

Damir Al-Watan

Conscience of the Nation



Administrative Control Authority \ Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy (EACA)

Center for Research and Studies on Preventing and Combating Corruption (CRSPCC)

Issue No.5 Dec.2023



Issue No.1 of the Conscience of the Nation Magazine is released as the first thematic cultural publication in the field of combating corruption and related sciences.



This is a documentary issue of the Conscience of the Nation Magazine on the Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Sharm El Sheikh (City of Peace) in December 13-17, 2021.



Issue No. 2 of the Conscience of the Nation Magazine is released with a number of significant files, namely: National Strategy & Security and Crisis Management The Anti-Corruption Regulatory and Legal Framework Governance and the Use of Data & Information



The third issue of the "Conscience of the Nation" magazine has been released, which includes a collection of articles and files, including: The battle of awareness in confronting corruption and combating it in times of emergencies and crises. An analysis of Egypt's strategy to combat money laundering crimes and illegal immigration



The fourth issue of the 'Conscience of the Nation' magazine has been released, and it includes a collection of articles and files:
Sustainable Development in a Changing World
The Impact of Data and Information and Their Reflection on Decision-Making Abilities
A Golden Age for Empowering Egyptian Women
Strategic Management and the Egyptian Economy"



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الإصدار الرقمي الإلكتروني
باللغة العربية

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Version Française



On the occasion of announcing the results of the 2024 presidential elections, which witnessed a historic voter turnout of 66.8% of the electoral base,

the Administrative Control Authority represented by its Chairman

Major General /Amr Adel

and all its members and staff,

congratulates...

President/

Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi

on his Excellency's victory in leading the great Egyptian state for a new presidential term. This reflects the awareness, sincerity, and consciousness of the Egyptian people, indicating their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our beloved nation. It also signifies their support for the continuation of the journey of development and contribution.

We invoke Allah Almighty to guide your path and bless your steps.



The young people of Egypt have always been able to express themselves, reflecting the vitality and future of their country. As is customary, Egyptian women once again demonstrate their role as the voice of the national conscience, embodying the resilience and steadfastness of our nation. Similarly, like the workers and farmers of Egypt who served as models of awareness and determination, they reiterate that they are the architects of the future, instilling hope. Additionally, we express gratitude to the Egyptian army, police, and judiciary for securing and overseeing the outcome of this national endeavor in a manner that instills pride and honor.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my commitment to you. As an Egyptian man raised in the historic neighborhoods of Egypt, I am dedicated to the military institution. In the responsibilities assigned to me, my sole focus is on serving you. I spare no effort and seek only to fulfill your hopes and aspirations, seeking to please Allah Almighty.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi

Dec. 2023

The transition to the New Administrative Capital
From here we begin a new era



Administrative Control Authority Building in the New Capital City

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Handing over the Presidency of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to the United States of America



Egypt's Presidency of the Conference of the States Parties from Sharm El-Sheikh to Atlanta Great Achievements despite Difficult Challenges

Major General: Amr Adel
Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority

Egypt's presidency of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC over the past two years was not an easy process. The conference was held under difficult circumstances in the face of unprecedented challenges, including the Coronavirus pandemic, which spread in the whole world leaving unprecedented economic and social consequences. This was followed by a number of international and regional variables and crises. However, the Egyptian insistence on success was the secret behind adopting a large number of great resolutions and holding many activities as well as providing solutions to many problems during this period.

Here, we should acknowledge the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and its working groups in helping the States effectively to maintain consensus and the Spirit of Vienna throughout the term of Egypt's presidency over the past two years. This role helped to maintain collective work and send a message to the international community that we are "united against corruption."

The States met in Sharm El-Sheikh in December 2021, represented by the delegations of more than 155 countries and 2000 participants. Many activities were introduced; and 75 events were held on the sidelines of the conference, with a large number of non-governmental organizations participating in the conference.

In fact, Egypt had three main priorities during its presidency of the ninth session. The first was to ensure that the fight against corruption continued in a sound and effective manner, even during conflicts and natural crises, such as pandemics. The second was preserving consensus, known as the "Vienna Spirit", where eight resolutions were adopted in various fields, and the main resolution was the Declaration, sponsored by Egypt, regarding the fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crises response and recovery. This was our vision over the past two years.

In addition, we adopted resolutions related to cooperation between financial control and accountability agencies and anti-corruption authorities, implementation of the Conven-



A snapshot of the engaged attendees at the opening of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties in the United States

tion, as well as cooperation in the field of law enforcement, prevention, and asset recovery. Other important topics include education and public awareness, which are two essential elements in the international community's work for the prevention of corruption. Moreover, we adopted two resolutions by consensus during the conference, namely the United States hosting the tenth session as well as developing a mechanism for submitting the draft resolutions by the member states, one month prior to the conference date.

The third priority is to make real practical achievements in international cooperation that contribute to supporting anti-corruption operations. Egypt succeeded in this area despite many challenges, and the most notable achievements were: - During the past two years, we prepared a three-year implementation plan to follow up on the Political Declaration issued by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021, under the title "Common Commitment to Effectively Addressing Challenges and Implementing Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Promote International Cooperation". We divided the articles of the Declaration based on the terms of reference of the working groups, where voluntary questionnaires were to be sent to the States Parties urging them to share challenges and successful practices to collect them and present them during the working groups meetings, as per specialization.

In addition, during the past two years, the focus of the conference and the Office was the future of phase 2 of the implementation review mechanism, which was almost completed in December 2023. The conference technical secretariat prepared a document including the lessons learned from other review mechanisms regarding their operation and the transition to the next phase. This document included the experiences collected in the context of the transition processes in the review mechanisms for about 6 mechanisms, covering the initial review phase, the review follow-up, and the institutional reforms and lessons learned. These experiences were

During the past two years, Egypt achieved remarkable success in strengthening international cooperation to combat corruption under the difficult circumstances that the world has experienced, including the epidemic and wars.

* Phase 1 of the review mechanism of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is divided into two sessions. The first session includes Chapters Three and Four, which are concerned with criminalization, law enforcement, and international cooperation; while the second session includes Chapters Two and Five, which are concerned with preventive measures and asset recovery.

* The review mechanisms mean mechanisms for presenting the states' efforts, including successful practices and challenges.

Egypt had three main priorities during its presidency of the session: the first was to ensure that the fight against corruption continued in a sound and effective manner, even during crises. The second was to maintain consensus, and the third was to make real achievements that contribute to supporting the fight against corruption.

translated by both Egypt and the United States of America through submitting a draft resolution during the tenth session to extend the review period until December 2025, as well as determining the features of phase 2 of the implementation review mechanism.

There were also some objections to the participation of some civil society organizations during the ninth session, but the technical secretariat of the conference, in cooperation with the Egyptian Permanent Mission in Vienna, managed to solve such problems, hoping that they would be handled effectively in the future.

- Introducing amendments to the schedule of the inter-working groups, as the thematic discussions included some presentations made by the States to review the successful practices and challenges in various fields. In fact, about 15 thematic sessions were prepared during the past two years, with participation of about 45 representatives from the States Parties, international organizations and the civil society organizations. The aim of these sessions was to review successful practices and challenges in various fields, which contributed to exchanging experiences and enhancing cooperation between the States Parties.

In conclusion, presidency of the tenth session of the conference was handed over to the United States of America, to be held in Atlanta. However, there was a positive harvest of the Egyptian presidency over the past two years, represented in the efforts made to face global challenges. Egypt has achieved great remarkable successes in enhancing international cooperation and combating corruption under the difficult circumstances prevailing in the world through well-studied resolutions and strategic focus. Egypt will continue to lead global efforts in this area, which reflects its commitment to integrity and enhancing cooperation with a view to achieving the aspirations for a more sustainable future.



A glimpse of the attendance at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in December-2021

A Decade of Progress in Egypt's Fight Against Corruption



First Secretary/Khaled Abdelrahman
Assistant to the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority for the EACA Affairs & International Cooperation

In a comprehensive report published in 2010, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shed light on the daunting task of combating corruption in Egypt. The report, part of the Development Support and Business Climate Initiative crafted by the organization in response to the global financial crisis of 2008, identified Egypt as a crucial player in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The OECD report unveiled a range of challenges impeding the fight against corruption in Egypt. Foremost among them was the absence of a comprehensive plan or strategy to tackle this pervasive issue. Furthermore, the report underscored the irregular enforcement of anti-corruption laws, the lack of awareness regarding the importance of corruption prevention and combat, and the dearth of involvement from the private sector and civil society in countering corruption, particularly within the realm of business and investment.

The report's recommendations offered a roadmap for progress: Developing a national strategy to combat corruption, complete with an implementation plan and a robust monitoring system that demands commitment from all levels of the state.

Fostering a culture of integrity within Egyptian society through concerted efforts and initiatives. Strengthening and empowering anti-corruption institutions to enhance their effectiveness. Identifying and addressing areas within the government sector that are most susceptible to corruption. Promoting dialogue with civil society and the media to foster transparency and accountability. Undertaking a comprehensive review of the legislative and legal framework to align with international standards. Formulating and implementing policies that adhere to international benchmarks and best practices. The challenges outlined in the report painted a stark picture of the prevailing circumstances prior to 2010. Despite numerous endeavors, progress in combating corruption had been hampered by inconsistent and unstable efforts, primarily



due to the lack of genuine coordination and a comprehensive framework that engaged all relevant stakeholders.

Considering the subsequent events that unfolded in 2011 and beyond, it is important to note that our purpose here is not to delve into their causes, analyze them, or engage in extensive discussion. Instead, our focus is to shed light on the transformation of Egypt's approach to tackling corruption over the past ten years, beginning in 2014. This period witnessed the adoption of the 2014 Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the introduction of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which served as pivotal milestones in the nation's ongoing battle for integrity.

It is worth mentioning that this article does not seek to enumerate every single effort made during this period. Instead, it aims to provide an overview of the overarching frameworks and policies that have been established, reflecting the solid foundation that has been laid. Moving forward, it is crucial to maintain perseverance and sustain these collective efforts to realize our lofty aspirations in the realm of corruption eradication.

First: Issuance of the 2014 Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt
The Egyptian Constitution, issued in 2014, dedicated a section in the fifth chapter specifically addressing the "National Councils, Independent Bodies, and Oversight Agencies." Article 215 highlighted the key oversight agencies, which included the Central Bank with its responsibility for monitoring the performance of the banking system. It also mentioned the General Authority for Financial Control, entrusted with overseeing non-banking markets and financial instruments. Additionally, the Central Auditing Organization was tasked with monitoring state funds, overseeing the implementation of the general state budget, and reviewing its final accounts. The Administrative Control Authority, responsible for preventing and combating corruption, was also mentioned, although the Constitution did not explicitly define its jurisdiction, encompassing its competence and general scope in combating and preventing corruption. The Constitution emphasized the technical, financial, and administrative independence of oversight bodies, ensuring their neutrality, independence, and necessary protection for their members. It outlined the methods for appointing their heads and the duration of their appointments. The Constitution also mandated that these bodies submit annual reports to the President, the House of Representatives, and the Prime Minister, including notifying the relevant investigative authorities of any evidence of violations or crimes. The most significant aspect of the Constitution's provisions on

The national strategy to combat corruption is based on a clear vision: "A society that fights corruption and restores a culture of transparency, integrity, justice, and loyalty with the support of effective administrative bodies." The strategy has set goals and developed an integrated implementation plan that includes policies, responsible parties for implementation, timelines, and monitoring methods

combating corruption is Article 218, which states, "The state is committed to combating corruption, and the law shall determine the independent bodies and oversight agencies responsible for that. The relevant oversight bodies and agencies shall coordinate among themselves in combating corruption and promoting the values of integrity and transparency, ensuring the proper performance of public service and safeguarding public funds. This includes the development and implementation of the national strategy to combat corruption in coordination with other relevant bodies and agencies, as regulated by law."

It is worth noting that this article addressed several of the challenges mentioned in the introductory section of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's report. Second: Establishment of the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Corruption and the Sub-Coordinating Committee:
In 2010, the Prime Minister issued a decision to establish the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Corruption. Following the issuance of the Egyptian Constitution in 2014, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 493 of 2014 to amend the provisions of the initial decision. The committee is responsible for "effectively implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as other international and regional agreements, formulating a unified Egyptian vision to be expressed in international forums, and conducting international evaluations of relevant national legislation, regulations, and decisions related to the prevention and combat of corruption."

The committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes the Minister of Local Development and Administration, the Minister of Justice, the head of the Administrative Control Authority, the head of the Administrative Prosecution Authority, representatives from the ministries of interior, foreign affairs, general intelligence, and the public prosecution, as well as the Central Auditing Organization and the Anti-Money Laundering Unit. In the same year, 2014, the Prime Minister issued Decision No.



1022 to establish the Sub-Coordinating Committee, chaired by the head of the Administrative Control Authority and including representatives from all relevant entities. The sub-committee is responsible for conducting the necessary studies to develop the national strategy to combat corruption, devising the necessary mechanisms for coordination among the oversight agencies in the state to exchange information and expertise, proposing suitable solutions to eliminate manifestations of corruption, and making recommendations for promoting a culture of integrity and transparency in society.

The activation of these committees had a significant impact on the development of the first national strategy to combat corruption.

Third: Issuance of the National Strategy to Combat Corruption: The National Strategy to Combat Corruption was issued in 2014, with a duration of four years until 2018 for the implementation of its first version. It was preceded by a comprehensive study on the phenomenon of corruption in Egypt, its types, and a review of the most important studies conducted on the phenomenon, whether internally or externally. The study also examined various measurement methods and the causes of corruption in Egypt, whether economic, administrative, or social. A comprehensive SWOT analysis was conducted, including identifying strengths, weaknesses, available opportunities, and potential threats in the surrounding environment.

The strategy was based on a clear vision: "A society that fights corruption and restores a culture of transparency, integrity, justice, and loyalty, supported by effective administrative bodies." The strategy set its objectives and developed an integrated implementation plan that included policies for achieving the objectives, identifying the responsible parties for implementation, specifying the timeframe, and outlining the monitoring approach, as well as performance measurement indicators.

At the end of the strategy's implementation period, a final monitoring report was issued, which included the achieved objectives, execution rates, and the main challenges that emerged during the period. The monitoring report was also made public through media channels.

The strategy progressed with the issuance of the second phase in 2019-2022, followed by the current third phase, 2023-2030. The latest phase was characterized by active participation from civil society and the private sector in setting the strategy's objectives. These objectives were precisely defined in five strate-

The campaigns include slogans such as "Egypt is stronger than corruption," followed by campaigns like "Start with yourself," "The Mirrors," "Know Your Rights," and "Who's the Winner?" All these advertising campaigns were adopted by the Administrative Control Authority with the aim of drawing attention to the role of the entire society in confronting negative phenomena, incorrect practices, and corruption.

The government has taken serious steps towards building a societal culture and raising awareness about the concepts of integrity, transparency, and the risks of corruption, as well as prevention and combating measures. The Administrative Control Authority has adopted advertising campaigns featuring a series of messages that emphasize the importance of confronting corruption. Egyptian figures from the arts and media sectors have participated in these campaigns.

gic tracks: administrative, legislative and judicial, anti-corruption entities, awareness and participatory track, and regional and international cooperation track

The methodology for preparing the current phase of the strategy relied on the results of the second phase, including its successes and achievements, in order to build upon them, address challenges, and study effective ways to address them based on a scientific and applied approach.

Monitoring methods have also evolved, as the monitoring mechanism has been fully digitized, allowing real-time monitoring of the level of objective implementation and facilitating the process of identifying challenges or implementation problems. Coordinators in all relevant entities receive regular training at the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy.

It is worth noting that the implementation rate of the second phase of the strategy reached 86% of the targeted implementation. Monitoring reports on the strategy's implementation have been published through various media outlets and on the website of the Administrative Control Authority, as an important step in providing data and information to all segments of society.

Fourth: Initiating serious steps to build societal culture and shape awareness around the concepts of integrity, transparency, and awareness of the risks of corruption, as well as prevention and combating methods:

Since 2016/2017, the Administrative Control Authority has taken significant steps in this field by developing and promoting advertising campaigns that carry serious ideas to confront corruption and establish an integrated social marketing communication. This was done by enlisting the expertise of media and social specialists. Prominent figures from the Egyptian arts and media sectors also participated in the campaign. The first campaign was titled "Egypt is Stronger than Corruption," followed by campaigns such as "Start with Yourself," "Mirrors," "Know Your Rights," and "Who's the Winner?" All of these campaigns aimed to draw attention to the role of every member of society in confronting negative phenomena, wrong practices, and corruption.

The establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Academy played a crucial role in initiating the rooting of collective aware-

ness to confront the phenomenon of corruption, raise awareness of its negative effects, and clarify prevention and mitigation methods since its establishment in 2018. The academy has trained over 80,000 trainees in the fields of governance and corruption prevention from all segments of society. In addition to government employees, civil society organizations and the private sector have had significant and serious opportunities for training. The diversity of trainee categories has shown a special interest in youth, women, and individuals with different abilities.

The academy's activities varied, including cultural seminars, workshops, and discussion sessions involving many stakeholders concerned with the prevention of corruption. The academy has participated for the past two years in the Cairo International Book Fair, distributing and displaying various publications, including the distinguished cultural release "Conscience of the Nation." It is the first specialized release in the field of corruption prevention and combating.

In coordination with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, curricula suitable for various educational stages have been developed to build awareness among the younger generations and Egyptian youth, enabling them to develop sufficient knowledge and information in the field of corruption prevention and combating.

For years, the Ministry of Finance has launched and published the "Citizen's Budget," including the general budget of the state, revenues, and expenditures. The Ministry of Planning also launched and published the "Citizen's Plan" on the ministry's website to raise awareness about public spending in the state.

Most government entities, especially those providing public services, have established websites providing various information and data about their activities and services. This is in line with the principles of transparency and information disclosure to increase societal awareness of the roles and activities of these entities.

Coordination has also taken place with religious institutions, including Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, the Ministry of Awqaf (Religious Endowments), and the Egyptian Church, to deliver religious speeches on various occasions encouraging people to distance themselves from corruption and deviations, and to instill religious principles among citizens.

It can be said that the steps taken to build societal awareness and form a conscious culture for preventing and confronting corruption are fundamental steps and the beginning of this continuous path, which requires effort, work, continuous activity, and dedication. Shaping societal culture is one of the most challenging tasks that require gradual progress and determination to continue, and this is what the Egyptian state has committed to through all its institutions.

Fifth: Regional and international interaction and the application of international standards and exchange of expertise: Egyptian institutions have witnessed an unprecedented development in regional and international interaction in the field of

corruption prevention and combat, at all levels. We will highlight the most significant achievements in this regard, although encompassing all efforts would require several consolidated articles.

Egypt previously ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, followed by joining the African Union Convention and the Arab Convention against Corruption. Recently, Egypt also became a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Convention for Combating Corruption.

During the years 2015 and 2020, Egypt fulfilled its commitments to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In 2015, the criminalization and international cooperation provisions of the Convention were reviewed, while in 2020, the prevention of corruption and asset recovery provisions were reviewed. The review reports were published on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime website.

In 2019, the Administrative Control Authority organized the first African Forum to Combat Corruption in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh, under the auspices of the President of the Republic. The forum was attended by ministers of justice and interior, heads of anti-corruption bodies, audit and illicit gains control authorities, and money laundering combat units from African countries. The conference aimed to encourage African countries to adopt policies, action plans, and programs that lead to corruption prevention, knowledge exchange, expertise sharing, and best practices among the continent's countries. Over 200 high-level African officials attended the conference.

During the same period, several oversight bodies joined international and regional groups for information exchange and expertise in the field of anti-corruption. This includes the Administrative Control Authority and the Public Prosecution, which joined the Global Network of Law Enforcement Authorities and Anti-Corruption Bodies (GLOBE). The Administrative Control Authority also joined the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities.

Furthermore, numerous memorandums of understanding were signed between the Administrative Control Authority and national, regional, and international oversight bodies. The Central Auditing Organization signed memorandums of understanding with counterparts in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Administrative Control Authority also signed memorandums of understanding with counterparts in several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bulgaria, France, and Malaysia.

Egypt also chaired the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for a two-year term. The session was held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2021 and resulted in several important resolutions, particularly regarding combating corruption during crises and emergencies, reflecting the challenges the world faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the Administrative Control Authority also assumed the presidency of the African Anti-Corruption Authorities Union for a three-year term, starting from 2022.



Towards a United World in the Fight against Corruption

Efforts of the Administrative Control Authority During the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption

First Secretary Dr/Mohamed Salama
Editor-in-Chief

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held biennially, is the pillar of international activities that bring together representatives of the States Parties to the Convention along with other parties such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, research centers, and other various bodies representing the circles of interest in the prevention of corruption. This comes in implementation of Article 63 of the Convention, regarding the Conference of the States Parties adoption of improving capabilities and cooperation among all countries to achieve the goals of the Convention, enhance its implementation and review the related efforts. In fact, eight sessions were held, starting from 2006 until 2021, of which four sessions were held in Arab countries. The first session was held in Amman, Jordan; the second session was held in 2008 in Bali Island, Indonesia and the third session was held in 2009 in Doha, Qatar, in accordance with the Conference decision no. 21/. In addition, the fourth session of the Conference was held in 2011 in Marrakesh, Morocco; the fifth session was held in 2013 in Panama and the sixth session was held in 2015 in Petersburg, the Russian Federation. The seventh session of the conference was held in November 2017 in Vienna, while the eighth session was held in December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, and was concluded in 2021.

Extraordinary organization Marks the Commencement of the Ninth Session Events

Adoption of the Political Declaration on the "Common Commitment to Effectively Addressing Challenges and Implementing Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Promote International Cooperation", issued during the session of the United Nations General Assembly held in June 2021 was followed by organizing the ninth session of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2021. It lasted for five days from 13 to 17 December, in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh, where more than 2130 representatives from more than 150 countries participated in the session, through their delegations' physical or virtual presence, with participation of 5 presidents who delivered their speeches via remote communication technologies, and 50 ministers, 30 of whom were physically present. In addition, 30 chairpersons of anti-corruption bodies were present, as well as representatives of more than 570 international civil society organizations that have consultative status with the United Nations, civil society organizations (NGOs) and research centers.

The Egyptian state paid great attention to the organizational procedures of the conference, which was evident through presence of the Prime Minister whose speech highlighted the Egyptian efforts to implement development plans and prevent corruption, and in presence of a number of ministers, governors, and chairpersons of agencies and bodies. During the opening session, it was announced that Egypt assumed presidency of the session after the United Arab Emirates. The Conference agenda included many important sessions on general discussions, reviewing the Convention implementation, using technical assistance, preventing corruption, asset recovery, and other topics of interest, until conclusion of the conference with issuance of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration. The Declaration was concerned with fighting the increasing risks of corruption represented in economic expenditure, health relief, and calling upon the States Parties to employ the best practices and challenges, with the aim of developing guidelines to enhance cooperation and to prevent, identify,

investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crises response and recovery. The distinguished organizational Egyptian capabilities in cooperation with partners from various agencies and institutions were evident during the Conference, represented in the efforts of officials of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The attendees declared the conference success, hoping to implement its draft deci-



United Nations Office at "Vienna, Austria"

During the ninth session of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2021, more than 2130 representatives from 150 countries were present through their delegations' physical or virtual presence, with participation of 5 presidents who delivered their speeches via remote communication technologies, and 50 ministers, 30 of whom were physically present. In addition, 30 chairpersons of anti-corruption bodies were present, as well as representatives of more than 570 international civil society organizations that have consultative status with the United Nations, civil society organizations (NGOs) and research centers.



The speech of the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority as the head of the Egyptian delegation to the ninth session conference of the parties to the convention

The ninth session of the States Parties to the Convention was concluded and presidency of the tenth session was handed over to the United States of America. However, the efforts of the Administrative Control Authority continue at all levels, through adopting the measures of fighting and preventing corruption at the national level as well as performing the educational and awareness-raising role for all segments of the society through the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy.

sions and outputs as tools to support the capabilities of the States Parties to fight corruption and maximize international cooperation among them.

Efforts of the Ninth Session under Egyptian Chairmanship
During the period 13-17 June 2022, Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority, in his capacity as President of the ninth session of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, opened the thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Mechanism group and the thirteenth session of the open-ended governmental working group on the Prevention of Corruption, held in Vienna. The events included the Bureau meeting, adopting the Implementation Review Group report on its work. Over five days, the mechanism for exchanging information, practices and experiences gained in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption was discussed. The results of the special session of the General Assembly on the challenges and measures aimed at preventing and fighting corruption and enhancing international cooperation were also reviewed. In addition, there was participation in discussion panels and reviewing the countries' experiences in the areas of criminalization and law enforcement, as well as discussing enhancing regional cooperation among countries and encouraging the use of information and communications technology in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption. During the participation, Egypt reviewed its efforts in the field of the Convention implementation review mechanism, including working to enhance synergies with the secretariats of relevant multilateral organizations. Egypt contributed

to establishing a technical mechanism to review implementation of the Arab Convention against Corruption, and concluded with the preparation of three draft resolutions, which were presented to the Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Convention against Corruption during its fourth session held in Riyadh. In addition, Egypt expressed its support for the Arab review mechanism, through organizing training courses and workshops at the headquarters of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, as well as preparing a report on compliance with the African Union Convention on Preventing and Fighting Corruption and preparing to receive the evaluation mission of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption. The Egyptian delegation also held bilateral meetings with a number of delegations from the participating countries. In support of cooperation in the areas of preventing and fighting corruption, the closing session was concluded with adoption of the reports of the Implementation Mechanism Review group and the open-ended governmental working group on preventing corruption at their thirteenth session.
During the period 5-8 September 2022, the Administrative Control Authority participated in the meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption regarding the efforts made to implement the commitments of the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly for the prevention of corruption. The political declaration includes commitment of the states to fight corruption through several main tracks related to preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, technical assistance, information exchange and fighting corruption, as one of the components of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan aimed at advancing a progressive plan and framework to fight corruption. During the Conference of the States Parties, the ninth session held in Sharm El-Sheikh, a resolution was issued regarding the conference follow-up to the efforts of countries to implement the provisions of the declaration.

- In Vienna, during the period 7-11 November, Minister Amr Adel, Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority and Chairman of the ninth session of the Conference of the States



The meeting of international experts concerned with the United Nations Convention against Corruption at the headquarters of the "EACA" to discuss the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration

Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, chaired the meetings of the Convention working groups concerned with asset recovery, enhancing international cooperation and reviewing implementation of the Convention. Over five days, they discussed the working groups' mechanism for enhancing international cooperation, exchanging the information and experiences gained, and the efforts made to implement the Convention. They also discussed the successful practices and the challenges related to implementing the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the field of preventing and fighting corruption during times of emergencies and crises response and recovery. The sessions included the Administrative Control Authority's review of the importance and reasons for Egypt's adoption of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, because it is the first resolution of its kind that addresses international cooperation in the field of preventing and fighting corruption during crises as a persistent issue.

National efforts in the field of governance and anti-corruption for addressing the repercussions of Covid-19 and the social protection program adopted by the Egyptian state were presented and Egypt's efforts in informal international cooperation with anti-corruption agencies worldwide to address cross-border corruption were also reviewed. In addition, delegations of the United States, Australia, Brazil, Italy, Romania, the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) participated in reviewing Egypt's efforts in implementing Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration. Moreover, side meetings were held with some chairpersons and officials of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies in some countries and concerned international bodies for discussing the anti-corruption priorities to reduce the corruption dangers. The closing session was concluded with adoption of the different working groups' reports.

Within the same context, and in continuation of Egypt's efforts during its chairmanship of the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Administrative Control Authority held an international meeting for the international experts concerned with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The meeting was held at the Academy's headquarters during the period 12-13 December 2022, in cooperation with

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for discussing implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on fighting corruption in times of emergencies and crises response and recovery. The meeting was attended by Minister Amr Adel, Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority, Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and representatives of 30 countries, with participation of many international organizations and international experts.

These relentless and continuous efforts coincided with the Administrative Control Authority's launch of the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030, under the auspices of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt, to support a new phase aimed at raising social awareness of the dangers of corruption, for preventing it and upholding the values of integrity and transparency. The Authority organized a major event on this occasion, which was attended by the Prime Minister and some senior statesmen, including the Senate President, as well as some distinguished ministers and members of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption, the representatives of some concerned international organizations, and the ambassadors of some Arab and foreign countries.

- During the period 12-16 June, the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority chaired meetings of the UN Convention Working Groups concerned with the Convention implementation review and the prevention of corruption. Over five days, the working groups discussed the progress achieved in reviewing the Convention implementation, as well as future of the review mechanism second phase, following up to implementation of the Political Declaration in the

Seeking to achieve objectives of the third phase of the National Strategy, the efforts of the Administrative Control Authority continue at the regional and international levels through enhancing the aspects of cooperation with different countries and exchanging experiences and successful practices for preventing corruption as well as the methods of facing various challenges for realizing the slogan: #United_Against_Corruption.



Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority presides over the meetings of the working groups of the United Nations Convention, addressing matters related to reviewing the implementation of the convention and preventing corruption



area of enhancing business integrity and the most prominent successful practices for preventing and fighting corruption by the competent bodies. In addition, the sessions included a review of the good practices and lessons learned in the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and policies by presenting the national efforts of Egypt and other participating countries, including Italy, Korea and Moldova. Moreover, a number of side meetings were held with some chairpersons and officials of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies in some countries and international bodies for discussing enhancing the aspects of cooperation, and the closing session was concluded with adoption of the reports of the various working groups.

Heartfelt thanks extended to the supporting partners.

There is no doubt that the successes achieved in all fields, particularly the regional and international cooperation field, required the presence of capable, effective and supportive partnerships. In fact, the effective participation and support correspond to the seriousness and the efforts made, through constructive cooperation. Such cooperation was established between Egypt, as president of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Conven-

tion against Corruption and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna and its representatives in the Middle East and North Africa Office. These representatives include Dr. Ghada Waly, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Director in Vienna as well as Ambassador Mohamed El-Mulla, Egyptian Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in Vienna. We appreciate the role played by the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Austria through achieving permanent communication with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) and through preparation and participation with the Egyptian team in the international meetings concerned with fighting and preventing corruption. This emphasizes establishment

of the principles of responsiveness and participation for achieving efficiency and effectiveness in implementation of the fifth objective of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in its third phase, which includes "effective international and regional cooperation in fighting corruption."

Transition of Conference Presidency Signals Unwavering Commitment to Sustained Efforts

The ninth session of the States Parties to the Convention was concluded and presidency of the tenth session was handed over to the United States of America. However, the efforts of the Administrative Control Authority continue at all levels, through adopting the measures of fighting and preventing corruption at the national level as well as performing the educational and awareness-raising role for all segments of the society through the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, seeking to achieve objectives of the third phase of the National Strategy. Moreover, such efforts continue at the regional and international levels through enhancing the aspects of cooperation with different countries and exchanging experiences and successful practices for preventing corruption as well as the methods of facing various challenges with a view to realizing the slogan: #United_Against_Corruption.



The official opening ceremony of the high-level conference addressing the fight against corruption in Africa - February 2023



"The Central Office for Combating Illicit Enrichment in Mali: Combating Corruption with a National Vision"

Dr. Moumouni GUINDO
Chairman of the OCLEI Board

The fight against corruption and illicit enrichment is a long-term battle. Established by Decree No. 2015032-/P-RM on September 23, 2015, the Central Office for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment (OCLEI) is the national institution responsible for combating corruption and illicit enrichment in Mali.

What is OCLEI?

The Central Office for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment (OCLEI) is the national institution responsible for combating corruption and illicit enrichment in Mali. OCLEI was created as an independent administrative authority by Decree No. 2015-032/P-RM on September 23, 2015, ratified by Law No. 2016-017 on June 9, 2016. The OCLEI is headquartered in Bamako, at Hamdallaye ACI 2000.

OCLEI is in charge of implementing the law on the prevention and combating of illicit enrichment in Mali. More specifically, its mission lies in implementing all prevention, control, and combating measures at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels against illicit enrichment.

This mission of OCLEI is represented in five essential functions,

namely:

- Prevention through information and awareness raising;
- Cooperation and collaboration among national and international actors involved in the fight against corruption and illicit enrichment;
- Contribution to prevention by referring investigation files to the prosecution;
- Conducting studies with recommendations; and
- Handling declarations of assets.

OCLEI is based on a collegiate body composed of six representatives of the state and six representatives of civil society. Their mandate term is four years, renewable for half a term. This twelve-member collegiate body represents the OCLEI board.

OCLEI referred 23 case files to the prosecution, involving an amount of 23, billion and 855 million CFA francs, approximately 40 million US dollars. The individuals involved in these cases come from diverse backgrounds, including a former minister, several civil and military officials, diplomats and PM members.

- The twelve members of the board are designated as follows:
- Three judges appointed by President of the Republic.
 - One official from financial administrations appointed by the Minister in charge of finance.
 - Two judicial police officers, one from the gendarmerie and one from the police, appointed by the Minister in charge of justice upon proposal of the Minister in charge of security.
 - One communicator designated by the High Authority for Communication.
 - One specialist in public procurement designated by the Regulatory Authority for Public Procurement.
 - One representative from the private sector designated by the National Employers' Council.
 - One chartered accountant designated by the Accountants Syndicate.
 - One representative from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to be responsible for good governance and anti-corruption issues, appointed by the National Council of Civil Society.
 - One representative from human rights advocates designated by the National Human Rights Commission.

The OCLEI Board makes all decisions regarding all actions against illicit enrichment. The OCLEI Board is divided into four working groups, formed as follows:

- Prevention and Asset Declaration Group;
- Investigation Group;
- Cooperation Group; and
- Studies and Recommendations Group.

The technical services of OCLEI support these activity groups, which work under authority of the Secretary-General. Since its operationalization in 2017, OCLEI has been chaired by Dr. Moumouni GUINDO, Chairman of the OCLEI Board.

Who is Dr. Moumouni Guindo?

Moumouni GUINDO is a magistrate of exceptional rank and he is holder of a PhD in law. He is a graduate of the National School of Administration (ENA) in Mali and the ENA in France. Dr. Moumouni GUINDO holds two MBA degrees, a Master's degree in public finance and the professional diploma in internal auditing from IFACI (France).

Former Secretary-General of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Dr. Moumouni Guindo served at the Office of the Auditor General, as the Auditor in charge of the legal unit and Head of the quality management unit for audits. In his career as a judge, Moumouni Guindo served in various courts, including the post of investigating judge charged with financial delinquency cases.

Significant Achievements in 2022

The Central Office for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment (OCLEI) carried out several actions during the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

Prevention

OCLEI conducted 23 awareness-raising activities throughout Mali. These activities directly reached 2,063 individuals, including a significant number of women and young people under the age of 35.

OCLEI strengthened its partnership with Malian civil society. This partnership resulted in a synergy of actions with several organizations, including Muslim and Christian denominations to prevent illicit enrichment from a religious perspective. It also collaborated with the Platform of Trade Union Organizations for Fighting Corruption to enhance morals and professional ethics within the administration sectors. This trade union platform is

composed of three trade union associations and six unions. The Central Office for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment utilizes the asset declarations filed with the Supreme Court of Mali. The OCLEI examined 2,842 asset declarations until December 31, 2022.

Providing Support to Authorities

OCLEI initiated and supported the development of the national strategy to combat corruption in Mali.

It also contributed significantly to establishment of the Agency for the Recovery and Management of Seized or Criminal Assets.

Contribution to the Prevention Process

OCLEI referred 23 case files to the prosecution, involving an amount of 23, billion and 855 million CFA francs, approximately 40 million US dollars.

The individuals involved in these cases come from diverse backgrounds, including a former minister, several civil and military officials, diplomats and PM members.

International Cooperation

In accordance with the law, OCLEI is responsible for ensuring cooperation and collaboration. At the international level, it has signed 8 protocols of partnership and cooperation with counterparts from Africa and Europe. These include the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) of Mauritius, the National Agency for the Fight against Corruption in Guinea Conakry, the French Anti-Corruption Agency and the National Authority for Probity, Prevention, and the Fight against Corruption in Morocco. More agencies include the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption in Senegal, the Superior Authority for State Control and the Fight against Corruption in Burkina Faso, the Special Investigation Unit of South Africa and the African Development Bank.

OCLEI actively participates in the activities of the Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities in Africa (AACAA); and the President of OCLEI has been the First Vice-President of AACAA since 2022. He was elected following a collaborative campaign with the ACA of Egypt, which ended with electing the latter as President of the AACAA. Since that time, Mali has hosted the 11th Executive Committee of AACAA in Bamako in February 2023, and OCLEI has hosted all AACAA Zoom meetings.

OCLEI organized the 2nd session of the High-Level Conference on Corruption in Africa in Bamako from February 20 to 23, 2023, under the theme "Fight against Corruption: New Dynamics, Recovery of Illicit Assets and International Cooperation." Thirty-six countries from Africa, America, Europe, and Asia participated in this meeting in Bamako; and there were more than 300 participants, including one hundred from other countries.

The second conference held in Bamako made 15 recommendations, including:

- Restructuring of the African education systems through the promotion of multilingual teaching based on the mother tongue as well as teaching African history and African social values, particularly through rehabilitated civic and moral education programs.

- Strengthening the capacities of institutions and agencies dedicated to the fight against corruption, effective implementation of the punishment mechanisms and the fight against impunity.

- Enhancement of collaboration and synergy among national control structures, the anti-corruption and illicit enrichment agencies and other actors through the establishment of platforms and frameworks for dialogue, consultation and coordination.

Studies and Recommendations

Studies and recommendations are important aspects of OCLEI's functions. Since its operationalization in 2017, OCLEI has conducted four studies. These studies focused on the etiology of illicit enrichment, the ethics of public administration officials in Mali, the illicit enrichment techniques, and analysis of the subsidies granted by the state to secondary, technical, and vocational educational institutions in Mali.

These studies made several recommendations to the authorities for the sound management of public funds and improvement of the administration.



Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy Explores the Role of Technology in Fighting Corruption
Seminar on International Anti-Corruption Day highlights technological advancements and preventive measures against corruption



In commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy organized an enlightening seminar titled “Advancements in the Uses of Technology in Preventing and Combating Corruption - Features of the New Republic.” Held on December 9th, the seminar aimed to bring attention to the importance of utilizing technology in the fight against corruption and encouraging a culture that rejects corrupt practices.

The seminar, attended by distinguished speakers from the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, as well as representatives from various national entities involved in anti-corruption efforts, including ministries, civil society organizations, and academic institutions, shed light on the pivotal role of technology in preventing and combating corruption.

Dr. Ahmed Darwish, former Minister of Administrative Development and an esteemed lecturer in the Master’s program in Governance and Anti-Corruption at the Academy, emphasized the significance of information technology applications in enhancing governance practices and curbing corruption. Dr. Darwish elaborated on how these applications can drive positive changes, leading to the development of more effective work models and the reduction of corrupt practices.

Ghada Labib, Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Institutional Development, provided an insightful overview of the requirements for transitioning towards a digital government. She showcased Egypt’s journey in harnessing emerging technologies to improve proactive services and increase efficiency.

Khaled Zora, Head of the Digital Transformation and Information Infrastructure Sector at the Administrative Control Authority, presented the methodology behind Egypt’s ambitious information infrastructure project. Zora highlighted the lessons learned from its implementation stages, including the opportunities and challenges encountered along the way.

The seminar also featured a screening of a film that showcased the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy efforts in the fight against corruption. As the training arm of the Administrative Control Authority, the Academy plays a crucial role in disseminating theoretical and practical knowledge in the field, elevating the competency of individuals and relevant institutions. The film emphasized the Academy’s commitment to keeping up with the latest scientific and technological advancements to combat corruption effectively.

The seminar’s participants expressed their commitment to international obligations in combating corruption and their dedication to unifying efforts to prevent and eliminate corrupt practices. They underlined the significance of spreading an institutional and societal culture that rejects corruption and actively promotes integrity and transparency.

As the world celebrated the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the seminar served as a reminder of the collective achievements made over the years in combating corruption globally. With technology serving as a catalyst for change, the seminar emphasized the importance of leveraging its potential to bolster preventive measures and foster a corruption-free society.

The seminar concluded on a hopeful note, with participants reaffirming their commitment to the ongoing fight against corruption and their determination to embrace technological advancements as powerful tools in achieving this goal. As the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy continues to spearhead efforts in this domain, it is expected that their initiatives will contribute significantly to building a society founded on principles of transparency, accountability and integrity.

Technologies for Increased Transparency and Integrity



Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud Darwish
Former Minister of Administrative Development and lecturer in the Master's program on Governance and Anti-Corruption at EACA

Good governance is a target for governments, as it has been firmly established that there is a close relationship between the development desired by citizens and the implementation of principles of good governance, including:

- a. Having a vision supported by a mission and purpose.
- b. Emphasizing efficiency while focusing on core tasks.
- c. Transparency in providing data and granting the right to access information.
- d. Citizens' and investors' ability to anticipate changes in regulatory procedures while ensuring their stability for reasonable periods.
- e. Involving citizens and stakeholders in decision-making and emphasizing the majority opinion.
- f. Holding officials accountable and holding those who demonstrate poor performance, especially intentional ones, accountable.
- g. Commitment to law enforcement while considering legislative justice upon issuance.

Over the past four decades, technologies have rapidly evolved, providing new mechanisms for performing tasks that have disrupted traditional systems named as "disruptive systems" because they have dramatically altered work models. In order for governments to keep pace with this significant change in the private sector and to bridge the gap between them and to satisfy citizens and investors, governments have begun to modify their structures to rely more on technology tools that provide flexibility and speed in adapting to events and changes, along with increased efficiency in performance. Additionally, these tools offer higher accuracy in decision-making due to the ability to collect and analyze larger amounts of data and create simulation scenarios. The figure below illustrates one of the current government structure designs.



Current and Emerging Technologies: Accelerating and Closer Than We Think

Below, we provide a brief overview of the most important current technologies, classified into three categories: Stable and Widely Used, Rapidly Growing in Use, and Emerging Sooner Than We Think.

First: Stable and Widely Used Technology Government Network

This network connects government entities to facilitate data transfer, save time, and eliminate the need for citizens or investors to request documents from different government agencies.

Data Centers and Cloud Computing

These are data centers with dual infrastructure for electricity and internet connectivity, ensuring a reliable power source and internet access. They can host a vast number of computers and storage units. One key advantage is that it relieves users from the burden of technical support, maintenance, data security, and the need for specialized personnel, thus significantly reducing operating costs.

Mobile Phone Usage

The development of mobile applications (Apps) has opened the door for various uses, including government services and information accessibility.

Financial Technology (Fintech)

Following the development of mobile applications, a wide range of financial applications for payments, money transfers, and lending emerged. Fintech filled a gap for individuals without bank accounts or limited credit qualifications, providing ac-

Information is the foundation of investment decisions, starting from the preparation of feasibility studies and extending to the establishment of companies and the acquisition of land with the appropriate size in the desired location. This has led countries to establish platforms for investors to obtain data transparently and to provide services easily and quickly

cess to financial services and e-commerce.

Electronic Signatures

There was a need for a secure electronic signature tool that prevents forgery, denies the denial of a person's signature, or transfers the signature from one document to another. The public key infrastructure has fulfilled these requirements, and many countries now grant legal validity to electronic signatures, similar to handwritten signatures.

Digital Identity

Building on remote identity verification systems using encrypted codes or biometric identification, such as fingerprints, electronic identities can be created for use with internet applications.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geographic Data
Digital maps have become an integral part of data management and classification systems, as most data has a close geographical association. The examples below illustrate how GIS can be an effective planning tool.

Second: Rapidly growing technology

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence refers to a set of algorithms and software packages capable of making decisions similar to those made by humans. The goal is twofold: first, to ensure the continuity of performance with the same efficiency, as humans can make errors due to stress or distraction, and second, to provide more comfort and well-being by allowing humans to have more time to engage in better tasks (this article will not address the issue of potential job opportunities being reduced).

Computer Vision

Computer vision involves a set of algorithms and software packages capable of analyzing images captured by cameras connected to computers. It can recognize objects and individuals and provide assistance to computer users in accessing information or guiding a computer system to perform a task. Its applications are diverse, including quality control in production and security-related tasks such as fingerprint and facial recognition.

Internet of Things (IoT)

Advancements in electronic chip technology have allowed for a large number of electronic circuits to be integrated onto a single chip. Simultaneously, sensor research has progressed, enabling the integration of network circuits and sensors into small devices. This has made it easier and more cost-effective to collect data from various devices. This technology, along with the rapid development of nanorobotics research, is expected to bring about a breakthrough in several fields.

Big Data and Analytics

The amount of data being collected has become massive, thanks to advancements in storage technology. The enormity of this data necessitated the development of algorithms and software packages capable of analyzing it and uncovering relationships that are not easily inferred or observed using traditional methods. The applications of this technology are present in almost everything around us, from analyzing various product sales to investigating fraud and terrorism.

Blockchain

Algorithms that ensure the linkage of data to its creator and prevent forgery and manipulation using a distributed method of storing data in the form of a chain.

Digital Currencies

One of the applications of blockchain technology, digital currencies are expected to see much higher growth rates when central banks legalize and regulate their use.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

Drones are now being used for surveillance, rescue operations, and delivery. Their usage is expected to increase, and their applications will expand further.

Self-Driving Electric Vehicles

The combination of computer vision, artificial intelligence, and the development of a new generation of batteries has led to a significant revolution in the automotive industry. The applications of self-driving electric vehicles are expected to change many aspects of our daily lives.

Thirdly, rapidly emerging technologies that are closer than we think.



Technology has enabled the use of identity cards in voting in a way that prevents anyone from voting repeatedly and prevents anyone from voting on behalf of another person and other practices known to influence the outcome of elections

Quantum Computing

Using quantum mechanics to solve complex problems at a much faster rate than traditional computers. When we talk about faster speed, we mean hundreds or thousands of times faster. Imagine the scale of problems we will be able to solve with computers in the near future.

Web 3.0

Web 3.0 relies on blockchain technology, which enhances the concept of decentralized management and token-based economies. It is expected to increase security, privacy, and scalability in various domains and combat the dominance of major tech companies. However, it may also open the door to the exchange of anonymous or hard-to-trace information.

Examples of using technology to achieve transparency and integrity.

Here is a brief overview of some examples of how technology contributes to facilitating the implementation of good governance rules:

Government Services

Providing services online has achieved two goals:

- a. Transparency: Service seekers have a clear understanding of the requirements and their rights.
- b. Eliminating unnecessary additional payments due to the distance between the service seeker and the service provider.

Social Safety Networks

Verifying support eligibility poses a challenge in densely populated countries, especially if the state has a large geographic area. Linking databases provides a high success rate, as providing data such as electricity consumption, telephone bills, quality of children's schools, rent or ownership, family employment, or whether the family is widowed, and other parameters directly indicates the socioeconomic status of the family and their eligibility for support.

Government Procurement

Government procurement is a major gateway for corruption, where requests for needs and tendering are often concealed. Having a mandatory portal for announcing government contract awards achieves transparency and closes these loopholes.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

Software packages that handle all organizational transactions, including accounting, asset management, procurement, inventory, and human resources, ensuring the speed, accuracy, and monitoring of data exchange.

Asset Management

Using Enterprise Resource Planning systems has helped stop the mismanagement and loss of assets and neglect in their regular maintenance, which can lead to their deterioration and loss of value.

Planning

Since 2011, the idea of linking planning with geographic data has emerged. The steps involved include:

- Mapping population densities on a map.
- Studying the population's service needs. For example, the

likelihood of a couple giving birth to a premature baby requiring a neonatal care unit.

- Mapping available services on the map. For example, the number of available infant incubators in government, private, and nonprofit hospitals.

- Comparing the population density's needs with the available services directly reveals the priority areas for support in the financial plan.

Budget Information and Implementation Plans Accessibility
Planning systems, through geographic information, have provided applications for smartphones that identify the projects being implemented in a particular area. This allows individuals to provide feedback and notes on the execution, serving as an additional supervisory tool for officials. This achieves two pillars of good governance: transparency, information accessibility, and participation.

Performance Monitoring

Most internal communication software packages can provide statistical reports to top management, indicating the organization's performance indicators. For example, it is possible to determine the percentage of transactions completed within the appropriate timeframe or the average time each employee keeps documents on their desk.

Healthcare System

Health insurance systems are prone to fraud due to the magnitude and diversity of operations. Having a digital system that operates through identification codes for each illness, medical procedure, active ingredient in medication, linking them to the patient's file, doctor's invoice, hospital, and pharmacy has become crucial and has shown significant cost savings.

Investor Information Accessibility

Information is the basis of investment decisions, from feasibility studies to company establishment and acquiring suitable land in desired locations. This has prompted countries to establish platforms for investors to access data transparently and easily perform services with speed and efficiency.

Expedited Justice

Technology has provided transparency, speed, and efficiency in the judicial system, from filing lawsuits to monitoring procedures and court session schedules, and even obtaining a copy of the executive formula of the judgment.

Elections

Technology has facilitated the use of identity cards during

Government procurement is one of the major sources of corruption in governments, where needs requests are hidden, tenders are not announced, and contracts are awarded without transparency. The mandatory portal for announcing the awarding of government contracts achieves transparency and closes all these doors

voting in elections, preventing individuals from voting multiple times or voting on behalf of others, and other known practices that aim to influence election outcomes.

Legislative Impact Study

Legislations, presidential decrees, and ministerial decisions are issued to pursue development and address emerging gaps resulting from global and local changes and the resulting overlaps and new tools (such as technology and others). Each legislation or decision targets one or more specific clear matters, but it inevitably deals with existing issues as well. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has initiated an effort to establish a mechanism known as legislative and regulatory impact analysis.

The legislative impact study system aims to anticipate the impact of proposed laws and decisions and their interaction with existing legislations and systems, and to analyze the stakeholders affected by the decision and ensure the financial, economic, and social models governing the implementation framework.

The basis of this program is the existence of a comprehensive inventory of all indexed legislations and decisions that helps draw the researcher's attention in the initial stage.

Conducting such analyses can help avoid some legal disputes or practical application consequences. Egypt already has a reasonably good quality database that can be relied upon, including:

- A database of laws, presidential decrees, and ministerial decisions published in the official gazette, overseen by LADS Company.

- A database created by the Egyptian Initiative ERRADA.

Through this, it is possible to:

- Before issuing any new decision or legislation, compile a list of all relevant keywords for each article.

- Enter this into the database using a dedicated program that performs data mining, which enables the exploration and discovery of all articles in all decisions and legislations related to the same subject and their degree of relevance.

- Researchers examine these results and study their compatibility and conflicts.

- At the same time, another group of researchers investigates the social and economic impacts of the legislation through simulation models, field research, and other available tools that provide a considerable level of accuracy.

Opportunities and Challenges

What we have presented above represents tremendous opportunities for governments; it is essential to note that these

technologies come with a set of challenges, the most notable of which are the following:

Data Security

The cat-and-mouse game of system hacking is not limited to amateurs who revel in their victories or professionals who demand money to retrieve or withhold stolen data. It has transcended that to intelligence agencies and armed forces, becoming a tool in wars between nations.

Since it is not logical to give up the advantages of technological systems, the solution lies in paying attention to data security systems and encrypting the vital information. The challenge here is that the number of countries possessing efficient tools in this regard are very few, and they can embed backdoors for infiltration or programs that send data in real-time to them. Therefore, we believe that developing our capabilities in this regard has become a crucial matter that should not be compromised.

Data Exchange

Unfortunately, most applications either require personal data to perform the service or request it even if it is not necessary because it is a treasure trove of information being exchanged. Therefore, users should be more cautious about the source of the application and the data it requests.

Data Hosting

The old model of having servers and storage units within an organization has almost come to an end due to its inefficiency and high cost, as we mentioned earlier. However, giant data centers have provided low-cost competitive services that have become enticing. But on the other hand, careful consideration must be given to scenarios of political disputes and their impact, as well as the availability of data to other countries' entities and many other matters that require hosting government data within centers inside their own country and under their control.

Application Developers (Intellectual Property Owners)

Most application developers are either major international companies or startups, and in both cases, they fall under the burden of:

- Control over obtaining new versions that fix errors or provide better features or the necessity of resorting to the company for specific customization.

Or

- The risk of the company going bankrupt and disappearing, resulting in the loss of technical support and version updates.

Both of these factors impose on countries the need to carefully choose their partners and take steady steps to build this industry seriously at least in some areas.

Hardware Manufacturers (Patent Owners)

What we mentioned above about application development is even more complex in the case of physical components (hardware). Advanced countries impose restrictions on exporting certain technologies, and they also impose restrictions on companies in case of political disputes.

Unlike software and applications development, the journey of physical components to build a local industry is much longer, and often, even if the knowledge exists, the financial model of manufacturing economies fails due to the lack of the required quantity for production and distribution. Therefore, it is observed that even the most advanced countries manufacture in other countries. The current challenge is to address this by making good choices in partners, diversifying sources, and not relying on a single source or two.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In this article, we quickly provided examples of using technology to achieve more transparency and integrity. It is important to remember that these are just examples and are strongly linked to the publication date of the article. What is clear is that things are changing and evolving at a rapid pace, not just from year to year, but even from month to month. However, it is certain that governments that do not adapt flexibly enough to what is happening will decline in the rankings, and governments that realize that clinging to old structures and attempting to adapt them to modern technologies is not permissible are the ones that will win the race to satisfy citizens and achieve higher rates of development.

Lower cost, increased transparency,
and real-time monitoring

Utilizing technology to ensure the success of national endeavors in combating corruption



Mohamed Abu Naama



Head of the Central Administration for
National Anti-Corruption Strategy Affairs

In an era where technology applies the principles of governance and accountability, harnessing the power of digital systems to monitor and evaluate anti-corruption strategies is not just an option but a necessity. It works to empower all stakeholders, enhance transparency, and support national efforts against corruption. As we continue technological advancements, adopting digital monitoring and evaluation systems is key to creating a more just, accountable, and corruption-free world.

Corruption poses a significant threat to the social, economic, and political fabric of countries worldwide. It erodes public trust in state institutions, hinders the efficient use of resources, impedes the delivery of essential services to the public, and undermines the rule of law. Recognizing the need to combat this widespread issue, many countries have developed National Anti-Corruption Strategies (NACS) as a comprehensive approach to address corruption at various levels of society.

Monitoring and evaluating these strategies are crucial to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for enhancing anti-corruption capacities. In this digital age, electronic systems have emerged as powerful tools to enhance the monitoring and evaluation process, enabling governments and stakeholders to combat corruption more effectively. This article discusses the importance and benefits of the electronic monitoring system in monitoring and evaluating the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2023-2030.

Evolution of Stages of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy
The Egyptian state has developed and implemented a systematic, comprehensive, and connected approach to combat corruption since 2014. This initiative is in line with the constitutional commitment to formulate a strategic plan for fighting corruption through coordination among national entities. The first phase was executed from 2014 to 2018, utilizing all its outputs to enhance the second phase from 2019 to 2022. Despite facing challenges and difficulties, the second phase successfully achieved its objectives at a rate of 86%. This progress led to the establishment of an advanced approach, incorporating radical changes in structure, objectives, and communication points (coordinators from various entities to monitor the strategy's implementation). The concerned points of contact increased from 84 in the first phase to 120 in the third phase across different state entities. Moreover, the capacity-building of all contact points was achieved through training at the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, focusing on coordinating within their representing entities and using the electronic system, which provides a secure and sustainable environment for government data exchange.

Assessment of the Performance of State Administrative Apparatuses in Preventing and Combating Corruption

The newly designed and nationally implemented electronic assessment system provides an innovative mechanism for evaluating and monitoring the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030. Supported by "evidence-based" verification means, this system evaluates the performance of entities involved in preventing and combating corruption. It is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa and one of the latest globally.

The electronic system, named "Performance Management and Monitoring System" (PMM System), was innovatively created through the collaborative efforts of specialists in management, public policy, law, programming, statistics, monitoring, and evaluation. This collaboration was under the continuous supervision of the Administrative Control Authority, in coordination with supervisory and judicial authorities and law enforcement authorities, members of the Sub-Coordinating National Committee for Corruption Combat and Prevention. This effort is part of the executive plan for the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030.

Out of challenges, successes are born. In the recent past, the world experienced the COVID-19 pandemic and similar disruptions, leading to the halt or slowdown of work cycles. Many government employees and citizens were exposed to the virus, prompting various governments to resort to remote work or activate flexible work systems. In response to these challenges and in adherence to its national, regional, and international commitments, the Egyptian state insisted on overcoming the crisis by utilizing technology securely and effectively to monitor the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030.

The Role of Technology in Monitoring

Electronic systems play a pivotal role in the modern monitoring and evaluation process of national strategies. Monitoring and evaluation are fundamental elements in these strategies because they enable the assessment of progress in achieving goals, identification of deficiencies, and evaluation of implementation mechanisms. These systems leverage technology to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in data collection, analysis, and report preparation. They facilitate real-time progress tracking, enhance data accessibility, and provide the necessary means for comprehensive assessments. Electronic systems also allow simplified data collection related to anti-corruption efforts. The system enables the use of mobile applications, online reporting portals, and data input for efficient information gathering. The advantage of electronic data collection lies in its ability to ensure the consistency and accuracy of data, a genuine challenge faced by manual reporting systems.

System Operation

The monitoring process begins with defining goals and key performance indicators (KPIs). In the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030, 219 indicators were selected to measure performance. These indicators were clearly



Several user-friendly screens have been developed through a secure digital platform, enabling decision-makers and the Administrative Control Authority to have anytime access for monitoring and evaluating the performance of all entities across the Republic's provinces in implementing the strategy according to the set targets. The platform presents information clearly through diagrams, charts, and tables

and realistically chosen and described in a way that facilitates handling by non-specialists. The calculation method for each was also defined for measuring progress and success, such as the number of training programs incorporating anti-corruption components or the number of beneficiaries of an awareness initiative related to corruption prevention.

Next is the data collection process from various sources, including government data on efforts by each entity according to its jurisdiction. Results of indicators measuring citizen and investor satisfaction are also collected by specialized national entities, including law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

Finally, data integration and analysis occur in a unified system, ensuring its quality and consistency. In addition, several user-friendly interfaces have been developed through a secure digital platform. Decision-makers and the Administrative Control Authority can access these interfaces at any time to monitor and evaluate the performance of all entities in all provinces nationwide in implementing the strategy according to the targeted achievements. The platform offers an easy-to-use interface that clearly presents information through charts, graphs, and tables. It also allows the creation of reports as required.

Real-time Monitoring without Delay

One of the most significant advantages of electronic systems is their ability to provide real-time monitoring of anti-corruption efforts. For example, the strategy includes initiatives to improve government transparency and responsiveness. Data can be tracked and displayed in real-time around progress, allowing decision-makers a clear view to design and adjust policies flexibly and implement reforms promptly.

Transparency and Accountability

Electronic systems enhance transparency and accountability by providing data accessibility to senior management. This allows for daily monitoring of the extent to which commitments in the field of anti-corruption are fulfilled. Additionally, electron-

ic systems can provide a real assessment of the seriousness of officials in various entities in implementing specific measures for each goal of the strategy. Therefore, it can be used to evaluate the performance of institutions and individuals alike.

Data Analysis

Integrating advanced data analysis tools into monitoring systems and electronic evaluation systems provides clear reports and trends. This can help identify corruption patterns, focal points, and potential areas of concern. By using data analysis, attention can be focused on better and lower-performing aspects. Regulatory bodies can also concentrate on specific aspects of corruption in a particular entity or shared among several entities to curb and eliminate it.

Improving Data Accuracy and Consistency

One of the core advantages of using digital monitoring and evaluation systems is enhancing the accuracy and consistency of data collection. Human errors, such as data entry mistakes or misinterpretations of handwritten reports, can be significantly reduced when electronic systems are employed. This ensures that the data used to assess progress in anti-corruption efforts is reliable and error-free to the extent possible. This makes it easier for decision-makers to formulate effective policies. The responsible entity for monitoring execution can continually verify the accuracy and realism of implementation rates.

Accessibility

Electronic monitoring and evaluation systems can be accessed from anywhere, allowing contact points in charge of implementation to log in and enter data under any conditions. Additionally, senior management can check the performance of their responsible entities at any time.

Cost Reduction

While implementing digital monitoring and evaluation systems may require initial investment, they often lead to long-term cost reduction. Simplified data collection and analysis

The newly developed and nationally implemented electronic evaluation system provides an advanced mechanism for assessing and monitoring the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030. Supported by means of verifying the performance of relevant entities involved in corruption prevention and combat, this system becomes the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa and one of the latest globally

One of the key advantages of utilizing digital monitoring and evaluation systems is enhancing accuracy and significantly reducing human errors such as data entry mistakes or misinterpretations of handwritten reports, ensuring that the data used to assess the progress in anti-corruption efforts is reliable and free from errors

operations reduce the need for manual labor and intensive paperwork, resulting in lower operating costs. Moreover, the ability to identify and address corruption more quickly can lead to significant financial savings by preventing further losses from corrupt practices.

Environmentally Friendly

There was a significant environmental dimension resulting from monitoring the results of the first and second phases. Monitoring continued over eight years for a total of 188 entities, including 84 contact points during the period from 2014 to 2018, and 104 contact points during the period from 2019 to 2022. Approximately 1,500 reports were prepared. Considering the resources needed for preparing, printing, and collecting these reports in terms of ink, paper, and logistics, digitalizing the monitoring and evaluation processes transformed them into simple procedures taking a few minutes from anywhere, achieving efficiency and effectiveness in the monitoring process.

Enhancing International Cooperation

Digital systems facilitate the exchange of data and insights related to combating corruption on a global scale. This enhances international cooperation in the fight against corruption, allowing specialized agencies in different countries to learn from each other's experiences and adapt successful strategies to their specific contexts. Additionally, international organizations and donor entities can better understand the progress made in anti-corruption efforts and provide targeted support when needed.

Challenges and Considerations

While electronic systems offer numerous benefits in monitoring and evaluating national anti-corruption strategies, there are challenges and considerations that must be addressed:

Digital Divide: There may be a significant digital divide, making it challenging for some stakeholders in monitoring to smoothly interact with and utilize electronic monitoring and evaluation systems. Efforts should be made to ensure a complete understanding of how to use the system, providing continuous technical support.

Data Security: Dealing with government data related to corruption requires handling data with sensitivity and implementing strong measures for data security to prevent unauthorized access and potential misuse.

Capacity Building: Sustaining the efficiency of the monitoring system requires investment in training and capacity building to ensure that stakeholders in monitoring (contact points) acquire the necessary skills to effectively use electronic systems for monitoring and evaluation.

Conclusion

Corruption is a highly dangerous phenomenon that requires a comprehensive response from all entities and parties to confront it. National anti-corruption strategies play a crucial role in this endeavor and their success requires an effective mechanism for monitoring and evaluation. Electronic systems provide a powerful means to enhance the monitoring and evaluation process, providing real-time data without delay, achieving transparency, accountability, and cost reduction, and being environmentally friendly. The digital transformation in monitoring and evaluation systems has a genuine positive impact on those overseeing it.

Moreover, ideas derived from digital monitoring and evaluation systems aid in making informed decisions based on evidence. The government and stakeholders can focus on the most needed areas, improve anti-corruption policies based on data-driven recommendations; this does not only enhance the effectiveness of the national anti-corruption strategy but also ensures efficient resource utilization and bolster the decision-making process.

The Egyptian Experience as a Model Dual Sustainable Development and Anti-Corruption!



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In 2015, the United Nations announced the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which called for a shift towards modern development patterns. The old patterns involved excessive exploitation of resources to achieve economic growth and technological progress individually, without considering the need to protect the environment. The desired new patterns aim to achieve balanced environmental, social, and economic development for all people on the planet, ensuring the fulfillment of the current generation's needs while preserving the rights of future generations. The launch of the agenda called on member states to formulate strategies that contribute to achieving global sustainable development goals based on national priorities. Consequently, the term began to emerge and circulate among decision-makers, policymakers, strategists, and implementers in many countries.

In light of the release of the UNCTAD World Investment Report, which stated that approximately \$4.5 trillion annually should be mobilized to achieve the global 2030 Agenda, in addition to estimating a financing gap ranging from \$2.5 trillion to \$3 trillion annually for achieving sustainable development goals in developing countries, the United Nations has stated that in the absence of the necessary means for investing in sustainable development, developing countries will fall further behind and there is an urgent need to rebuild international cooperation and find solutions through multi-stakeholder action. Countries that have launched their national strategies for sustainable development have realized that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires not only policy and strategy adjustments but also the development of financial, monetary, trade, and tax systems, making significant investment decisions, and mobilizing the necessary resources to finance this transformation.

In the same vein, sustainable growth and comprehensive development cannot be achieved without combating corruption, as emphasized by Australian economist Wolfgang Kasper, the developmental experience over the past half-century has proven that the inability of some countries to achieve economic growth was not due to a lack of natural resources or capital, but rather their failure to combat corruption, lack of empowerment of oversight bodies, and the inability to implement rules and principles of good governance, which hindered local and foreign investments and banned the maximum utilization of available resources, which in turn led to the waste of efforts to activate productive forces. The International Monetary Fund's report titled "Corruption: Its Costs and Strategies for Mitigation" in 2016 also stated that corruption hinders public budget management, the implementation of sound monetary policies, and weakens financial supervision, thus impeding inclusive growth. At that time, Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, stated that combating corruption is a fundamental requirement for achieving overall economic stability because the direct economic costs of corruption are known, but the indirect costs are greater and more burdensome. Furthermore, the World Bank has reported that corruption causes enormous financial and economic losses, with nearly \$1 trillion in bribes being paid annually worldwide. According to estimates from the Global Integrity Index, Africa witnessed illicit financial flows amounting to \$1.8 trillion between 1970 and 2008. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda has placed great emphasis on combating corruption and emphasized the close link between fighting corruption and peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Goal 16, titled "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," includes targets related to reducing bribery, strengthening institutions, and accessing information, not only as aspirations but also as conditions for achieving the remaining sixteen sustainable development goals. The United Nations has called for making the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which has been signed by nearly 189 countries, a legally binding instrument. This Convention provides a comprehensive framework and mechanisms to prevent, detect, and prosecute corrupt practices in all sectors and across all segments of society. Its fifth article emphasizes the need to formulate strategies to combat corruption, along with effective implementation mechanisms that promote participation and reflect the principles of the rule of law, sound public affairs management, and public property, alongside integrity and transparency.

"In light of the unprecedented crises and shocks facing the world, which not only hinder progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals but also lead to regression and setbacks, combating corruption remains a priority and a crucial step towards achieving comprehensive and sustainable development, as described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in his speech at the opening of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in December 2021. The world still urgently needs to apply the principles of transparency and integrity, as emphasized by Ms. Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, during the same conference. She pointed out that this session holds exceptional importance, especially after the first-ever special session on combating corruption was held in the General Assembly, describing it as a "historic session." During this special session, Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, stated that corruption remains one of the most significant challenges for countries, institutions, and societies. He emphasized that we cannot pretend



The World Bank revealed that corruption causes enormous financial and economic losses, with nearly \$1 trillion in bribes being paid globally each year. According to the Global Corruption Index, Africa alone witnessed illicit financial flows totaling \$1.8 trillion between 1970 and 2008

that there were no problems before the COVID-19 pandemic and concluded that the world will not recover from the current economic contraction without concerted efforts to end corruption and that "we cannot allow corruption to continue, and we will not do so."

Finally, on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Her Excellency Ms. Laetitia Stouva, the seventy-eighth President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), stated that corruption leads to wasting approximately 5% of the world's gross domestic product and 25% (equivalent to 13 trillion dollars) of global public expenditure. She added that eliminating corruption can fund the Sustainable Development Goals with at least 3 trillion dollars. This statement came during a special meeting aimed at proposing feasible solutions that achieve tangible results in combating corruption at all levels and enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Stouva further emphasized that the world is in the second half of the implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda, and there is an urgent need to accelerate the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. According to the United Nations' interim monitoring report for 2023, only 12% of the Sustainable Development Goals are on track, 50% have made significant progress, and 30% have witnessed a decline in achievements. She added that corruption represents the biggest and most formidable obstacle to progress towards desired development. She concluded that the cost of corruption goes beyond financial losses and includes the loss of natural resources, exacerbation of poverty and inequality, undermining trust and social cohesion, and threatening economic and political stability."

Despite Egypt's long-standing commitment to combating corruption, as one of the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the anti-corruption system in Egypt has witnessed significant development since 2014. Article 218 of the amended 2014 Egyptian Constitution states, "The state is committed to combating corruption, and relevant oversight bodies and authorities are committed to coordinating among themselves in the fight against corruption, promoting integrity and transparency, ensuring the proper performance of public functions, and developing and monitoring the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy in collaboration with other relevant bodies and entities." Following this, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi called for the adoption of a national strategy to combat corruption on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, which falls on December 9, 2014, from the headquarters of the Administrative Control Authority. Subsequently, an anti-corruption strategy was launched for the period from 2014 to 2018 as a first phase.

Efforts were combined from all state institutions to activate the executive measures of that strategy. The Sub-Coordinating National Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption was entrusted with the task of monitoring the implementation of the strategy, and it also assumed the technical responsibility of monitoring and tracking best practices as well as identifying challenges. The anti-corruption strategy comprised three key pillars. The first pillar focused on relevant laws and regulations, the second on empowering oversight and judicial bodies responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy, and the third pillar on supporting political leadership in combating corruption without any favoritism or discrimination. The United Nations has praised the Egyptian efforts in this regard and recognized the national strategy as one of the most successful practices in the field of corruption prevention and combating.

Egypt believes that eradicating corruption is the only guarantee for achieving its ambitious development program and fulfilling its international obligations; therefore, the economic dimension was included in its national strategy for sustainable development: Egypt Vision 2030, launched by President Sisi in 2016. This dimension focuses on transparency and the efficiency of government institutions. The goal is for Egypt to have an efficient and effective administrative apparatus by 2030, improving the management of state resources, characterized by transparency, integrity, flexibility, accountability, citizen satisfaction, interaction, and responsiveness.

In line with Egypt's commitment to continue its efforts to achieve higher levels of corruption prevention, integrity, and transparency, the second phase of the anti-corruption strategy was developed for the period from 2019 to 2022. This phase aimed to address the challenges identified in the first phase and draw on international experiences in combating corruption to identify the most suitable approaches for the Egyptian context. President El-Sisi launched this phase at the conclusion of the 2018 Africa Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh.

The second phase of the strategy included several pillars related to the state's administrative apparatus. These pillars focused on its development and support to become efficient and effective, simplifying administrative procedures, automating public services to facilitate auditing and internal control processes, completing databases, and making them available to activate mechanisms of transparency

Egypt's efforts to combat corruption have contributed to its successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. According to the United Nations 2023 report monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Egypt has advanced six positions among 166 countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It has also made a 1.1 percentage point increase towards achieving the goals and has increased its global influence

The Egyptian strategy to combat corruption is based on several principles, including prioritizing the public interest, prevention being better than cure, equal access to justice for all, and the integration of roles among the three branches of government. It also involves adhering to governance principles of transparency, integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and responsibility

and integrity. It also involved updating the legislative framework supporting anti-corruption measures, including laws governing the work of anti-corruption bodies to ensure independence and transparency in this field. Additionally, it aimed to support law enforcement agencies, develop national indicators related to corruption perceptions, enhance the feedback loop for corruption prevention and combat priorities, conduct research and studies in governance and anti-corruption, activate international and regional cooperation to benefit from the expertise of those working in the field of anti-corruption, ensuring they fulfill their national duties to the fullest.

Egypt believes that the will of the people alone guarantees the achievement and acceleration of the country's development plans. Therefore, the national anti-corruption strategy in its second phase includes programs to raise awareness among individuals, civil society, the private sector, media professionals, students, and academics to activate their pivotal roles. The strategy is based on several principles, including prioritizing the public interest, prevention being better than cure, equality before the law, the integration of the roles of the three authorities in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and the adherence to principles of governance such as transparency, integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and the establishment of flexible procedures capable of responding to changing and increasing needs.

According to the results of the "General Index of Administrative Corruption Perception," Egypt has witnessed a continuous decrease in administrative corruption by 17.8% between the years 2016 and 2019. The local corruption perception index report for 2021 has not been issued due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Egypt also advanced two positions in the annual report issued by Transparency International on the Global Corruption Perception Index for 2020. Furthermore, Egypt progressed by 55 ranks in the "Anti-Corruption Index" in 2020 compared to 2019. Additionally, Egypt has been consistently announcing corruption cases and holding those responsible accountable.

To emphasize Egypt's seriousness in combating corruption and the importance given by the political will to this issue, the third phase of its national anti-corruption strategy was launched, covering the period from 2023 to 2030. Due to the interconnected nature of corruption-related issues, the five objectives of the strategy in its third phase intersect and influence each other, being implemented in parallel. The state's administrative apparatus is considered the cornerstone within the framework of anti-corruption efforts as it is responsible for the executive process and has direct daily interaction with citizens. Legislation is also considered one of the most important supportive tools, and therefore, a legislative framework compatible with the national context and in line with relevant international and regional frameworks and agreements must be developed.

The third phase has outlined a roadmap to ensure accurate implementation and timely achievement of results. It has set quantitative targets, identified relevant implementing entities, and provided mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.

In conclusion, Egypt's efforts to combat corruption have contributed to its successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, enabling it to progress by six positions out of 166 countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the United Nations' 2023 report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Egyptian state has achieved a 1.1% increase towards goal achievement and increased its global influence to reach 98.8. Despite the progress and notable achievements, Egypt remains committed and determined in its journey to combat corruption, aiming to eliminate it entirely through collective action and a unified vision under the umbrella of an aware political leadership that adopts a culture of priorities.



Cybersecurity and National Anti-Corruption Efforts



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Global awareness of the importance of cybersecurity has increased in recent years due to the significant development in the use of technology and the quality of that usage. This has necessitated the adoption of new means, leading to the emergence of the term “digital transformation” and an increase in reliance on these methods.

The urgent need to expand this digital transformation became evident with the emergence and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, turning it from a choice and luxury into a necessary and indispensable lifestyle. This propelled the digital transformation in Egypt, with its numerous advantages such as saving time, effort, and money, as well as facilitating service delivery to citizens and enabling them to benefit from this development. This aligns with Egypt’s Vision 2030. Consequently, securing the transactions resulting from digital transformation became essential within a coherent framework that complements the state’s efforts to prevent and combat corruption in this technological environment. This has led to the emergence of new mechanisms and advanced methods to prevent and combat corruption, which require more advanced approaches.

Egypt has been committed to the field of cybersecurity early on and has aimed to be at the forefront of the Arab and African scenes in international indicators. It ranked 9th globally in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) for 2014. In the context of cybersecurity governance at the national level, Egypt has issued the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2017-2021, aligning with modern global trends and constitutional obligations as stated in Article 31 of the Egyptian Constitution issued in 2014, which emphasizes that “Information space security is an integral part of the economic and national security system, and the state is committed to taking the necessary measures to preserve it, as regulated by law.”

Egypt has sought to build and establish a modern system capable of protecting the Egyptian cyberspace. The Supreme Cybersecurity Council was established, chaired by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and it includes representatives from the government, private sector, and civil society. The Administrative Control Authority is also represented among its members.

The Council aims to enhance cybersecurity in Egypt and protect vital government and private infrastructures from potential cyberattacks.

The Council has taken several regulatory decisions to achieve this goal, including the development of national cybersecurity capabilities and the enhancement of international cooperation in this field, in addition to overseeing the implementation of the National Cybersecurity Strategy.

Highlighting the role of cybersecurity in combating corruption requires emphasizing that corruption is a social, political, and economic phenomenon that threatens public order, national security, and sustainable development of countries. It can be defined as “deviation or destruction of integrity in the performance of public functions through bribery and favoritism.” It can also be defined as “unethical acts committed by individuals occupying positions of power to achieve personal gains or abuse available resources.”

The cybersecurity, as defined by the International Telecommuni-

cation Union (ITU), is “a collection of tools, policies, guidelines, risk management approaches, actions, training, best practices, assurance mechanisms, and technologies that can be used to protect the availability, integrity, confidentiality of assets in connected infrastructures, including networks, devices, employees, infrastructure, applications, services, and data in the cyberspace environment.”

One of the most dangerous forms of cybercrimes targets governmental sectors, especially those responsible for combating corruption. These sectors require high protection for their data and systems from any external interference that may aim to disrupt their operations, disclose confidential information, alter investigation results, tarnish their reputation, or disable their services. These measures are the core of what cybersecurity aims to achieve through three main objectives:

1. Confidentiality: It prevents unauthorized access to information, allowing only authorized individuals to modify, delete, or add to it.
 2. Integrity: It ensures the accuracy and integrity of information when entering, storing, or transmitting it within the system.
 3. Availability: It guarantees access to information at any time without disruption. Compromising any of these three components is a violation of cybersecurity measures.
- Considering the previous definition of cybersecurity and its components, as well as the definition of corruption, we find that cybersecurity is the anti-corruption apparatus in automated systems and their databases after digital transformation. The more cybersecurity policies are accurately implemented, the more an organization’s ability to prevent and combat corruption increases, taking into account external breaches, the evolution of technologies used for vulnerability detection, and internal threats (insider threats) resulting from collusion of some corrupt individuals within the organization. Hence, continuous work is required to:
1. Raise awareness among users about the importance of cybersecurity and enhance their capabilities.
 2. Regularly update systems and software used and follow up on that.
 3. Utilize security programs to detect and analyze cyberattacks.
 4. Keep up with global advancements in this field, especially in the use of artificial intelligence techniques.

Cybersecurity always consists of three essential components: people, processes or operations, and technology. These components must integrate to achieve cybersecurity. Purchasing the latest systems and implementing best practices is not beneficial without conscious personnel capable of understanding and working with the system. Similarly, having knowledgeable personnel and advanced technologies without clear procedures and policies would be a waste of resources. Therefore, it is an integrated triangle where each component is indispensable to the others.

To achieve cybersecurity governance within state institutions and others, it is necessary to adopt a cybersecurity strategy that includes well-defined legislative and regulatory frameworks and declared policies that govern procedures, practices, and accountability within digital systems. Responsibilities and authorities between the executing and auditing entities must be clearly defined to prevent interference. There should also be specific and transparent mechanisms for oversight and accountability in both the public and private sectors.

The relationship between cybersecurity and combating corruption is always positive. The more awareness and attention given to implementing cybersecurity standards and controls, the greater the prevention and combating of corruption. Empowering cybersecurity governance is crucial as it forms the backbone of cybersecurity. When countries and institutions prioritize it, the results are impressive. Having a clear, well-regulated, and declared cybersecurity policy enhances transparency and enables monitoring, whether through data classification and access authorization or through the analysis of automated system results.

One of the most dangerous forms of cybercrime are the ones that target government sectors, especially those responsible for combating corruption. These sectors require high protection for their data and systems from any external interference that may aim to disrupt their operations, disclose confidential information, manipulate investigation results, tarnish their reputation, or disable their services

Egypt has been devoted to the field of cybersecurity since early on and has been at the forefront of countries striving for continuous improvement and pioneering experiences in the Middle East. It achieved 9th place globally in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) for 2014. In light of cybersecurity governance at the national level, Egypt has issued the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2017-2021, committing to modern global trends and constitutional obligations

In the era of digital transformation, where process reengineering and control were dominant terms, having specific procedures and instructions that hold individuals accountable for their actions has become the optimal standard for auditing and review. The presence of cybersecurity policies and controls highlights the importance of cybersecurity and its effective role in preventing and combating corruption.

Since combating corruption is one of the most important challenges facing societies worldwide, and cyber threats are an integral part of these challenges, fighting corruption through cybersecurity requires the use of a wide range of tools and applications that help detect and prevent cyber crimes. These tools include:

- Network monitoring tools: They assist in detecting unauthorized activities on networks, mitigating cyber risks, and countering electronic attacks. It is preferable to have a Network Operations Center for this purpose.
- Data analysis tools: They are used to identify unusual or suspicious patterns based on the nature and characteristics of databases and functions.
- Data encryption and decryption tools: They are used to protect sensitive data.
- Anti-virus and anti-malware tools: They work to block and remove viruses and malicious software.
- Identity and access management tools: They verify authorized users and manage their access.
- Privilege management tools: They administer and assign account permissions.
- Cyber incident management tools: They help in the recovery of systems and data.

The real challenge in the current stage is the transition to digital transformation without the ability to keep up with a strong and solid cybersecurity framework. This in itself is a corruption in the administrative path because the expenditure on cybersecurity in institutions represents only one percent of the losses, especially in some ransomware attacks, data encryption, and data leakage, especially since it falls within the digital assets that require protection, especially critical infrastructure of the state. It is enough to say that the cost of cyber attacks on the global economy is expected to exceed \$11.5 trillion in 2023, and the global cost of cybercrime is projected to reach \$23 trillion by 2027.

We face numerous challenges and risks, but the challenges of combating corruption, especially in cyberspace, represent a new pattern that requires the ability to confront and counter it. This starts with conducting an analytical study of systems, explaining the reasons for granting and denying permissions, testing the system’s source code, examining vulnerabilities, and addressing them, leading to assessment reports and performance indicators for the entire system.

Determining permissions based on characteristics and job titles in the system helps regulate performance and governance of authorities. The foundation for this is the principle that “knowledge is proportional to the need,” and the need is determined by the functional attribute. This prevents any corruption resulting from overlapping authorities, lack of clarity, or user exploitation because every permission holder is required to maintain and exceed their responsibilities and not compromise what is attributed to them within the electronic system. There is no room for denial of responsibility with the identification of digital identities and ensuring access through identity verification systems and others.

Working within state systems, especially in cases of diversity and variation in technologies and structures, requires a high level of expertise and flexibility in securing, analyzing, and processing their data while adhering to regulatory laws. Big data is the future’s oil, and detecting manipulation patterns within it is the ability to analyze this oil and prevent and combat corruption within it.



The world losing nearly three trillion dollars annually
International Cooperation:
The Path to Combating Transnational
Corruption Beyond National Borders

Ahmed Muharam

Head of a Central Administration Group for Combating Organized Crime at the Administrative Control Authority

Corruption has been known on Earth since ancient times, with deep-rooted origins and various forms and methods. It is no longer limited to national societies within the borders of a single state subject to its own penal system. It has become an international phenomenon shared by all countries without discrimination, transcending regional borders and affecting all societies and economies. This has made it more dangerous, more damaging, and difficult to control, to the extent that it sometimes becomes more powerful than the governing systems in some countries.

Transnational corruption can be defined as one of the forms of corruption that extends spatially beyond the national territory, crossing regional borders. Its parties can be natural or legal persons who have beneficial relationships with foreign entities or criminal organizations engaged in crimes such as foreign currency fraud, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, drugs, and prostitution, or with networks of electronic and information crimes to carry out corrupt operations, bypassing the regulatory and judicial systems of specific countries, exploiting the lack of cooperation and the differences in systems and laws between countries worldwide.

This type of corruption is characterized by several features, including its complexity and interconnectedness, relying on internationalization of crime, meaning that the crime occurs in multiple countries rather than a single state, making it difficult to detect. It also has the ability to obscure oversight agencies and influence public opinion by changing facts and realities through various methods. Moreover, it requires significant funding and multiple relationships that are only available to the upper classes of society or high-ranking officials in the state, driven by the pursuit of great personal benefit. It heavily relies on modern technology as a means of communication among perpetrators to minimize the chances of tracking and apprehending them.

It is worth noting that the severity of this type of corruption can be understood by examining its effects on society and its rapid and

widespread penetration. In its early stages, it may be fragile and weak, making it easier to control, observe, and prevent. However, over time, the idea of corruption becomes entrenched among those who benefit from it, and people become accustomed to the conditions created by this corruption.

The spread of transnational corruption has significantly increased in recent times due to several factors that intersect to create a conducive environment for it to develop and infiltrate various international practices. There is a lack of regulatory framework surrounding these practices, lacking transparency and integrity. Among the most significant contributing factors are globalization, market economy, the trend of countries towards privatization, the attempt of capital and major businessmen to control and corrupt authorities. Furthermore, some multinational companies in developing countries depend on exploiting loopholes resulting from legislative shortcomings to further their interests. Additionally, the global arena filled with wars and conflicts has also contributed to creating an environment of instability, making societies fragmented and law enforcement difficult. The lack of activation of international agreements aimed at combating corruption, along with the scarcity of functioning oversight agencies outside countries and the lack of cooperation between states in implementing these agreements, exacerbates the situation. All of this is in addition to the inability of developing countries to provide adequate budgets

to establish effective regulatory institutions and train their personnel to effectively confront corruption.

And one of the most significant forms of cross-border corruption crimes is international bribery, which is considered the classic pattern of corruption, whether it is financial or material. Similarly, organized crimes in the fields of human trafficking, organ trafficking, smuggling of immigrants, illegal migration of adults and minors, foreign exchange, and cybercrime are also forms of corruption that rely on technology and cyberspace, such as electronic fraud, illegal online trade, and the exploitation and sexual blackmail of children through the internet.

It is worth noting that cross-border corruption plays a significant role in undermining the dreams of developing countries in development and prosperity, as it affects the performance of economic sectors and creates negative social dimensions that should not be underestimated. Research in this field has shown that it weakens economic growth when it goes beyond borders, affecting investment climate stability and undermining the positive impact of investment incentives. Its effects extend to the extent that it can eliminate any economic development. Studies in this field have indicated that cross-border corruption imposes a huge economic cost, with the world losing nearly three trillion dollars annually. This is a massive amount of money that leaks into the accounts of criminals and corrupt individuals instead of being invested in development projects and public services. Additionally, this type of corruption poses a threat to the stability and security of societies, wastes religious values, restricts economic, social, and political development worldwide, and exposes countries to dangers that are difficult to confront when corruption takes root and exceeds control.

It is worth mentioning that Egypt has been subjected to many of these cross-border crimes and issues, such as money laundering, international bribery, organized crime, organ trafficking, and sexual blackmail, among other important issues, which have serious effects on Egyptian society if not addressed. However, thanks to the efforts of the supervisory institutions in the state, including the Administrative Control Authority, many of these issues have been uncovered. These efforts have been highlighted under the national strategies adopted by the Administrative Control Authority to combat corruption in general and the mechanisms that emerged from these strategies to combat cross-border corruption. These efforts have been reinforced by international agreements and initiatives that Egypt has ratified to combat corruption, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Within this framework, the Administrative Control Authority has been able to address these crimes in cooperation with many international, regional, and Arab entities and institutions, including the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the International Security Cooperation Office at the French Embassy in Cairo, the Federal Criminal Police Office at the German Embassy in Cairo, the Police of Brandenburg County in Germany, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Jordanian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Saudi Control and Anti-Corruption Authority "Nazaha". Egypt's participation in the GLOBE International Network for Law Enforcement Authorities Involved in the Fight against Corruption, represented by the Administrative Control Authority, has also enhanced these efforts. The network will provide an interactive platform for the immediate exchange of information on corruption cases between national authorities in different countries, complementing and supporting the official procedures for legal cooperation that are difficult to complete quickly enough to keep pace with the speed of corruption networks. However, the success of this network de-

It is one of the key factors in the spread of globalization and market economies, the trend of countries toward privatization, the attempt by capital and prominent business figures to control governance, and their corruption of those in power. Similarly, multinational corporations' dominance over developing countries has become influential in various fields, often relying on legislative loopholes to advance their interests. Additionally, advanced governments support bribery and corruption in developing countries

pend on the participation of the largest possible number of anti-corruption and law enforcement institutions around the world, actively engaging and benefiting from it to exchange information and experiences on a wide scale.

As a result of these efforts, Egypt has gained international recognition and wide appreciation for its efforts in combating organized crime, particularly in the field of combating illegal migration. This has been highlighted through accolades received in various international forums and meetings, such as the European Councils, the European Union, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in Cairo. Egypt has also hosted international conferences and general assemblies, including the hosting of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP-9) in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2021. Additionally, Egypt's Minister/Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority has chaired the working groups of the Convention in Vienna. Egypt has also hosted the fourth annual general assembly of the African Union Anti-Corruption Agencies and the first African Forum for Anti-Corruption Agencies in June 2019 in Sharm El-Sheikh. Egypt won the presidency of the African Union Anti-Corruption Agencies in June 2022. Furthermore, the Minister/Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority presided over the first ministerial meeting of law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which took place in Saudi Arabia in late 2022 and resulted in the adoption of the Mecca Agreement for member states of the organization in the field of law enforcement and anti-corruption.

Despite the notable Egyptian efforts in combating and preventing corruption, which have been praised by international organizations and many countries around the world, they did not have a positive impact on the Global Corruption Perceptions Index for 2022. Instead, there was a decline, raising suspicions about the accuracy and credibility of this index. The index is based on subjective opinions of internal and external stakeholders, including academics, private sector representatives, civil society, media, and others. It should not be used as the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of strategies, policies, and mechanisms aimed at preventing and combating corruption.

It is worth noting that despite the concerted efforts at the national and international levels to combat transnational crimes and the international recognition received, Egypt experienced a decline in the Global Corruption Perceptions Index for 2022, scoring 30 points compared to 33 points in 2021. However, this decline does not imply a failure in oversight efforts. The index is based on expert opinions regarding the perceived level of corruption, relying on their expertise rather than actual statistical data. Therefore, this index should not be used to assess the impact of the national strategy to combat corruption on corruption levels, as it is subject to significant misunderstandings and statistical errors, similar to other corruption indices, and is not suitable for judging the success or failure of the strategy in achieving its objectives in reality.

Furthermore, according to a report by Transparency International issued in January 2023, most countries around the world still fail to effectively combat corruption. 95% of countries have made little progress or no progress at all since 2017. Egypt is not the only country that has not achieved progress in this regard. This indicates that anti-corruption efforts in most countries, including Egypt, have not resulted in improvements in the Corruption Perceptions Index for these countries. This may be attributed to the increasing global polarity and its consequences, such as escalating crises, conflicts, and international violence, which have a significant impact on developing countries.

In light of the increased rate of transnational crimes imposed by international conflicts and local crises, there is an urgent need for further international cooperation to combat this corruption. This cooperation should be manifested in activating unofficial collaboration immediately in the field of exchanging information with counterpart entities in different countries. Additionally, a secure electronic mechanism should be developed for the immediate exchange of information on corruption crimes between Egypt and the countries that have ratified the United Nations Convention, as well as the African and Arab countries with shared interests. It should be taken into consideration that the first line of defense against corruption is the dissemination of integrity and transparency principles within societies and among individuals, with the participation of state institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector.



Addressing Corruption Incidents

Codes of Professional Conduct: The Trilogy of Integrity, Accountability, and Responsibility



Abdel Mageed El-Fekki
Member of the Investment Support Management at the
Administrative Control Authority

Honesty, integrity, and responsibility are the triad that every public servant must embody to combat corruption. Therefore, the United Nations Convention against Corruption explicitly stipulates in Article 1 that “to combat corruption, each State Party shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, take measures to promote integrity, accountability, and proper management among its public officials. In particular, each State Party shall endeavor to apply, within its own institutional and legal systems, codes or standards of conduct for the correct, honorable, and proper performance of public functions.”

The Arab Republic of Egypt joined the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, taking various regulatory and procedural measures and issuing several internal legislations to comply with its international commitments. This was reinforced by an explicit constitutional provision in Article 218 of

the Egyptian Constitution, stating that “the state is committed to combating corruption, and the law defines the entities and oversight bodies responsible for coordinating anti-corruption efforts and enhancing the values of integrity and transparency to ensure the proper performance of public functions, preserve

public funds, and develop and monitor the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy in coordination with other relevant entities.”

Thus, combating corruption became a constitutional obligation, mandated for implementation through the concerted efforts of all relevant agencies and institutions, working in harmony with other state entities. In the past period, Egypt has undertaken a series of applications related to institutional and legislative reform for relevant agencies and laws, with a notable example being the “Civil Service Law” issued in 2016, replacing the law governing civil servants in the state. The new law defines employees’ rights, duties, the objectives of the administrative unit they work in, and the rules and procedures to be followed through initial training provided by internal training administrations. In this context, codes of conduct have become an essential part of achieving the goals of the anti-corruption strategy in the state’s administrative apparatus.

Codes of conduct and public service ethics constitute a general framework that public servants must adhere to and act in accordance with. They shed light on the standards and values that service providers must embody while performing their duties and play an effective role in reducing corruption incidents. Some countries consider them an integral part of the employment contract, like France, while others view them as a constitutional working framework for the entire executive apparatus, such as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

However, with the increasing focus on corruption prevention, codes of conduct should include, beyond general principles like

Codes of conduct play a crucial role in preventing ambiguity (the gray area), especially among employees regarding certain actions that may be legally punishable. This is particularly true for behaviors that have become customary, such as accepting gifts even after the completion of a service, receiving cash or in-kind donations, and indulging in lavish hospitality, all of which involve conflicts of interest

respect for the law, neutrality, integrity, accountability, competence, and efficiency, other provisions related to preventing and combating corruption, such as:

Promoting Transparency and Disclosure: When employees feel confident in the work environment and are convinced that corruption is dealt with seriously, they become more willing to report any corrupt practices they witness or suspect.

Improving Risk Management: The Role of Codes of Conduct
Codes of conduct also serve as an effective tool in the risk management system of the state’s administrative apparatus. This is achieved by identifying and clarifying unacceptable behaviors and working to reduce, prevent, or optimally deal with them.

Preventing Ambiguity (Gray Area): Many government employees may engage in actions that are legally punishable, yet are commonly accepted, such as accepting gifts even after the completion of service, receiving cash and in-kind donations, luxurious hospitality, and conflicts of interest. Codes of conduct play a clear role in addressing these corrupt actions and practices by regulating what is allowed and prohibited for employees, specifying the expected penalties for committing such acts. This ensures that employees are aware of the legal consequences of their criminal actions, given their knowledge of them.

Organizing Internal Complaints about Corruption Incidents:
Many employees in the state’s administrative apparatus become aware of corrupt information or incidents but refrain from reporting them for various reasons, including their weak legal culture in identifying the type and elements of corruption incidents, fear of the information’s accuracy, or avoidance of retaliation by those involved in the incident. Therefore, codes of conduct should include a mechanism for receiving corruption complaints, consisting of three main factors—acting as an alternative to witness protection programs and whistleblowers in corruption incidents—namely, complete confidentiality to preserve the informant, no disclosure or provision of any information about the complainant, and facilitating communication with informants. The effective implementation of this system requires the assurance that no retaliatory actions will be taken against the complainant, ensuring good faith within the provisions of the code.

In this context, the crucial role played and exercised by the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy is evident. It works in partnership with various state administrative entities to raise awareness among employees about codes of conduct through various implemented and proposed means:

Conducting workshops and interactive training for employees to explain and discuss codes of conduct, presenting practical cases to illustrate correct behavior, potential errors, and how to deal with and reduce them.

Preparing and distributing codes of conduct as an appendix to employment contracts for new hires and distributing them to existing employees in the institution. These codes should be available in the appropriate language, presented in an understandable style, and suitable for the organizational culture.

Integrating codes of conduct into internal training programs in administrative entities as part of continuous development programs for employees.

Establishing an internal electronic platform loaded with codes of conduct, allowing employees easy access and enabling the exchange of comments to share ideas and ask questions related to behaviors and public service ethics.

Conducting online educational courses to facilitate the process of information access for all institution employees.

These approaches need to be implemented regularly and updated continuously, with institutional commitment falling on the senior management and leaders of different administrative entities to achieve the desired goal of activating the role of these codes.

Conclusion:
Codes of conduct for public servants are not just a document on paper or a formal procedure but require effective implementation and meticulous follow-up to be relied upon as a powerful tool in combating corruption and establishing high ethical standards. This contribution aims to contribute to building a more just and stable society.

included training courses and receiving high-level delegations

Efforts of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy in months



Editorial Board

Through training courses and receiving high-level delegations, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy continues its journey of preparing qualified generations to combat corruption. The Academy believes in the importance of exceptional training and conscious awareness, relying on modern methods to confront various forms of corruption. The aim is to bolster the trainees' capabilities and promote an institutional and societal culture of combating corruption. The Academy has undertaken numerous activities and efforts in various fields, including training courses, workshops and hosting visits by senior officials from supervisory bodies in many sisterly and friendly countries. These visits aim to learn about the successful experience of the Academy in training and qualifying individuals to combat corruption, develop administrative and supervisory skills and explore ways for other countries to benefit from this national experience.

In the field of organizing programs and courses for national and local entities



Training session on illicit gain and money laundering for law enforcement personnel

as part of the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy. The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy conducted a training course to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in combating and preventing corruption."



120 entities participate in a training course on illicit gains and money laundering crimes.

With the participation of representatives from approximately 120 entities, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy held workshops under the title "Management and Monitoring System of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy." The participating entities varied and included ministries, governorates, universities, civil society organizations, and other entities. The objective was to familiarize participants with successful practices in implementing the main goals of the strategy and to explore the electronic monitoring system for all state entities.



Training day for graduate students

The Academy conducted the core program in the field of combating corruption with the aim of enhancing the participants' knowledge of the concept of corruption, its effects, preventive measures and methods of combating. Additionally, a training day was organized for graduate students at Egyptian universities in the field of combating corruption in education and empowering youth.



In the field of international cooperation



Administrative Investigation Skills Training Program for Financial and Administrative Control Personnel in the Sultanate of Oman

As part of enriching regional and Arab cooperation, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy conducted a training program in the field of administrative investigation procedures and skills for the personnel of the Financial and Administrative Control Authority in the Sultanate of Oman. The program covered the fundamental principles of administrative investigation, the preparation of reports, and the sound components of conducting an administrative investigation. Practical applications were also conducted to enhance the skills of the investigators.



President of the Federal Integrity Commission in Iraq Visits the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy

Mr. Judge Haider Hanoun, the President of the Federal Integrity Commission in Iraq, along with his accompanying delegation, visited the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy. The visit aimed to familiarize themselves with the Academy's experience in training and developing personnel, leaders, and employees in the field of anti-corruption. Discussions were held on ways to exchange expertise and knowledge in preventing and combating corruption. The Iraqi side commended the scientific and training efforts provided by the Academy within the framework of a comprehensive national strategy adopted by the Egyptian state to combat corruption.



The head of the oversight body in Oman reviews the training capabilities of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy

Mr. Ahmed bin Salem bin Rashid Al-Rajibi, Deputy Head of the Financial and Administrative Control Authority in the Sultanate of Oman, and the accompanying delegation, visited the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy. The visit included a presentation of the training capabilities of the Academy, as well as an introduction to the specialties and powers of judicial control officers. Lessons learned from one of the supervision activities in the field of anti-corruption were also presented.

Training Government Officials in Iraqi Ministries on Government Contract Management

The Academy conducted a training day in the field of government contract management and highlighted Egypt's successful practices in this area for a number of Iraqi officials from various ministries, relevant government entities, and law enforcement agencies. The training day was attended by His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Al-Dulaimi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Mr. Sylvain Merlen, the Director of the United Nations Development Programme Office in Egypt, along with several officials from the program in Iraq.



Workshop for Officials from Namibia and Sierra Leone

A workshop was held to review lessons learned and efforts made in the development and implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for officials from Namibia and Sierra Leone. Among the participants were Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone, as well as representatives from the national committees of both countries within the framework of the African Peer Review Mechanism. The workshop also included the participation of Ambassador Ashraf Rashed, Chairman of the National Committee for Egypt's Membership in the African Peer Review Mechanism.



The head of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy

The head of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, along with the accompanying delegation. The visit included a presentation of the national strategy for combating corruption and the efforts made to implement and monitor the strategy since its inception in 2014 until now.



Coordinating with the Egyptian Agency for Partnership, training 30 Africans on the latest methods of combating corruption

In coordination with the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy held a training course on the latest methods of combating corruption, targeting 30 African trainees from various countries across the continent.

This initiative aligns with the directives of the President of the Republic to support the capacities of African countries and train personnel working in the field of corruption prevention and combat. The training course was organized in collaboration with the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development, which operates under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



A high-level delegation from the Republic of Somalia the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy

Mr. Hassan Malaam Mahmoud Sheikh, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Somalia and Mr. Suleiman Mohamed Mahmoud, Attorney General of Somalia, along with their accompanying delegation, visited the Administrative Control Authority in the presence of Dr. Tamer Ferghany, Deputy Head of the A.C.A. The visit aimed to learn about the Egyptian experience in the field of anti-corruption.



Visit of the Head of the National Office for Combating Fraud and Corruption in the Republic of Senegal to the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy

Mr. Srigne Bassirou GUEYE, the Head of the National Office for Combating Fraud and Corruption in the Republic of Senegal, and the accompanying delegation visited the National Academy. A meeting was held in the presence of Dr. Tamer El-Fergany, Deputy Head of the Administrative Control Authority, to discuss ways to exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of preventing and combating corruption.



A Year of Fruitful Collaboration: Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy and the Ministry of Justice

In a significant display of partnership and commitment to combat corruption, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy joined forces with the Ministry of Justice and the esteemed National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development throughout the year 2023. Together, they orchestrated a series of impactful training programs targeting chief judges across the nation, as well as various members of the judicial bodies.

The highlight of these endeavors was the comprehensive training sessions conducted in July and September 2023, focusing on governance and anti-corruption measures. These intensive programs delved into crucial topics such as the government's relentless fight against corruption, shedding light on the pivotal role played by the Administrative Control Authority in the execution and oversight of the national anti-corruption strategy.

With an eye towards modernization, the training also emphasized the broader framework of digitization and digital transformation within the nation's diverse court systems. Participants had the opportunity to explore Egypt's ambitious strategy for sustainable development, a key component of the visionary Egypt 2030 project. This included an insightful examination of the significant national undertakings and how administrative corruption, rumors, and the evolving landscape of fourth and fifth-generation cyberwarfare impact the country's overall security.

The collaboration between the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, the Ministry of Justice, and the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development stands as a testament to their steadfast dedication to upholding integrity, transparency, and justice within Egypt's judicial system. By equipping chief judges and judicial personnel with the necessary knowledge and tools, this partnership strives to fortify the nation's fight against corruption and ensure a sustainable path towards progress.

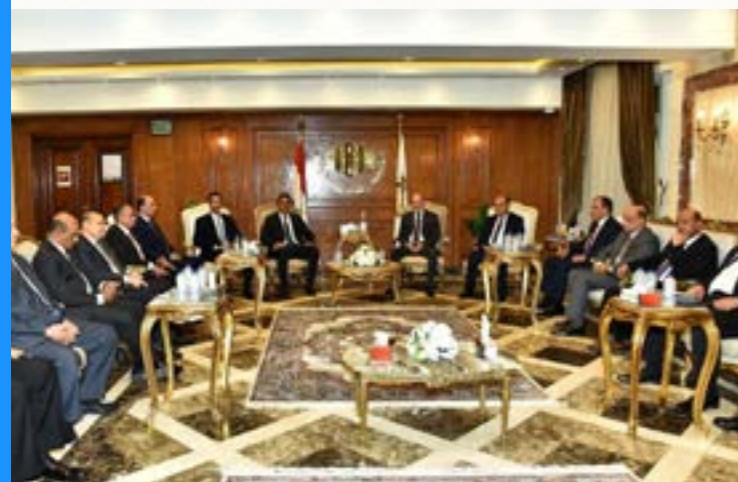
Courses for the members of judicial bodies and entities. In a bid to bolster the skills and fortify the fight against corruption, three intensive training programs were recently conducted for members of judicial bodies and entities. The first program unfolded over the months of February, March, and April, with the second following program in July and August. The third and final course took place between September and November.

The comprehensive programs delved into crucial subjects on two levels. The first level examined the prevention and combating of corruption; it also explored the legislative and institutional framework of combating corruption within Egypt. Additionally, participants delved into international agreements in Africa and



the Arab world aimed at countering corruption. In addition, the second level centered around personal skill development, encompassing areas such as communication, negotiation, creative thinking, and the art of presentation.

As a fitting conclusion to the rigorous training, participating members formed working groups to present outstanding research materials. These presentations served as a testament to the acquired skills and competencies in governance, anti-corruption measures, and related fields. The initiative not only empowered the participants but also underscored a collective commitment to fortify the legal and judicial arenas against the challenges of corruption.



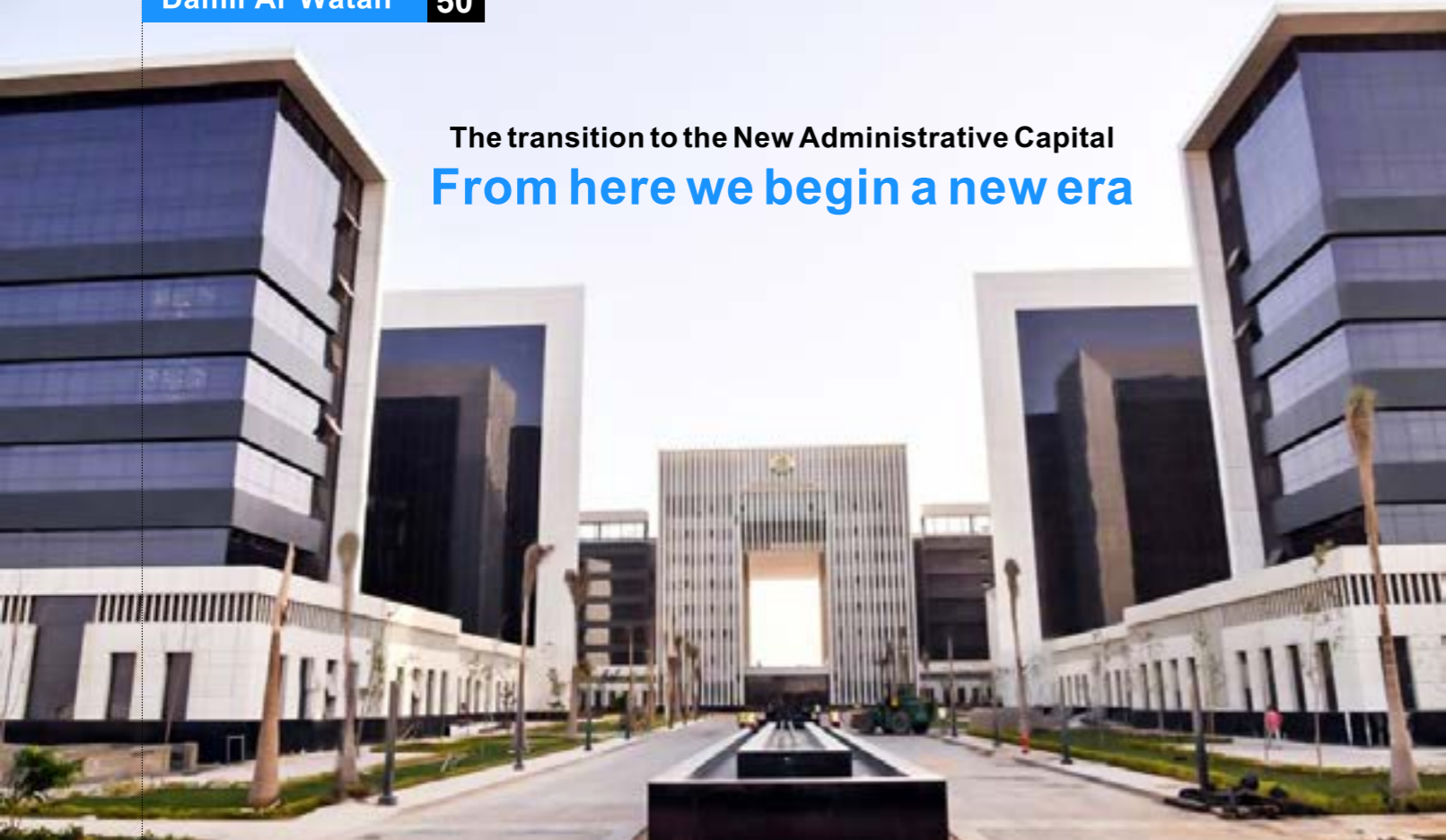
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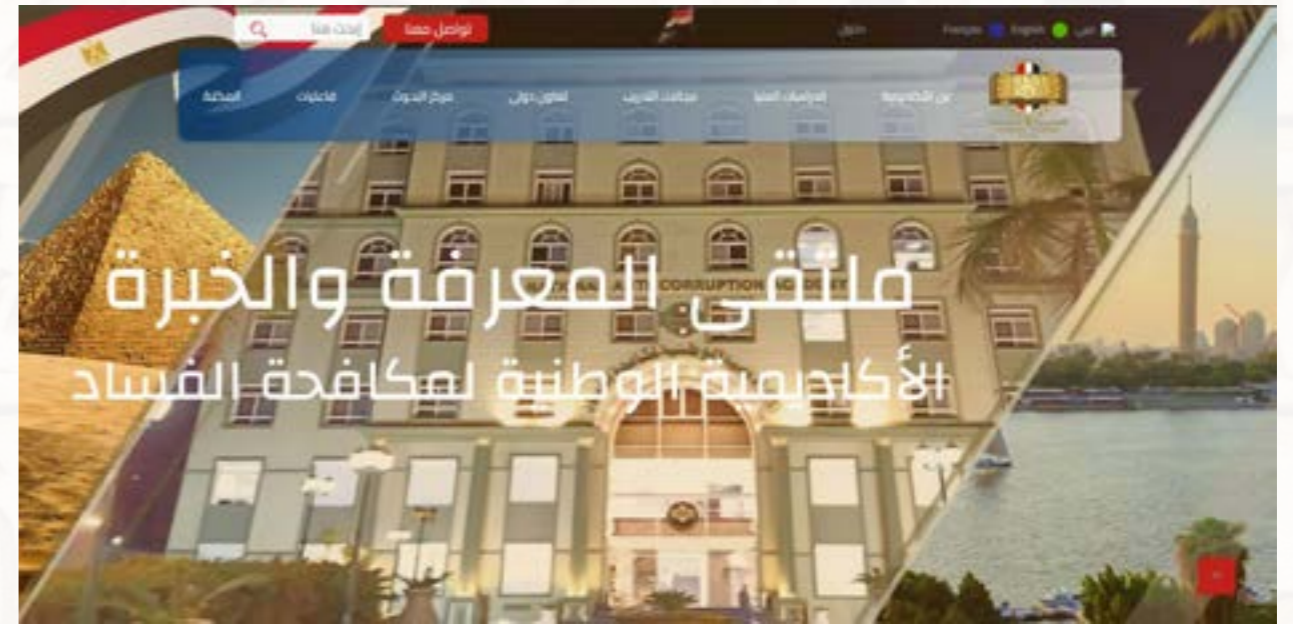
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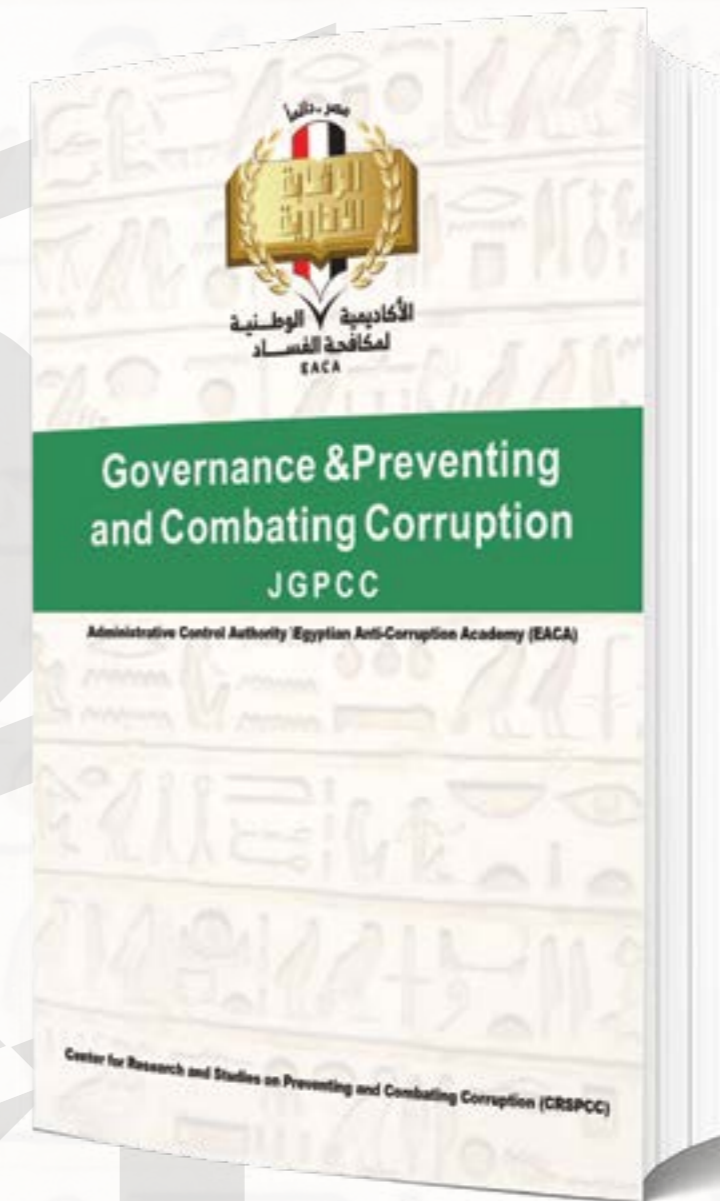
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The Journal of Governance, Preventing and Combating Corruption (JGPCC)

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Mission of the Journal

To contribute to the enlightenment and knowledge by serving as a platform for objective scientific publishing and as a beacon for realistic and innovative academic research for researchers at the national, regional, continental, and international levels. The journal covers issues related to governance, prevention, and combating corruption as well as other relevant sciences, utilizing research methodologies that support the development of thinking and analysis methods to achieve clear and implementable results.



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