.

The initiative seeks to achieve a number of objectives such as developing Nile basin water resources, ensuring the efficiency of water management, optimizing the use of its resources, ensuring mutual cooperation, targeting poverty eradication and promoting economic integration. After the TECCONILE in December 1998, the countries agreed in the ministerial meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Ministers of Water Resources of the Nile Basin countries to develop the TECCONILE mechanism under the title the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). The initiative aims to establish a strategy for cooperation between the Nile Basin countries and move from the phase of studies to the implementation phase of projects based on the principle of benefit for all countries (Win-Win principle).

The Nile Basin Initiative mechanism consists of Ministerial Council (Nile-Com), a Technical Advisory (Nile-TAC) and Secretarial Committee (Nile-Sec) with the Executive Director. The strategy is based on two axes:

- **The first axis**: the joint vision projects program, including the Nile basin in full. It is studies.

- **The second axis**: The sub-basin program includes projects implemented among group of countries (investment projects) in a sub-basin. The basins are divided into two branches.
A. **Eastern Nile Basin:** Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

B. **South Nile Basin:** Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo.

As part of the political leadership’s interest in strengthening relations with the Nile Basin countries, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi met in Cairo with the Ministers of Water and Irrigation of several Nile Basin countries, including Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and Burundi in December 2016.

During the meeting President Sisi stressed that Cairo is keen to reach a consensus solution regarding the framework agreement of the Nile Basin countries, thus, reaching a comprehensive agreement to ensure the water security of all parties.

- **Nile Basin Initiative Action Strategy:**

  1. **Joint Vision Projects:**

     It includes project studies involving all the Nile Basin countries to identify the possibilities of the river and its potential to achieve all the benefit.

     1. Socio-economic and environmental analysis and planning for national projects, including: local and cross-border environmental management of the Nile Basin countries, regional energy exchange between the Nile Basin countries through electrical connectivity, efficient use of agricultural production water and participation in the economic and social development gains.

     2. Planning and management of joint water resource projects, including: management and planning of water resources and building of the decision support system.

     3. Training and raising institutional efficiency and scientific research through applied training.

     4. Building confidence and participation of beneficiaries through information programs.
- Summit of heads of States of the Nile Basin countries:

In light of the strengthening the political mechanisms for communication between heads of states and governments of the member states of the Nile Basin Initiative, it was agreed to institutionalize them through a periodic summit between heads of the Nile Basin countries to maximize areas of joint cooperation to develop river resources for the benefit of peoples and to resolve any obstacles to the implementation of joint vision projects and development among states.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi participated in the first summit of the Nile Basin countries in June 2017. He stressed the importance of taking into consideration the Egyptian concerns regarding the Nile water, which is the main source of water in Egypt, and crystallizing a common vision for the optimum and sustainable way to use the Nile water. He also affirmed Egypt’s keenness to end the division, overcome the differences between all Nile Basin countries, restore the comprehensiveness of the Nile Basin Initiative, and establish a mechanism for early notification of projects on the River Nile to ensure mutual benefit for all countries without causing any harm for any party.

The Egyptian participation in the Summit is an affirmation of Egypt’s deep belonging to the African continent. The Nile Basin Summit is a historic event because it is the first summit to bring all the Nile Basin countries together.

- The Egyptian position of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

The Ethiopian government announced in February 2011 the construction of the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam Project on the Blue Nile, known as the Ebay River in Ethiopia, with 145 meters height and 74 billion cubic meters storage capacity.

It was scheduled to be completed in 2017, but the director of the project of the Renaissance Dam, “Kefli Horo” announced that the completion of the construction of the dam will be in 2022 (according to the official Ethiopian news agency)
In this context, the Egyptian state has taken several parallel paths towards the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian government has held rounds of negotiations with the Ethiopian government on the Ethiopian Dam project and a declaration of principles has been signed regarding the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the use of Nile water for achieving the common interests. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al-Bashir and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn signed the document at their summit in Khartoum in March 2015.

Egypt is keen to strengthen the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations in the light of the developments of the tripartite negotiations for the Renaissance Dam within the framework of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles for 2015. It is also very important to stress the importance of advancing the existing negotiating tracks and overcoming any obstacles to ensure the necessary understanding on the dam securing Ethiopia’s developmental interests and maintaining Egypt’s water security.

For this reason, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi stressed the Egyptian stance toward the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam during his meeting with representatives of the foreign media in Egypt at the World Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2018.

President Sisi said: “We want to turn Ethiopia’s good intentions into concrete agreements and take into account that the process of filling the Dam will not affect Egypt’s water quota. The technical committees have not yet reached an agreement. We also need to ensure that the dam is not used for political purposes, especially under the positive signs given by the new Ethiopian leadership.

5. Regional Technical Office of the Eastern Nile (ENTRO)

It was established in March 2001 by agreement between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. It is a regional office based in Addis Ababa to discuss joint water projects, which were grouped in the “Action Program for the Eastern Nile Basin”.

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The program includes several projects in the field of flood control and electricity generation from river water, including:

A. Establish a joint flood control and early warning mechanism through sharing information, analyzing data and seeking to mitigate flood.

B. Investment project of energy trade between the three countries and other countries and the establishment of electrical networks.

C. River Basin Management Project aims to reduce the quantities of silt deposited in Lake Nasser to achieve regional benefit and cooperation on the regional level.

D. Irrigation, drainage and joint investment project in joint agricultural projects

E. A project for the creation of a mathematical model for the Eastern Nile. It aims at planning projects and supporting decision makers with solutions and alternatives in an effort to avoid any negative impacts on the basin countries.

F. Subat River Project (Baroqueppo) aims to save the large quantities of water lost in the marshes and bring about integrated development in the field of agriculture and energy.

Third: Egyptian Economic Relations with Nile Basin Countries

The objective of the Egyptian policy is to strengthen economic and trade cooperation among Nile Basin countries (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya and Egypt) to develop common interests. Therefore, trade exchange rate between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries and the commodity distribution of trade exchange with the Nile Basin countries will be reviewed.

A) The rate of trade exchange between Egypt and Nile Basin countries

In light of Egypt’s interest in strengthening economic cooperation with the Nile Basin countries, the total trade exchange between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries increased. Egypt’s total exports to the
Nile Basin countries reached $ 687.1 million in 2008 with an annual growth rate of $26.5 million. The total Egyptian imports from the Nile Basin countries increased from $53.7 million in 1990 to $256.9 million in 2008, representing 17.1% of the total value of Egyptian exports to the Nile countries as an average during the period 1990-2009. Total Egyptian imports from the Nile Basin countries increased from $53.7 million in 1990 to $256.9 million in 2008.

According to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in December 2018, the value of trade between Egypt and Nile Basin countries increased by 17.5% during the first 10 months of 2018 (January-October 2018) to reach $1.38 billion, compared to $1.139 billion during the same period of 2017.

The total Egyptian exports to these countries increased by 8.9% during the same period of 2018, to reach about $876 million, compared to $804 million in 2017.

The total Egyptian imports from these countries increased by 50.4% during the same period of 2018 to reach $504 million, compared to about $335 million in 2017.

B) Commodity distribution for trade exchange with Nile Basin countries

The most important products exported by Egypt to the Nile Basin countries are chemical and plastic products, cotton, sugar, glass and its products, plastics and its products, essential oils and cosmetics, paper and its products, furniture and prefabricated installations, fertilizers, Chemical organic and inorganic products, Pharmaceuticals, and machinery and electrical appliances. The imports from the Nile basin countries are mainly animal, vegetable, beverage and tobacco products.

It is therefore necessary to strengthening the economic relations between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries in order to achieve common interests in various fields, including activating trade cooperation, activating investment and joint ventures, promoting Egyptian exports,
concluding commercial transactions, financing and guaranteeing exports and investments and developing information technology of Nile basin markets. The African market has high export potential, especially the markets of the Nile Basin countries, which enable it able to absorb more Egyptian exports and enhance trade cooperation between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries.

Fourth: Development Initiatives with Nile Basin Countries

The Egyptian policy has attached great importance to strengthen its relations with African countries, especially the Nile Basin countries, and to promote bilateral cooperation in many fields, in addition to establishing more joint projects in the African continent. Egypt contributed to bilateral development cooperation projects to achieve rapid return and direct impact on the level of living in Nile Basin countries including projects of underground well drilling, construction of dams, harvesting rainwater, water purification and training and capacity building to raise the efficiency of technical personnel. In this context, the Egyptian government announced the implementation of the $400 million investments in the Nile Basin countries in 2018, including well drilling, the rain conservation projects and construction of dams.

Therefore, there are many fields of development initiatives between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries not only in cooperation in water projects, but also in technology and culture either in the form of support through the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development or through scholarships in Egyptian universities and scientific institutions or Specialized courses in various fields, which can be highlighted as follows:

1. **Egyptian participation in water projects with Nile Basin countries**

   Egypt has actively participated in all irrigation, power generation, river protection and desalination projects in the Nile Basin countries through the provision of technical expertise. This role has been evident in many projects, including:
• Uganda:

Egypt agreed with Britain on behalf of Uganda in 1953 to establish the Owen Dam at the Owen Falls in Lake Victoria. Egypt provided fund for the construction of the dam and paid the annual expenses, as well as the presence of a permanent Egyptian engineer at the dam site to participate with the Ugandan officials in the operation of the dam to achieve the benefits of both countries. Owen reservoir power station project was expanded in 1991 based on the agreement of understanding signed between Egypt and Uganda.

A technical cooperation project was implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture under the name of the “The Egypt-Uganda Aquatic Weed Control Project” in 1999, at a total cost of $18.4 million, followed by a second phase and a third phase. The achievements of the project have had a direct impact on the citizens of the villages and cities of Uganda and the economic development through the clearance of lakes from the weeds, which contributed to the development of navigation and fisheries, as well as the establishment of 10 dams to collect rainwater in northern and eastern Uganda at a cost of $20 million.

In March 2004, the second stage of the Egypt-Uganda Aquatic Weed Control Project in Uganda was implemented in order to raise the efficiency of fisheries. Egypt provided a $13.9 million grant to Uganda to implement the project.

As part of the cooperation between the two sides, a cooperation project was established between the Egyptian government and the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment. A memorandum of understanding was signed in January 2010 to implement several vital projects for the Uganda citizens with an Egyptian grant of $4.5 million. The projects include the implementation of 75 groundwater wells in Uganda’s sparse areas for drinking water, completed in December 2016, the implementation of the use of solar-powered pumps for the mechanization of 2 groundwater wells. A civil society awareness proposal and operation and maintenance databases for wells have also been initiated for preserving wells.

The Egyptian government has also been keen to strengthen its
relations with the Nile Basin countries through their participation in the development of the African continent. In September 2018, the Egyptian government announced an agreement between the governments of Egypt and Uganda to establish 5 dams for harvesting rainwater in different parts of Uganda among other bilateral projects. The project of building dams with a capacity of no more than 10,000 cubic meters for five dams, also called “medicine tanks”, was launched with an Egyptian grant worth $9 million. The project comes within the framework of cooperation between Egypt and Uganda, in view of the risks that faced Kasese province for 20 years due to successive waves of heavy floods, which were most violent in 2014. The first phase of the project was entrusted to one of the largest Egyptian companies operating in Uganda, the Arab Contractors Company. The first phase of the project, which started in mid 2017, includes the implementation of the disinfection works on the Nyamwamba River in the province of Kasese. The joint technical committee of the cooperation projects between the two countries held a series of meetings of the joint technical and steering committee for the technical cooperation project between the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt and the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda to discuss the executive procedures of the project in order to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

This is in addition to the completion of the supply of huge mechanical equipment to be used in the implementation of all projects, the most important of which is the construction of rainwater harvesting dams to take advantage of rainwater to provide drinking water for citizens and household uses. The contract was signed with an Ugandan company in August 2017.

• Tanzania:

Egypt has undertaken several projects, including the establishment of a water research center in Tanzania and the purification of Lake Victoria and Kyoga from weeds and aquatic plants in Tanzania and Uganda with a $14 million grant.

As part of Egypt’s contribution to the construction of several dams
on the African continent, Stigler George dam is one of the most important national power projects in Tanzania as it will help linking the networks of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The 130 meters dam will be implemented by Egypt’s Arab Contractors Company and ElSwedy Electric at the Rufiji river basin. There will be 4 more dams to increase storage capacity to 34 billion cubic meters. The cost of constructing the dam is estimated at $3.6 billion and will be completed in a period not exceeding 36 months to be finished in 2021.

It is worth mentioning that the government of Tanzania was considering the construction of Stigler George dam since the 1960s. The total capacity is expected to reach 2100 megawatts. Through the 400 high-voltage line, it will be integrated with the national electricity grid to help in increasing the output of electric power, which would bridge Tanzania’s deficit and be linked to the networks of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

In this context, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi expressed Egypt’s pride in its ties with Tanzania in terms of fraternity, friendship and cooperation and the continued aspiration of Egypt to strengthen relations with the Tanzanian side in various fields in light of the economic fundamentals of the two countries as the Stigler George dam will serve as a model for cooperation on the African continent.

In this context, the contract for the construction of a hydroelectric dam project was signed on December 12, 2018. Dr. John Magofoli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Dr. Mostafa Madbouli, Egypt’s Prime Minister and Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities witnessed the signing ceremony. Magogoli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, at the signing ceremony of the Stigler George Dam Project, said:

“Tanzanians have learned from the Egyptian merchants since ancient times the culture, the Arabic language and some types of music, noting that Egypt and Tanzania had a great participation in the establishment of the African Union, where they have long relations before the advent of colonialism.”
South Sudan:

A number of development projects have been implemented in South Sudan in the field of water resources with an Egyptian grant, including the implementation of a project to clean the watercourses of Bahr El Ghazal Basin to develop the area socially and economically. The projects also aim to improve the living and health conditions of the people of these areas, improve environmental conditions, combat floods and reducing the sinking of villages along the banks of rivers and streams due to the obstruction of waterways and the rise of water levels.

Egypt also helped in preparing a feasibility study for the construction of a multi-purpose dam on the Siwa River, clearing watercourses from the weeds, establishing river basins in Bahr El Ghazal basin, completing the drilling of 30 groundwater wells to supply the south towns and villages with potable water, training and human capacity building and rehabilitating and refurbishing the three main measurement stations at a cost of $26.6 million.

As part of the Egyptian policy to support South Sudan in order to achieve sustainable development in the field of water resources, Egypt announced the establishment of the Wau Dam in August 2018 in Wau, the capital of West Bahr El Ghazal state on the Siou River, one of the tributaries of Bahr el Ghazal. The project is part of an Egyptian project grant of $26.6 million to South Sudan.

The Arab Contractors Company is implementing the project at a cost of up to $2 billion. It is the first multi-purpose dam in South Sudan as it provides potable water for 500,000 people within the city of Wau. A water station in Wau has been completed to provide water needs for domestic use and livestock. The project is part of the Egyptian grant as well as the projects for the establishment of river anchorages, where the river anchorage in Wou city was established in November 2010.

It is worth mentioning that the projects undertaken by Egypt in the South Sudan are in implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries signed in August 2006, the technical cooperation protocol between the two countries in March
2011 and the technical cooperation and development agreement in November 2014 in Cairo.

• Sudan:

The bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Sudan in the field of water resources is one of the most important pillars for providing water security for the people of the Nile Valley. The bilateral cooperation started with Egypt’s establishment of the Sennar reservoir on the Blue Nile in favor of the Sudan in 1925. Egypt also supported the establishment of Jabal al-Awliya in Sudan in order to generate electricity for the city of Khartoum in 1932.

Egypt and Sudan also cooperated through forming Joint Permanent Technical Authority for Nile Water and joint project between Egypt and Sudan with a grant from the World Bank to control the movement of silt in Lake Nasser/Nuba. Egypt and Sudan also cooperated in other important projects in the field of drilling of wells and anchorages since 2006. In August 2018, six more wells were drilled with photovoltaic cells based on solar energy.

• Congo:

There are several projects of cooperation between Egypt and the Congo, including the integrated water resources management project in the Congo at a cost of $10.5 million for a period of 5 years. The project includes drilling of underground wells, preparing feasibility studies for hydropower infrastructure, exchanging experiences in agriculture, irrigation, animals, establishing centers to predict climate change and rainfall, training and capacity building. Egypt also participated, technically, in the development of water management in Congo at the request of the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

• Kenya:

Egypt has carried out several projects in Kenya as Egypt helped Kenya for drilling dozens of wells including a $ 2 million grant in March 2004 for the drilling of 40 wells.
Within the framework of the Egyptian Nile Basin Development Initiative in June 2014, many engineers in Kenya received training courses in the field of agricultural mechanization for small farms. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Egyptian and Kenyan sides in this regard.

The Kenyan side participates regularly in the annual training program organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity for technical cadres in the Nile basin countries, in addition to the courses organized by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.

Thus, the development projects of Egypt with the Nile Basin countries in the field of water resources and irrigation varied. The value of these projects reached about $80 million for the implementation of several projects in the field of water resources, including drilling of underground wells, floating weed control projects, managing water resources and establishing river anchorages, which helps facilitate the movement of river navigation, whether for individuals or for the transport of goods.

2. Technological cooperation

Within the framework of enhancing technological cooperation with the Nile Basin countries, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology suggested an initiative for the development of the information society in the Nile Basin countries as a strategic partner in the sustainable development of this sector in the Nile Basin countries. The ministry also aims to contribute effectively to transforming the societies of these countries into technological communities through the integration of means of communication and information technology in all sectors of the economies of those countries. Egypt enjoys an advanced level of infrastructure, policies and human cadres, making it one of the leading countries in this sector on the continent. Egypt is also a member of a number of African regional organizations such as the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the African Postal Union (PAPU). Egypt has therefore been keen to strengthen its role in
these organizations through active participation in all conferences and meetings of various African organizations.

The Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has launched several initiatives and projects to cooperate with Nile Basin countries such as:

- Starting the establishment of an emergency response center in Uganda.

- Establishing Panorama project of the natural and cultural heritage in Congo in 2012.

- Establishing a package of technological projects, providing unprecedented support for the development of the communication system to enhance relations with the Nile Basin countries and establishing a regional training center in two countries of the basin: one in an Anglophone country and the other in a Francophone country.

- Signing a number of memorandums of understanding in the fields of capacity building and electronic governance and the establishment and management of smart villages in a number of the basin countries.

3. Cultural cooperation

In the framework of strengthening cultural cooperation between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries, the Egyptian Islamic Center was opened in Dar es Salaam in 1968. It is considered one of the most prominent aspects of cultural cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania as more than 1,400 students are studying in different stages of education.

The Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, organized “the Nile ship for Arab and the Nile basin youth” in September 2018. Participants were 200 young men and women from 24 Arab and African countries. A tour was organized in Aswan including visiting the High Dam and the temple of Phila. This
came as part of the activities and programs of “Cairo the capital of Arab youth 2018” under the slogan “one dream… one goal.” The participants presented a brief history of each country including its culture, customs, traditions, most important tourist and archaeological sites, and relations with Egypt in the past and present.
Chapter VII

Cultural and Media Cooperation between Egypt and Africa
First: Culture and the depth of Egypt in Africa

Culture is an important element in the convergence between nations and peoples as it has the capacity to create channels of communication away from political and ideological confusions. Culture has the effectiveness and the ability to bring about positive change to strengthen ties of convergence and integration between peoples and civilizations.

The study of Egyptian-African relations in its cultural dimension indicates the availability of factors of convergence between the two sides based on the following indicators:

- Egypt’s African identity.
- Geographical location of Egypt: North Africa and East Africa.
- Common belief with some countries.
- History and common cultural heritage.
- Membership in regional and international organizations and blocs: African Union - United Nations - Organization of Islamic Cooperation - Sahel and Sahara Community - COMESA.

Based on Egypt’s historical role, we note the diversity of Egyptian institutions and mechanisms that have culture role in Africa including cultural, religious, educational and social institutions.

1- Al Azhar

Al-Azhar occupies a special place among the Muslims in the world countries because it represents a moderate approach and a cultural role in spreading the teachings and tolerant values of Islam. It is thus possible to say that Al-Azhar, as a university and an institution, represents the most important tool of Egyptian cultural interaction with our African environment. The Azhar University, in cooperation with the
Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the Ministry of Awqaf, offers many scholarships to African students both at the university level and at the postgraduate level, as well as sending many scientists to African countries to work as religious advocates and teach in the religious scientific centers.

Many African Scientists studied in Al-Azhar including Ibn Khaldun (Tunisia), Al-Jabrati (Ethiopia), Al-Zeilay and Harri (Somalia) and Al-Tacrury (West Africa). The halls of Al-Azhar also bore the names of some African communities, expressing solidarity and association with them, such as Tacrury Hall, Moroccan Hall, Buroudi Hall, Al-Jabrata Hall, Al-Zeilay Hall, El-Fur Hall and El-Sanarya Hall.

Since the nineteenth century, Egypt has sought to preserve the Islamic identity of the African continent. Thus, the Islamic missions increased in the 1950s, through the opening of schools to teach the Arabic language and the rules of the Islamic religion, sending teachers and providing them with books and educational tools. In this era, Egypt has been keen to select the scientists and teachers on basis of scientific and precise criteria.

Al-Azhar missions, in addition to teaching, give daily and weekly speeches and sermons, lead Muslims in the prayers, give speeches at public concerts and attend official events, as well as visiting regions, villages and cities for preaching and guidance.

At the internal level, Al-Azhar Mission City is an important tool of direct communication with international students, especially Africans, and helps achieving the following objectives: strengthening the ties, dissolving differences among Islamic peoples, resisting racial discrimination and providing appropriate environment, and health, social and athletic care for foreign students to enable them to study.

With regard to monitoring the cultural impact of Al-Azhar in Africa, the following effects can be seen:

- Encouraging African governments to pay attention to Arab and Islamic culture.
- Providing religious institutes in African countries with teachers, books and tools.
- Spreading Arab and Islamic culture throughout the continent.
- Opening of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Somalia in 1953. The Institute contributed to bringing together Somalis and Arabs.

- Sudanese literature indicates that more than 40 of the early 20th century Sheikhs who were leading the religious scientific movement in Sudan, had graduated from Al-Azhar.

- Strengthening cooperation between Al-Azhar and the continent of Africa, his eminence the Grand Imam Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb issued a decision on December 11, 2018 to form a committee for African affairs in Al-Azhar.

- About 5500 students from Africa are studying at Azhar which provides 800 annual scholarships for African students. Besides, there are 16 Azhar institutions in Africa.

2-Egyptian Coptic Church

The Egyptian Coptic Church is one of the most important Egyptian cultural channels for the implementation of Egypt’s cultural and external policy towards Africa. This is due to the historical ties between the Egyptian Church and its counterparts in both Sudan and Ethiopia, as well as its historic role in the continent over the centuries since Christianity entered Egypt. A hanging banner in a church in South Africa, during the period of racial rule, reads:

- “Christ and Egypt’s Copts will come to liberate us”

The Egyptian Church in Africa enjoys a good reputation as a holy land that received popes, patriarchs, saints and martyrs. Its history bears no temptations on the African continent or colonial purposes as it seeks peace and good for the peoples of Africa. The Egyptian Church has emphasized the solidarity of African and Arab peoples, and the elimination of sensitivities between Muslims and Christians in the continent. In this regard, the Egyptian Church focuses its work on the continent on local factors to attract young people: Local songs, musical instruments, arts, drums, and other methods of expression used by the African citizen.
The role of the Egyptian Church in Africa is characterized by diversity in its relations:

- Relations with countries: the Egyptian Church has relations with churches in Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and South Africa.

- Relations with African Christian organizations and movements such as the Council of Churches of All Africa.

- Relations with the African peoples through its service and attention to their affairs in Egypt or their countries through missions and pastoral visits.

With regard to the cultural role of the Egyptian Coptic Church in Africa, the following indicators can be monitored:

- Resisting colonialism and supporting national liberation issues.

- Weakening the tribal structure in favor of the African national movement.

- Establishing vocational training centers in many countries of the continent.

- Translating the work of the Church into African languages, and creating African religious cadres with African values and culture.

- Translation of prayers and holy books into 17 African languages.

- Performing prayers in tribal languages as in Kenya in 1980.

- Translating Sunday school curricula into Amharic.

- Hosting and training African religious cadres in Egypt.

- Establishing a department for African studies within the Higher Institute of Coptic Studies in 1960, like the Institute of African Research and Studies at Cairo University. The following topics: History of Africa, Anthropology of Africa, Egypt's relations with Africa are taught.
3- Ministry of Higher Education

The role of the Ministry of Higher Education as one of the mechanisms of cultural relations is highlighted through the scholarships granted to the African students in various Egyptian universities and institutes. The ministry also signed joint cooperation agreements in the field of research and scientific studies through the Academy of Scientific Research, as well as its supervision of the Egyptian cultural centers in various capitals of the world.

Historically, Egyptian teachers have played a prominent role in education in Africa, whether through teaching or curriculum, or organizing the educational process. Egypt has signed many agreements with the countries of the continent for cultural, scientific and artistic exchange and exchange of teachers.

In the same context, the Egyptian educational role can be seen through the following frameworks and mechanisms:

- Dozens of protocols and cooperation agreements were signed between Egyptian universities and their counterparts in Africa.

- In December 2018, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced that there will be 1,900 scholarships to Africans at a cost of $17 million annually. The number of students in Egypt currently stands at 1,100 African students.

- The Alexandria University Board approved in 2012 to form a committee for African-Arab relations aimed at strengthening ties with African universities.

- Egypt presented in 2012 one hundred scholarships for postgraduate students from Nile basin countries at a cost of $2 million.

- Egypt contributed to the establishment of Omdurman University and Omdurman Islamic University in Sudan.

- Egypt opened the Cairo University branch in Khartoum in 1953-1956 that included the faculties of Arts, Law and Commerce. The number of students at that time was 24,000, a number equal to all Sudanese university students.
- The opening of the African University of Senghur in 1990 as a cultural and scientific beacon in Africa.

- The national schools in Somalia named after the Egyptian schools in recognition of the educational support provided by Egypt in the 1950s.

4. Research and studies centers concerned with Africa

Egypt has a number of research centers dealing with African affairs. These centers include: academic centers (African Research and Studies Institute - Cairo University), governmental centers (Information and Decision Support Center - Cabinet), semi-governmental centers (Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies), specialized centers (The Center for African Studies - Faculty of Economics and Political Science, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, the Egyptian International Center for Agriculture and the Center for Coordination and Cooperation with Africa at the State Information Service).

On the scientific and cultural levels, these centers seek to enhance the cultural and scientific convergence between Egypt and the continent through:

- Strengthening the Egyptian sense of belonging to the African continent.
- Formation of the African identity of Egypt.
- Building qualified Egyptian and African research cadres.
- Providing support to the Egyptian decision maker regarding African affairs and developing strategies for the Egyptian role in the continent.
- Cooperating with African Research and Studies Centers.
- Organizing forums and meetings for African researchers and diplomats.
- Communicating culturally with African embassies in Cairo.
Second: Aspects of mutual cultural cooperation between Egypt and Africa

A review of the horizons of cultural relations between Egypt and the African continent shows that the cultural interaction between Egypt and Africa is deeply rooted from centuries. This can be traced through the following features:

- There are still tribes in the region between Kenya and Tanzania some tribes dating back to the Khedive Ismail era. They call themselves Al Ashraf. They are of Egyptian origin as their features are similar to the Egyptian features and structure. They are dressed in Jellabiya and red fez.

- The existence of some vocabulary with the Egyptian dialect in the Swahili language, such as the words: Effendi - Pasha - Adiah - Dawaab.

- Pharaonic folk legends among the peoples of Fula, Tutsi and Yoruba.

- Egyptian epics in African Literature.

- The Egyptian community was one of the largest human masses in Khartoum. It contributed to the establishment of modern schools and housing. People know the Egyptian theatre as the Sudanese literature indicates that many of the cultural renaissance figures in Sudan graduated from Egyptian schools.

- The Egyptian cultural influence extended to the heritage and urban aspects through studying the design and construction of the Suakin and Massawa ports in 1856.

- The Egyptian presence in the African literature and art especially the Sudanese: the Egyptian book occupies a special position with the Sudanese intellectual and the Egyptian series and films have a special status with the Sudanese viewer.

- The various activities of the Egyptian Cultural Center in Libya (seminars, conferences, lectures, theater performances).

- The prominent role of the Luxor African Film Festival, which is the most important tools of Egyptian access in Africa. The mission
of the festival is supporting and encouraging the production of African films and the technical partnership between the countries of the continent, strengthening humanitarian ties among African participants and achieving technical interaction between Egypt and its African depth.

- The historic role of the African Association in Egypt, which embodied the political and cultural cooperation between Egypt and its African region, and continues to play this role to this day by deepening relations among African youth in various fields.

- Cultural and artistic role of the International Festival of Drums and Traditional Arts, which held its sixth session in 2018. The Cultural Development Fund, in cooperation with the Dialogue and Arts of Peoples Culture Association, Foreign Culture Relation sector and the Ministry of Tourism, cooperated in organizing the festival. Many African countries have also participated in the International Hearing Festival since its inception.

**Third: Egyptian-African Media Cooperation**

As for media and its role concerning the relations between Egypt and the African continent, media can contribute to the following objectives:

- Forming mental image of Egypt in African countries and vice versa.
- Achieving cultural communication with the continent of Africa.
- Developing the media and information awareness of the Egyptian and African citizens.

In accordance with these objectives, several Egyptian media organizations concerned with media cooperation with the African region can be monitored as follows:

**1- State Information Service**

The State Information Service (SIS) is the State’s main informational agency. It is an important part of the national strategy towards the African continent. In recent years, SIS has initiated interactive meetings
with African media and press delegations representing most of the continent. The meetings focused on a number of messages, including: the enhancement of the African identity of Egypt, Egypt’s support for the development process in the countries of the continent and the formulation of a new system of Egyptian-African relations.

In this context, the SIS external media offices have the following objectives:

1. Building bridges of trust and understanding between Egypt and the African countries, especially at the official and popular levels (parliamentarians – political parties - civil society institutions).

2. Raising awareness of African public opinion on Egypt’s African identity and belonging and changing the false image of relations with African citizens.

3. Creating a network of strong relations with the African media.

4. Preparation of programs of mutual visits with delegations of African political, parliamentary, party and media groups and personalities.

5. Providing logistic support to Egyptian media and press delegations wishing to travel to African countries to prepare press investigations, radio or television programs or follow up and cover the conferences held there.

6. Strengthening links with African institutions and media through the signing of protocols, projects and agreements for media cooperation.

7. Providing information, data and press materials requested by the Egyptian sectors, whether individuals, institutions, universities, or cultural or research centers.

8. Providing the African media with correct and accurate information regarding the situation in Egypt.

In addition to the Media Offices, the SIS publishes a periodical entitled “African Perspective” since 2000. The scientific periodical, dealing with various African affairs, is issued in three languages: Arabic, English and French. The periodical is a distinguished scientific
reference for African affairs’ researchers, as well as journalists and media professionals on African issues. It is distributed to various research institutions, press organizations, African embassies in Egypt and our media offices abroad.

“Our Continent Africa” Magazine is a monthly electronic periodical published on the SIS website to inform the Egyptian reader, especially youth, with the most important African issues in various political, cultural, artistic and sports fields in a simplified suitable way for non-specialists. In the next stage, the SIS will seek to print the magazine to be distributed in schools, universities, youth centers, cultural palaces and public libraries to raise public awareness on African issues, especially the issue of water.

2. Directed ad-hoc radio networks

• The broadcasting of the directed ad-hoc radio stations in Egypt started on July 4, 1954, with the opening of Voice of the Arabs or Sawt al-Arab, which was intended to reflect the national ideology and highlight the role of Egypt in the Arab world. In 1954, it started broadcasting in local African languages, especially in Tigrinya language used in East Africa and allowed the Eritrean leaders to work in the station. The Amharic broadcast started in 1955, the Somali in 1957 and then the English, French, Arabic, Hebrew, Hausa and Fulani followed. In 1965, Egypt made a broadcast in Zulu addressed to South Africa to combat colonialism and confront apartheid policies.

• The aim of the radio stations was to introduce African peoples to various aspects of civilization, cultural and educational activity in Egypt, as well as political affairs, especially in support of liberation movements, and to open an information window.

• The Egyptian radio stations are broadcasted to all Africa for 19 hours a day, as follows:

  - West Africa: Programs for this region are broadcasted in five national languages (Hausa-Fulani), in addition to English, French and Arabic.
- East Africa: Programs for this region are broadcasted in four national languages (Swahili-Amheri-Somali-African) in addition to English.

3 - African media personnel training Institute

• The Ministry of Information has established an institute to train African media personnel and broadcasters to transfer the Egyptian media expertise to the countries of the continent and introduce the latest international media systems. It was established in 1977, where courses are held for the training of African broadcasters, English and French speakers, in addition to the launching of courses for journalists to develop the skills of African media personnel.

• According to available data, the Institute has hosted nearly 4,000 African media personals throughout its history.

4. Contributing in establishing Pan African News Agency (PANA)

• It entered into force in Dakar on May 25, 1983. Its objective is to enhance cooperation in the exchange of information among African countries. Egypt has contributed in drafting the Agency’s law and overcoming the financing and marketing problems it faces and adhering to the Agency’s communications tariff.

5. Hosting the Union of African Journalists

• Established on November 23, 1974, the Union contained 12 members among them the Egyptian Federation. Its goal is to unite African journalists under one organization capable of serving African journalists and defending African issues in addition to its important role to help media communication among African journalists. Egypt has provided a headquarters to the Union in Cairo, as well as providing facilities to ease its work. In this context, the Union has published the African Journal in Arabic, English and French.
6. Media cooperation agreements and protocols

• Agreements and protocols of cooperation are one of the forms of the Egyptian media tool towards the African countries. The General Directorate for International Relations of the Union of Radio and Television endorsed 33 media cooperation agreements with the countries of the continent, which varied between protocols and memorandums of understanding. On the other hand, the Egyptian media role contributed to the establishment of the African Broadcasting Organization, which was established in 1962.

Fourth: Cooperation in the field of medical and humanitarian relief

Egypt provides relief assistance to the African countries as it is one of the forms of cooperation between Egypt and its mother continent. Many regions of the continent suffer from natural disasters such as drought, desertification and floods, as well as struggled and armed conflicts that have led to the movement and displacement of thousands of citizens.

Therefore, the African continent is considered a top priority on the agenda of Egyptian non-governmental organizations. The presence of some Egyptian relief agencies on the continent will enhance the Egyptian presence and influence in the continent, especially in light of the escalating activity of the Egyptian relief role in some areas such as in the Darfur region of Sudan, South Sudan and in Somalia. In addition, there are also Egyptian efforts to combat diseases in West Africa, as a serious challenge to the African continent and a collective responsibility.

The Egyptian government also provided medical assistance through the cooperation of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Aswan Heart Center, headed by Dr. Magdy Yaqoub, to support Africans in the field of treating heart diseases. The Center is a model to be followed at the level of African countries especially in rehabilitating treatment centers, training cadres in African countries and transferring Egyptian expertise in line with the objectives of the development agenda in the continent.
1. Disease control in Africa

In the framework of Egypt’s efforts to strengthen its relations with African countries, and in line with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi’s speech at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2013 in which he called for the need for regional and international solidarity to combat Ebola in West Africa and the joint collective responsibility, Egypt has established a national plan of action to support a number of African countries against the Ebola epidemic in 2014. The plan aims to provide $1 million aid to these countries in cooperation with many sectors in ministries concerned with health and foreign affairs.

The Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the African Union and various institutions and ministries, is exerting various efforts in facing hepatitis viruses to combat the disease in Africa. Based on the recommendations of the 3rd Conference of the African Foundation for the Treatment of Liver Disease, held in November 2018, the Agency is partnering with experts from 20 countries, as part of the preliminary preparations for the presidency of Egypt for the African Union in 2019.

The Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development organizes about 10 training courses about liver diseases annually. Representatives from more than 20 African countries participate in the course. The Agency’s activities include the dispatch of experts and specialists in the field of medicine, aid, humanitarian assistance, medical equipment and the providing of logistic support for the African countries.

2- Medical Assistance

Ethiopia: The Egyptian government has made many efforts to support Ethiopia in various developmental fields, especially in the fields of health. These efforts will undoubtedly focus on the developing the relations between the Egyptians and the Ethiopians and discussing all ways to develop the relations of cooperation between the two countries, to contribute to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.
In this context, an Egyptian pavilion was opened in the Ethiopian heart center, with a cardiac catheterization system in July 2016. Egypt also established a dialysis center, a gastric bypass surgery unit at Saint Paul Hospital, Ethiopia’s largest educational hospital and a Cardiac surgery unit at Black Lion hospital in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Magdy Yacoub also visited Ethiopia during which he conducted many open heart operations for Ethiopian citizens, in the framework of continued cooperation between the Aswan Heart Center, the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ethiopian Heart Center.

**South Sudan:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shipped, through the Egyptian Agency for Partnership, pharmaceutical aid to South Sudan in October 2018. This assistance comes from Egypt’s firm belief in the historical ties and common destinies that bind the people of the two countries and within the framework of an integrated strategy as this sector is one of the most important pillars of development in South Sudan.

A humanitarian bridge was established between Cairo and Juba in response to the developments in the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The bridge was opened on June 12, 2017 and the Government of South Sudan received 10 shipments of food and medical assistance.

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it had offered Juba $2 million humanitarian aid to assist in facing the humanitarian situation in February 2016. The aid is a part of Egypt’s pledge to provide South Sudan with $2 million humanitarian aid. The aid included 14 tons of dried milk and 22 tons of tents.

**Kenya:** In the framework of strengthening the bilateral relations between Egypt and Kenya, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited the Kenyatta National Hospital in January 2015. He provided the hospital with medical assistance offered from the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development to develop health services in the hospital. The assistance included four dialysis units, liver binocular unit, cancer hospital for children and training courses for 50 Kenyan specialists in the
field of cancer control for children in addition to providing free treatment for 10 children from Kenya with cancer at the Egyptian Hospital.

**Sudan:** In August 2018, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi sent four Egyptian planes carrying approximately 50 tons of relief aid including shelter and medicine. Medical teams and veterinary assistance will follow the aid to alleviate the suffering of those affected by floods and rain.

**Uganda:** In August 2016, the Egyptian government handed over a medical grant to the Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Ugandan capital including two kidney dialysis units, a binocular unit, and a range of other medical instruments and devices. This is part of the assistance provided by the Egyptian government represented by the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to several African countries.

**Burundi:** As part of a new package of medical and health assistance targeting the children of Burundi, many Egyptian medical assistance was provided during 2018, including a shipment of vaccines and essential vaccinations for children to combat meningitis, cholera and hepatitis B.

In July 2018, the Egyptian government has provided development assistance to Burundi, which includes 6,300 meters of laminated sheet with a total weight of 30 tons. The sheet is used in the construction of several schools and hospitals in Burundi, which will contribute to upgrading the education and health sectors.

**Eritrea:** In the framework of the bilateral relations between Egypt and Eritrea, the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development sent ophthalmology convoy to Eritrea during the period from April 2017 to May 2017 in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

**Somalia:** The Egyptian government sent several medical and food aid to Somalia, in coordination with the Ministry of Defense, which delivered aid shipment through a C130 military cargo plane to relief the Somali people from the drought crisis. The 9 ton aid included 750 cartons of food and 3 bales of medicines and medical supplies.
Chapter VIII

Future Vision for the African Continent
Agenda of 2063
First: Agenda of 2063: An ambitious and realistic vision for the African continent

The idea of putting an agenda for the African ambitions that needed to be achieved during the coming years was launched as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the continental organization. In May 2013, the leaders signed a declaration defining the ambitions and hopes of Africans and in January 2015, African leaders adopted, during the 24th African Summit held in Addis Ababa, the African Union's Agenda 2015-2063.

The Agenda of 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years that embraces a new vision of development to enhance Africans’ ability to make full use of available and effective resources for their development. The 50-year initiative includes many goals, but, the guiding vision for Agenda of 2063 is the AU Vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena”.

On the other hand, the AU Agenda of 2063 presents an example of continental frameworks that are influenced by the historical and intellectual tributaries of the continent’s heritage. The Agenda emphasizes historical heritage awareness, appreciates continental unity and supports the institutional orientations aimed at the unity of Africa, highlighting the fact that unity is the destiny and goal that Africa should seek in the future.

The Agenda of the African Union emphasized the importance of recalling the spirit of the African University and taking advantage of the institutional formulas and regional integration that exist on the continent now. This should be done in a modern way commensurating with the realities and problems of the continent and in a manner acceptable to the world. The Agenda admits the existence of manifestations and
areas that confirm the failure of the existing integrative formulas. Thus, the leaders of the continent should work to complete the path of national liberation and continental unity through the adoption of complementary strategies and plans that support social and economic development and should seek to establish peace and stability and spread values of democratic governance.

In this context, the African Agenda of 2063 has been keen to accelerate the implementation of some of the past and current continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development, some of which are based on a plan of action including: the Lagos Plan of Action, The Abuja Treaty, The Minimum Integration Programme, the Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA), the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), The New partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), Regional Plans and Programmes and National Plans. They are also built on national, regional, continental best practices.

The African development agenda is based on seven axes representing the African prospects in sustainable development, as follows:

• A Prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
• An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance
• An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
• A Peaceful and Secure Africa
• Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
• An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potentials of people, especially women and youth and caring for children
• An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner
Second: Strategic Catalysts in the Agenda

- **Leadership and political commitment:** It is an important factor in shaping the future of Africa and determining the success of the Agenda of 2063; because leadership now is more complex. The need for leaders now is similar to our needs for leaders to fight for independence and against colonialism.

  There is a need for leaders in all fields, at all levels - political, economic, social, science, religion, education and culture. International experience has shown that success comes from a political leadership that has the vision, commitment and ability to implement it.

- **Developmental State and socially empowered citizen:** There must be effective, accountable and participatory institutions and governments based on transparent laws and rules to strengthen the state’s role for development and the legitimacy of institutions and build confidence. The state needs to build its capacities and institutions to enhance its capacity to mobilize resources and build national awareness. African countries must respond to the needs of their people and cooperate with a responsible civil society.

- **The role of diaspora and immigrant citizens:** The active participation of diaspora citizens will be one of the main drivers and catalysts of change for Africa’s development and their contribution to the independence of the African economy through investment, experience and political, cultural and social solidarity.

- **The participation of all stakeholders:** All stakeholders must participate in developing, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Agenda of 2063; as this will promote awareness and knowledge of its objectives, strengthen collective commitment, and promote and revitalize the spirit of collective action.

- **Horizontal and vertical approach to development:** The pursuit of integration and inclusiveness across sectors, outputs and inputs is a necessity and imperative to ensure the success of the Agenda of 2063. For example, the development of agriculture requires the integration of production, marketing, distribution and consumption processes.
- **Economics of Large Scale Production:** Regional economic integration generates economies of large scale production. African countries have relatively small population and small scale economies, thus, it is difficult to compete globally and develop industry and infrastructure that can improve the productivity of growth. Therefore, the economic and political integration in the Agenda of 2063 would allow free movement of goods, capital and individuals across borders and allow for the formation of large regional markets.

- **Ensuring alignment with national plans, sub-regional initiatives and the Agenda of 2063:** This will ensure the success of the Agenda of 2063. While, the final responsibility of the implementation plan lies on the national governments, there must be coordination and continuity in all phases of the planning role, including identifying priority issues, setting goals, forming plans and applying implementation and monitoring.

- **Making the Agenda of 2063 an integral part of the African renaissance:** The African renaissance calls for change in attitudes, values and mentalities and the Agenda of 2063 wants to stay away from the phrase “always pursuing new ideas without significant achievements.”

- **Africa is responsible for its global role:** By reflecting the reality of the continent, the aspirations, priorities and position of Africa in the world.

- **The political stability necessary to build the nation:** This will be implemented through achieving comprehensive and participatory development, following macroeconomic policies, engaging the private sector and creating an appropriate investment climate.

- **National focal points for the Agenda:** The agenda should be included at the national level through the designation of national focal points for the Agenda, the inclusion of the Agenda goals in the national plans and the presentation of periodic reporting to the Council of Ministers and the National Parliaments on the progress made in the implementation of the Agenda.
Third: Egypt and the Agenda of 2063

Egypt has emphasized in more than one continental and international occasion the importance of the Agenda of 2063 to support and develop the African continent in many sectors, notably the infrastructure, energy and African Free Trade Area, as well as Egypt’s vision of a conflict-free African continent. Egypt is working to provide support to African countries to assist them in achieving their development plans within the framework of the AU Agenda of 2063.

In the context of the Egyptian interest in promoting the African fiftieth agenda, a session entitled «The Agenda of 2063, Africa, which we want» was organized as part of the World Youth Forum held in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2018 and was witnessed by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. In his address to the Forum, President Sisi emphasized the role of the Agenda of 2063 in emphasizing governance issues and tackling corruption in Africa. In his address to the Euro-African Forum, held in the Austrian capital of Vienna in December 2018, he emphasized that the issues of technology and digital transformation are among the main priorities of the Agenda of 2063 in Africa, pointing out that the African continent depends on its partners in Europe to cooperate in the area of digital and technological transformation.

On the other hand, Egypt announced its vision for the National Development Agenda 2030 with the objectives and aspirations of the continent’s Agenda of 2063, especially in the areas of women’s empowerment and youth support. In this context, Egypt seeks, through cooperation with African countries, to activate the Agenda of 2063 in various fields including:

- Coordinate political understandings on common issues such as: security of corridors, achieving stability and security, combating illegal immigration, etc.
- Cooperation in international organizations and forums
- Activate security cooperation through exchange of experiences, information and joint exercises
- Build a mutual early warning mechanism
- Increase Egyptian economic engagement in Africa
- Infrastructure in Africa offers great opportunities for Egyptian investments
- Connect ports, roads, railways and airports
- Promote Egypt’s media message of the African continent, based on “Regional development and integration»
- Egypt’s compatibility and symmetry with humanitarian and development decisions in the Agenda of 2063, where Egypt has many educational institutions, media, cultural and diplomatic missions, all of which can contribute to lobbying for the AU Agenda of 2063
- Give priority to the collective vision of the issues of the countries of the continent, especially with regard to the fight against terrorist organizations, and to adopt a media discourse that is based on the values of mutual cooperation and mutual development
- Build an integrated media strategy that includes all the cultural, political, educational and religious components in the continent, and coordinate regional and national frameworks.