

Conscience of the Nation

Damir Al-Watan

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



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

Issue No. 8 June 2025



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Protecting
the Nation's Interests**

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Issue No.8 June 2025



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I address you with utmost sincerity and conviction: the profound responsibility we collectively bear, and the historic moment in which we stand today, compel us to prioritize the interests of our nation above all else. We must work hand in hand to resolve the conflicts and critical issues that afflict our region, foremost among them the Palestinian cause—the central issue that demands unwavering commitment to justice and resolute adherence to truth.

Let us strive together to strengthen cooperation among us, transforming our unity into a source of strength and our integration into a foundation for prosperity. We are steadfast in our belief that our Arab peoples deserve a future commensurate with the grandeur of their past and the glory of their civilization. Let us move forward with determination and resolve, making this summit a pivotal step toward a brighter tomorrow for our Arab homeland.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi

Closing remarks at the inaugural session of
the 34th Arab Summit, Baghdad
May 17, 2025





The Administrative Control Authority, through collaboration with various administrative entities, including ministries, universities, governorates, and other state institutions, as well as all segments of society—encompassing representatives of the private sector, persons with disabilities, and civil society organizations—is committed to promoting a culture of governance and integrity within society. This commitment aligns with the Egyptian state's clear approach to preventing and combating corruption through the implementation of obligations outlined in international agreements, particularly those stipulated in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, and the execution of measures under the third version of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Furthermore, the Authority continues to shoulder the responsibility of disseminating knowledge and awareness among researchers and trainees at the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, with the ultimate objectives of preventing and combating corruption. These goals are pursued in partnership with all stakeholders at various levels to ensure their realization.

Major General/ Amr Adel
Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority



Previous
Issues

Damir Al-Watan

First Issue

Published in 2021 as the first cultural publication specializing in anti-corruption and related sciences.

- Egypt's Presidency of the Conference of the States Parties
- Technologies for Greater Transparency and Integrity
- The Duality of Sustainable Development and Anti-Corruption

Second Issue

- Strategy, National Security, and Crisis Management
- The Regulatory and Legal Framework for Combating Corruption
- Ethics and Leadership Skills
- Governance and the Use of Data and Information

Third Issue

- The Battle of Awareness in Tackling Corruption During Emergencies and Crises
- An Overview of Egypt's Strategy for Combating Money Laundering and Illegal Migration



Documentary Issue

The documentary issue of "Conscience of the Nation" Damir Al-Watan magazine included: Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, held in Sharm El-Sheikh (City of Peace) From December 13-17, 2021.

Fourth Issue

- Sustainable Development in a Changing World
- The Impact of Data and Information on Decision-Making Capabilities
- A Golden Era for Empowering Egyptian Women
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Fifth Issue

- Highlighting an African Anti-Corruption Experience (Mali)
- The Role of Technology and Cybersecurity in Supporting National Anti-Corruption Efforts
- The Prominent Role of International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Corruption

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- Notable Contributions of the Administrative Control Authority to the Arab League
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- Independence of Money Laundering Crimes
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- The Importance of Training, Modern Trends, and Digitalization as Tools to Enhance Transparency Values



All issues of the 'Conscience of the Nation' magazine are published on the official website of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank.




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Countering Rumors as a Tool for Combating Corruption: Addressing Misinformation and Deceptive Content



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First Undersecretary Dr/ Mohamed Salama

■ Editor-in-Chief



Rumors pose a serious challenge that threatens the security and stability of societies, causing significant distortions in citizens' perceptions and understanding of the truth and authenticity of information. They lead to polarized opinions and public confusion, directly impacting levels of awareness and culture, and hindering efforts toward reform and development.

Rumors and Anti-Corruption Efforts

Some may assume that the spread of rumors is unrelated to anti-corruption efforts, believing that these two phenomena do not intersect and that rumors do not affect such initiatives. However, the reality is quite the contrary. For instance, if a rumor circulates regarding a decision issued by an official or the implementation of a service-related project under the purview of a governorate or ministry—an occurrence that has happened periodically—the impact of such a rumor undermines the credibility of the official or the management of the project's activities and its intended benefits. This, in turn, reflects on the performance of specific individuals or institutions. In such cases, the effects of the rumor can be mitigated by addressing its sphere of influence with accurate facts, news, and information to debunk falsehoods and neutralize the rumor's impact.

However, when anti-corruption efforts are targeted by such rumors, the consequences extend beyond disrupting the regular operations of specific entities or their officials. They reach a broader scope, undermining the state's efforts and its frontline defense against corrupt practices and perpetrators, as well as the national strategy to combat corruption. Such rumors create confusion regarding the credibility of oversight institutions and their procedures, eroding the existing trust generated by these institutions' efforts. These entities often represent the final recourse for citizens seeking to claim their rights, resolve grievances, or seek justice from the adverse effects of corrupt practices.

The Nature of Rumors

A rumor is defined as an unverified piece of information, statement, idea, or news lacking a credible source, often containing partial truths removed from their context or stripped of their true substance. It circulates among the public to create the illusion of accuracy, presented in an engaging manner or packaged in a way that piques curiosity. Rumors are disseminated through various channels, such as social media, sensationalist media outlets, or satellite channels, and are widely promoted within the information ecosystem targeting specific audiences.

Sources and Objectives of Rumors

The origin and source of a rumor vary depending on its timing, context, and purpose. Generally, rumors aim to sow confusion to distort facts or tarnish reputations, targeting entities, symbols, or individuals to achieve financial, political, or social gains. They may originate from an individual, a political party, a pressure group, or other entities seeking to undermine confidence in their adversaries in pursuit of their interests.

Fabrication and Dissemination of Rumors

The source of a rumor often targets legislative, financial, or service-related information of interest to specific societal groups, such as pensioners, students, or others. The rumor may pertain to a demand requiring legislative intervention or judicial rulings, with individuals eagerly awaiting decisions or executive measures to fulfill their desires, regardless of the legitimacy or feasibility of those demands. Alternatively, rumors may target government statements, documents, or pressing societal needs, manipulating or misrepresenting their context and content to undermine trust in specific entities—particularly those with high credibility among citizens.

The objective is to obscure positive achievements and cast doubt on the credibility of state institutions. This latter form is often perpetrated by exclusionary groups aiming to achieve political objectives.

Means of Dissemination and Targeted Audiences

In the recent past, the dissemination of rumors was primarily confined to their oral transmission within forums and gatherings to ensure their spread among a large number of individuals. Additionally, certain newspapers were employed to publish rumors as readable content, with their circulation further amplified through interpersonal discussions. With the advent of modern electronic media for information exchange, disseminating rumors has become significantly easier, requiring minimal effort compared to traditional methods. This is achieved through websites, electronic journalism, and social media platforms, employing a clustered, sequential, and interconnected approach. The targeted audience varies depending on the nature and content of the rumor, as well as the intended outcomes of its dissemination. For instance, rumors may target business professionals, stock market traders, or bank clients with savings by spreading misinformation about economic conditions or related decisions in areas such as customs, taxation, foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates, stock market news, or gold market trends. Additionally, rumors may pertain to daily issues affecting the general public, such as news about subsidized goods, their scarcity, or shortages, leading to market disruptions, monopolistic practices, and the emergence of parallel markets alongside official trade.



the impact of such a rumor undermines the credibility of the official or the management of the project's activities and its intended benefits. This, in turn, reflects on the performance of specific individuals or institutions. In such cases, the effects of the rumor can be mitigated by addressing its sphere of influence with accurate facts, news, and information to debunk falsehoods and neutralize the rumor's impact.

Rumors may also involve health or medical issues, such as shortages of medications or medical supplies, or the spread of symptoms associated with a particular disease, undermining public confidence in the medical sector and preventive healthcare. This is exacerbated by the proliferation of what is known as mass psychogenic illness, which may manifest collectively in public gatherings. Similarly, rumors are disseminated across various targeted sectors to sow doubt or produce adverse effects.

Identifying and Exposing False Websites and Pages Circulating Rumors

Ordinary readers can ascertain the lack of credibility of websites or pages that propagate and circulate rumors, identifying them for blocking or exposing their falsehoods by recognizing several indicative characteristics, including:

1- These pages or websites are often created under



fictitious names of individuals or entities, utilizing expressive or illustrated profile pictures.

2- The names of such pages or websites typically emphasize the ability to uncover truths, monitor events, or provide exclusive information inaccessible to the average individual.

3- When reported and blocked by affected individuals due to their lack of credibility, these pages are swiftly recreated under the same or a derived name, reposting previously banned content and documents to ensure the rumor's continuity and impact.

4 - Those disseminating and endorsing the rumor are often characterized by extreme opinions on their pages, marked by excessive criticism of societal phenomena. Their comments on published news are typically formulaic or automated in tone, employing harsh language, insults, and accusations of treason or subservience to credible societal entities to deter responses out of fear of reputational damage or exposure to offensive rhetoric.

5- False news may be spread about imminent positive governmental actions or decisions addressing public demands, which are of interest to specific social groups or the general populace. However, such decisions require legislative amendments, the repeal of existing policies, or constitutional procedures, such as parliamentary approval, rendering them unfeasible in the short term. This fosters an atmosphere of frustration and skepticism regarding the government's capacity to implement them.

6- The failure of ordinary readers to scrutinize attached documents and their reliance solely on the written text of the page facilitates the spread of rumors. Conversely, verifying the content of referenced documents can confirm the legitimacy of reported actions, their integrity, and their alignment with public interest. Such documents often reveal the falsehood of the published news, underscoring the need for citizens to exert minimal effort to uncover the truth and expose misleading falsehoods.

The Role of Government and Citizens in Countering Rumors

The responsibility for countering rumors is not solely borne by the state and its affiliated entities but extends to a personal role incumbent upon citizens, as they are the primary targets of rumor dissemination and propagation.

First: The Role of Government

1- The government and state institutions must formulate a comprehensive strategy or sector-specific strategies to combat rumors at all levels—personal (targeting state symbols and public figures), local, national (concerning the state's regional context), or international. These strategies should encompass decisive measures for tracing, analyzing, and debunking rumors, identifying their contradictions and falsehoods to refute them effectively.

2- Delays in addressing rumors, under the pretext of needing time to gather facts and prepare responses, should be avoided. Instead, rumors should be promptly and decisively refuted with balanced statements based on available preliminary information, followed by continuous updates with factual data until a comprehensive final statement is issued.

Those disseminating and endorsing the rumor are often characterized by extreme opinions on their pages, marked by excessive criticism of societal phenomena. Their comments on published news are typically formulaic or automated in tone

on available preliminary information, followed by continuous updates with factual data until a comprehensive final statement is issued.

3- Credible platforms with widespread public reach should be adopted to disseminate news exposing the falsehood of rumors, while monitoring public reactions and comments to identify the most effective methods and formulations for countering and combating rumors.

Second: The Role of Citizens

Citizens constitute the primary target of rumor dissemination and its resulting impact, while simultaneously serving as the cornerstone for exposing and countering falsehoods. This necessitates meticulous selection of credible electronic platforms, websites, and personal pages to follow, coupled with consistent engagement with their content.

Citizens must avoid conflating personal experiences or grievances related to administrative services or procedures with the propagation or circulation of rumors as a means of retaliation for unfulfilled demands. Instead, they should prioritize objectivity and credibility, embodying principles such as self-denial and the prioritization of the public interest.

Citizens should diligently follow official and reliable



sources to ascertain the truth behind circulating information.

Efforts to Combat Rumors

In 2021, the former Public Prosecutor mandated senior prosecutors and heads of prosecution offices to monitor media outlets and social media platforms, initiating criminal proceedings against those disseminating false news, statements, or rumors, in line with the principles of the journalistic code of conduct.

The Media Center of the Council of Ministers has been publishing efforts to combat corruption since 2014, with expectations for this approach to continue annually. These efforts include documenting the most significant rumors targeting development initiatives, analyzing their prevalence across various sectors (e.g., economy, health, education) throughout the year, identifying peak and low prevalence months, and using this data to devise optimal strategies for countering distorted and inaccurate information.

At the level of civil society and professional syndicates, the Journalists' Syndicate launched a center to combat rumors and misinformation on social media platforms,

This has led to research proposing anti-corruption slogans such as "Verify Before You Believe," "Stop It," "Think Before You Share," and "Check for a Minute to Find the Truth."

under the patronage and attendance of senior officials, syndicate leaders, and international news agencies. Numerous state entities have organized events and programs to raise awareness among their employees about cybersecurity measures, personal data protection, rumor countermeasures, and the importance of verifying the accuracy of shared information.

In this context, the Administrative Control Authority has undertaken several initiatives, including:

1-Conducting educational courses for its employees to counter rumors and offering training on cybersecurity and the protection of personal and official information at both national and regional levels, in collaboration with partners from various Arab countries at the National Anti-Corruption Academy.

2-Emphasizing, during the teaching of social marketing in postgraduate diploma and master's programs, the necessity of verifying information accuracy and countering rumors. This has led to research proposing anti-corruption slogans such as "Verify Before You Believe," "Stop It," "Think Before You Share," and "Check for a Minute to Find the Truth." These slogans reflect an effort to align with modern, concise electronic messaging styles to combat rumors effectively.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, the fabrication and dissemination of rumors is a longstanding and persistent phenomenon across human societies, intricately tied to human nature as the most social of creatures. The proliferation of rumors has intensified significantly due to technological advancements and the widespread availability of social media and satellite channels. This has led to confusion and negative consequences, such as the distortion or selective presentation of facts, often exacerbated by superficial understanding and a propensity to believe rumors as a means of coping with surrounding pressures, such as economic or social challenges. Addressing this issue demands substantial effort through a scientific methodology and a clear, practical strategic plan from the state and its institutions, alongside a tangible role for citizens. By exercising critical thinking and accurately assessing surrounding information and false news, citizens can refute rumors and curb their spread, reinforcing values of loyalty and national belonging. This fosters objectivity and constructive criticism as effective tools to support the state's development strategy, paving the way for building a modern, advanced nation.



A Forward-Looking Perspective on Egyptian Strategy



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The annual formulation of national strategies is a critical endeavor for every state, ensuring alignment with the evolving dynamics within its national security spheres. Generally, states adopt long-term strategic visions spanning five years. However, these strategies require annual adjustments to accommodate global political, military, and economic shifts that exert direct or indirect influence on the state. For Egypt, the adoption of well-defined general strategies governs its interactions with global states and blocs, consistent with its sovereignty and national security imperatives. National security serves as the cornerstone and compass guiding Egypt's strategic decision-making and future policy formulation.

Major General Dr/ Samir Farag

■ Former Governor of Luxor - Military Expert

Strategies and Circles of Egyptian National Security

Egypt's strategic framework is shaped by its national security spheres, conceptualized as three intersecting circles: distant, proximate, and hazardous. These spheres are dynamic, adapting to global developments. This discussion focuses on Egypt's strategy toward major global powers, which impact its national security from a distant perspective while simultaneously serving as extensions of its broader security framework. These distant national security spheres encompass the American sphere, the European sphere (excluding Russia), the Russian sphere, the Asian sphere, and the Southwest Asian sphere. Their prioritization is determined based on their significance to Egypt. The United States holds the foremost position among Egypt's distant national security spheres due to several factors, including Egypt's substantial reliance on American military aid, as stipulated under the Camp David Accords. Additionally, the United States' political influence and its current support for Egypt, despite occasional profound disagreements, remain pivotal. Such differences are inherent to the nature of bilateral relations and do not fundamentally alter Egypt's strategic orientation. Following President Joe Biden's assumption of office, and subsequently under President Trump, concerns arose regarding their

respective visions, decisions, and actions. Nevertheless, both leaders have consistently emphasized restoring balance to the political and military relationship between Egypt and the United States. This effort addresses imbalances that emerged during the administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama, whose policies by Egypt as obstinate, exemplified by the suspension of military aid and the cessation of joint military exercises, such as Bright Star, for three years. From another perspective, over recent years, Egypt has emerged as a pivotal regional anchor for the United States, particularly following its success in brokering ceasefires between Palestinian factions and Israel during the fourth and fifth Gaza wars. Egypt's ongoing efforts in the Gaza conflict, which began on October 7, 2023, and has persisted for approximately 19 months, underscore its critical role in de-escalation initiatives, prisoner exchanges, and negotiations involving Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees. The regional landscape following the October 7 war has ushered in a new role for Egypt, positioning it at the forefront of mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel—a role for which Egypt is irreplaceable. Additionally, Egypt serves as the sole conduit for humanitarian aid convoys entering Gaza, whether by land or air. From the outset, Egypt's stance has been unequivocal, rejecting any proposals for the



displacement or relocation of Gaza's population to Sinai while emphasizing the necessity of resolving the Palestinian issue through a two-state solution. This position has garnered U.S. support, as evidenced by multiple visits to Egypt by U.S. Secretaries of State under both the Biden and Trump administrations, as well as visits by the CIA Director, aimed at securing ceasefires and facilitating hostage and prisoner exchanges.

The Egyptian Role in the Middle East and the Axes of Egyptian Foreign Relations

The United States now fully recognizes Egypt's indispensable role in Middle Eastern affairs and its position as a primary driver in the region for the foreseeable future. This acknowledgment will shape the United States' future strategy toward the Middle East, just as it will influence Egypt's strategic approach toward the United States. Egypt requires U.S. support on both political and military fronts, particularly in international forums. Regarding Egypt's strategy toward European countries, which rank second in the hierarchy of Egypt's distant national security spheres, their significance stems from political considerations. The European Union's substantial political influence is vital for Egypt's international positioning. Additionally, geographical proximity to several EU member states along the

Mediterranean coast—such as Spain, France, Italy, Greece, and Cyprus—enhances their importance. These nations share Egypt's national security concerns in the Mediterranean and collaborate in addressing developments in North Africa, particularly the sensitive situation in Libya, which represents a natural extension of Egypt's national security. Furthermore, the military significance of these European countries has grown, as they align with Egypt's policy of diversifying arms procurement. This includes sourcing from French, German, and Italian markets. Notably, Egypt has acquired four state-of-the-art submarines from Germany, as well as four German frigates, three of which are manufactured in Germany, with the fourth to be constructed at the Alexandria Naval Shipyard. These acquisitions have significantly deepened Egyptian-German relations.

Regarding Egyptian-French relations, Egypt's acquisition of Mistral helicopter carriers, naval frigates, and Rafale fighter jets exemplifies the alignment between the two nations. Similarly, Egypt's purchase of Italian frigates underscores strengthened ties with Italy. Joint military exercises conducted with France, Italy, and Greece in the Mediterranean further deepen these military relationships while serving the strategic objective of securing Egypt's natural gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean.



The Knowledge Transformation and Egyptian Education



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Dr. Moataz Khorshid

■ Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research



Since the dawn of the third millennium, the world has been witnessing an unprecedented “global knowledge revolution,” characterized by its multidimensional scientific and technological scope, growing developmental impacts, profound influence, and wide-ranging applications. This revolution is expected to contribute to the establishment of a new global system, linking a nation’s progress and achievement of its comprehensive goals to the necessity of its knowledge transformation in the broadest and most inclusive sense. In this context, policymakers require reliable indicators for comparative measurement of countries’ progress toward a knowledge-based economy and society.

To keep pace with this transformation, analytical indices have been developed to assess countries’ knowledge performance. Among the most prominent are the World Bank’s Knowledge Economy Index (KEI), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Knowledge Economy Index (EBRD KEI), and the Global Knowledge Index (GKI), developed collaboratively by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation.

The Global Knowledge Index evaluates countries’ performance based on seven sectors or pillars that contribute to the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge: pre-university education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education, scientific research and innovation, the knowledge-supporting economy, information and communication technology (ICT), and enabling environments. Since its inception in 2017 through its latest report for 2024, the GKI has successfully outlined general trends in countries’ knowledge performance and identified distinctive characteristics for individual countries or economies. Notably, the GKI allocates approximately 45% of its weighted indicators to the three education sectors (pre-university, TVET, and higher education), reflecting the critical role of education in the desired knowledge transformation process.

In 2024, Egypt achieved a modest knowledge performance, ranking 90th out of 141 countries in the Global Knowledge Index and 86th in the Global Innovation Index. It also secured the 28th position among 35 countries with high human development. Within the knowledge infrastructure sectors, technical and vocational education and training performed the strongest, achieving an above-average global ranking of 43rd out of 141 countries in the GKI. In contrast, the performance of other education sectors was less impressive, with pre-university education and higher education ranking 81st and 107th globally, respectively. In recent years, Egypt’s technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector has achieved significant qualitative strides in knowledge transformation, particularly following its administrative transfer to the Ministry of Education, the formulation of more realistic and modern strategies, and the adoption of policies

that recognize its developmental role in the third millennium. In 2024, the sector secured a global ranking of 43rd in the Global Knowledge Index (GKI), a remarkable improvement from its rankings of 113th in 2017, 103rd in 2018, and 80th in 2020. This progress is attributed, in part, to advancements in the sector’s infrastructure, which reached an impressive 16th place globally in 2024. Additionally, Egypt tied for first place worldwide in the proportion of students enrolled in post-secondary, non-university technical education. Furthermore, the sector saw an improvement in the indicator measuring the share of TVET-related jobs relative to total employment, elevating Egypt to 16th globally in 2024.

Despite this qualitative progress, the TVET sector in Egypt continues to face certain shortcomings that necessitate more impactful policies. A critical area of deficiency is the quality of vocational training, which ranked a low 108th globally in 2024. This modest performance is underscored by Egypt’s 119th ranking in the indicator measuring the proportion of companies offering formal vocational training. Additionally, the average income of workers in high-skill technical education occupations remains relatively low, placing Egypt 96th globally.

While the TVET sector demonstrated notable progress in 2024, achieving a global ranking of 43rd in the GKI, the higher education sector has not witnessed comparable improvements in its knowledge indicators or developmental impacts. In the GKI, higher education ranked a lagging 107th out of 141 countries in 2024. In my view, the decline in Egypt’s higher education rankings—from 95th in 2022 to 107th in 2024, after peaking at 42nd globally in 2020—can be attributed to several factors. First, there is an absence of certain educational indicators, particularly those measuring expenditure on education and its investment allocations from both public and private sectors. For instance, the GKI lacks



The Egyptian technical education and vocational training sector has achieved some of the most significant qualitative leaps in knowledge in Egypt in recent years, following the transfer of its administrative affiliation to the Ministry of Education and the formulation of more realistic and modern strategies.

data on per-student government spending and teachers’ compensation as a percentage of total higher education expenditure. However, the rapid decline in performance is primarily due to modifications introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2021 to the analytical framework for higher education indicators. These modifications

included the addition of two new sets of analytical variables: the first focusing on diversity and academic freedom, and the second measuring higher education outcomes and their alignment with labor market needs. The results of the Global Knowledge Index (GKI) for 2024 indicate that Egypt ranks poorly in the “Academic Freedom and University Independence” indicator, falling to 133rd out of 141 countries. This composite indicator is based on five dimensions: freedom of research and teaching, freedom of academic exchange and publication, institutional autonomy, campus integrity, and academic and cultural expression. This decline raises critical issues



for discussion, notably the increasingly centralized role of the Supreme Council of Universities, its sectoral committees, and specialized councils. Additionally, there is a prevailing trend toward standardizing academic programs, limiting their flexibility and diversity, alongside restrictions on organizing scientific conferences and engaging in scientific and cultural exchanges with the international community.

Given that university independence and the assurance of academic freedoms are widely recognized globally as key criteria for educational quality and achieving human development goals, there is an urgent need for policies to improve the current situation. These include: Redefining the Role of the Supreme Council of Universities: This should align with global trends toward university autonomy by focusing on formulating strategic visions and directions for higher education and defining the knowledge and developmental roles of universities in the third millennium.

Granting Universities Greater Freedom: Universities should be empowered to develop their strategic visions and future plans regarding their educational and research models and funding mechanisms, provided they meet standards of quality, academic excellence, and desired differentiation.

Affirming Faculty and Administrative Autonomy: Faculty members and academic administrators should have the independence to select educational and research



The role of the Supreme Council of Universities should be reformulated to align with the global trend toward university autonomy by focusing on developing strategic visions and directions for higher education, and defining the intellectual and developmental role of universities in the third millennium.

programs in line with their universities' strategic visions and society's expectations for the role of higher education and scientific research in building human capital. Strengthening the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation: This body's independence and pivotal role in ensuring the quality of Egyptian universities must be reinforced.

On another note, the new framework introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2021 incorporated labor market outcomes for higher education graduates as an evaluation criterion. Within this framework, Egypt ranked a low 130th globally in 2024 in the unemployment rate among individuals with advanced education. This indicator reflects a broader trend of low performance across Arab countries in North Africa and West Asia (with the exception of Gulf states). In reality, the higher education sector is responsible only for the "supply side" of this issue, namely its inability to produce graduates equipped for third-millennium labor markets. The "demand side," however, is determined by deficiencies in providing suitable job opportunities within the national economy's sectors. Thus, this indicator represents a shared responsibility among the government, the productive business sector, and the education system. However, this conceptual disagreement regarding the higher education sector's responsibility for unemployment rates should not obscure Egypt's performance shortcomings. Despite unprecedented expansion and diversification in higher education institutions, Egypt continues to suffer from a low proportion of its workforce holding advanced education degrees. The current increase in university enrollment capacity is expected to improve the indicator for the proportion of the workforce with advanced education, which ranked 130th globally in 2024. Additionally, the indicator for the average student-to-faculty ratio in universities showed modest performance, with Egypt ranking 95th globally. This metric is also expected to improve with the ongoing expansion in higher education capacity. Finally, the analytical indicator for completion



rates of master's and doctoral degrees in Egypt recorded a low ranking of 105th globally in 2024. Combined with the recent decline in graduate program enrollment, this suggests a diminishing role for Egyptian universities in knowledge production and dissemination in the third millennium.

Despite the challenges outlined previously, the higher education sector in Egypt witnessed positive developments in 2024. For instance, Egypt achieved a mid-tier ranking of 51st globally in research collaboration between universities and productive companies. This achievement is a direct result of implementing the current strategy for higher education and scientific research, which emphasizes regional alliances across Egypt's seven regions. These alliances bring together universities, research centers, and productive businesses in goods and services to meet the economic and social development goals of each region. Additionally, the proportion of full-time researchers in higher education relative to the total workforce secured an impressive 35th place globally, a key indicator reflecting the growing research and innovation capacities of Egyptian universities in the current knowledge era. Furthermore, the ratio of female to male faculty members in universities ranked 24th globally, and the indicator for equity and inclusion in the educational system achieved an 18th-place global ranking in 2024. These accomplishments contribute to



The higher education sector witnessed positive developments in 2024, including achieving an intermediate ranking (51) in the field of research cooperation between universities and production companies. This is a direct result of the implementation of the National Strategy for Higher Education and Scientific Research

improving the overall climate of the higher education system, particularly in achieving its social objectives and fostering enabling environments.

However, the pre-university education sector has experienced a gradual decline in performance. After achieving a mid-tier ranking of 72nd globally in 2021, it dropped to 79th in 2022, 80th in 2023, and further to 81st in 2024. The results indicate that this decline is largely due to modest expenditure levels and insufficient focus on early childhood education. The composite indicator for pre-university education expenditure ranked a low 116th globally in 2024. Specifically, government spending on primary education fell to 106th globally, and per-student government expenditure as a percentage of per capita GDP ranked 107th out of 141 countries analyzed in the Global Knowledge Index (GKI). Given that public pre-university education accounts for the majority of students in Egypt, there is a pressing need to increase both capital and operational spending beyond the levels stipulated in the 2013 Constitution. Additionally, early childhood education enrollment rates recorded a low global ranking of 109th. This stage is critical for shaping a child's personality, cognitive abilities, and social skills, necessitating increased investment and a distinct organizational and intellectual vision.

Despite these weaknesses in Egypt's pre-university education system, there are notable strengths that can be leveraged to enhance knowledge performance. A key indicator is the number of compulsory schooling years before children are legally eligible to enter the labor market, where Egypt ranks an impressive 3rd globally. This indicator aligns with international conventions affirming the human right to education and supports the development of an educated human capital, a critical requirement of the knowledge era. Additionally, Egypt ranked 17th globally in the completion rate of upper secondary education, reflecting the Egyptian society's commitment to sustaining education through the secondary stage, thereby increasing opportunities for higher education enrollment.

Administrative
Control Authority
Building in the New
Capital City

The Evolving Role of Human Resources Development in Regulatory Bodies and Agencies Amid Social, Economic, and Political Changes



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الوطن

Undersecretary/
Ahmed Nour

■ Head of the Human Resources Sector, (ACA)



Over the past few decades, the world has witnessed profound and impactful transformations across social, economic, political, and technological domains, which have directly influenced the nature of operations within regulatory bodies, agencies, and institutions, particularly those considered pillars of the state in establishing and implementing principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability. These bodies are tasked with ensuring that government and non-government operations align with the state's developmental objectives. Amid these changes, the role of human resources management in public institutions, and particularly in regulatory bodies, has evolved beyond the traditional personnel affairs function—focused on recruitment, transfers, payroll, and deductions—to become a pivotal strategic element in enhancing the performance of regulatory bodies and achieving their strategic oversight and developmental goals.



Human resources management, like all administrative sciences, is both a science and an art. It is the unit responsible for planning, organizing, developing, and evaluating individuals within an organization. Its role has evolved from a purely administrative function tasked with maintaining records and ensuring regulatory compliance to an integrated strategic role that directly contributes to realizing an organization's vision, particularly in state regulatory bodies bearing significant responsibilities amid contemporary changes.



Recent years have demonstrated that human resources management is no longer merely a supportive service function but has become a strategic tool ensuring the effectiveness of regulatory bodies and agencies in a dynamic and complex work environment.

Specificity and Functions of Human Resources Development in Regulatory Institutions

No one can deny the unique nature of the tasks assigned to regulatory bodies, which necessitates a distinct organizational structure characterized by flexibility to adapt to rapid and contemporary changes. This requires

prudent human resources management, particularly in the stages of attracting and selecting candidates for employment. Oversight roles demand individuals with high competence, impartiality, independence, integrity, and the ability to adapt to ongoing pressures and changes while maintaining effective performance. Human resources management is considered prudent when it applies governance principles to its operations, optimally invests in the talents and capabilities of its workforce, identifies and empowers talented and distinguished individuals both technically and administratively, and evaluates their performance in alignment with the strategic objectives of regulatory bodies or institutions, consistent with the state's broader strategic goals.

In light of society's direct exposure to global changes in recent times, which have altered some values and behaviors among individuals as a natural result of globalization, open communication systems, and digital interconnectedness, newer generations of employees have been instilled with a drive to seek work environments that promote empowerment, participation, and a balance between professional and personal life, alongside financial incentives. For regulatory bodies and institutions, these shifts have necessitated a review of internal policies to attract young talent and integrate them into the oversight system. This includes adopting flexible work models that balance job demands with employees' personal lives, redesigning training and development programs

to align with modern learning methods, and promoting motivational leadership over traditional authoritative approaches. Additionally, fostering a culture of integrity and institutional loyalty among new employees is essential, as they are a central and active component of the oversight system.

The economic pressures affecting most countries have introduced another dimension to the operational methodologies of institutions and organizations in general, and anti-corruption and regulatory bodies in particular. These pressures became particularly evident following economic crises, natural disasters, or health emergencies, such as the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such challenges have compelled regulatory bodies to enhance internal efficiency and optimize spending without compromising performance quality. Human resources management has played a pivotal and vital role in this context by restructuring job roles, eliminating redundancies, improving performance through regular and comprehensive evaluations, and implementing performance-based incentive systems to boost productivity. Instead of expanding recruitment, investment in human resources through training, skill development, and expertise enhancement has been prioritized. Moreover, the shift toward digitalization and smart institutional operations has underscored the importance of a workforce capable of leveraging modern technological tools in oversight roles. This has added a new burden to human resources departments, which must secure these rare competencies amid competition from other organizations, alongside the challenge of providing suitable training systems for such talent.

There is a close connection between reforms, political stability, and the vigorous pursuit of promoting transparency and integrity, as well as adopting clear methodologies to combat corruption. This has placed

regulatory bodies and institutions at the forefront of aligning with reform policies across all sectors. This shift has significantly impacted human resources management, which has tightened standards of integrity, transparency, and merit-based recruitment, while applying governance principles to the selection,

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The evolving social, economic, and political landscape has presented several challenges to human resources management within regulatory bodies and agencies, as a natural outcome of modernization and development. One of the most prominent challenges is the relatively low appeal of employment opportunities in these entities compared to other sectors, particularly in roles related to data analysis, database creation, and management.”

evaluation, and rotation of employees and roles. Additionally, independent human resources committees have been established to ensure integrity in recruitment processes, and individual performance outcomes have been linked to the overarching objectives of the regulatory institution. During this period, there has been an increased demand for specialized roles, such as those involving administrative and financial data analysis, risk management, and the creation, security, and maintenance of information networks. This has prompted human resources departments to update recruitment criteria and retrain existing staff to meet these demands. With the accelerated pace of digital infrastructure and transformation, regulatory bodies and agencies are now

required to adopt artificial intelligence tools, big data analytics, and electronic oversight. This technological advancement has necessitated that human resources departments adapt to these changes by reformulating training plans to include digital and analytical skills, recruiting specialized talent in fields like cybersecurity and systems analysis, and establishing and activating digital platforms for managing human resources functions, such as performance management and career path planning. Consequently, fostering a culture of change and digital transformation within regulatory bodies has become essential. Big data and predictive analytics have also become integral tools for evaluation and development within human resources, directly and significantly contributing to improving the efficiency and quality of decisions related to the human element.

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The success of regulatory bodies and agencies in fulfilling their oversight roles and achieving governance objectives depends significantly on the efficiency and effectiveness of their human resources. Consequently, this represents the most critical test of human resources management's ability to keep pace with development and modernization, address challenges, and overcome them through leadership systems grounded in change management methodologies and strategic administration.”

Challenges and Difficulties and How to Overcome Them

There is no doubt that these changes have imposed challenges on human resources management within regulatory bodies and agencies as a natural outcome of modernization and development. Among the most prominent challenges is the relatively low appeal of employment in regulatory bodies compared to other sectors, particularly in roles related to data analysis, database creation, management, and output development, which may lead to a partial loss of talent in these specialties. Additionally, internal resistance to change within organizations, driven by entrenched bureaucratic traditions and some employees' apprehension about adopting modernized practices, has been a significant hurdle. Further challenges include the lengthy procedures for approving modern evaluation and merit-based frameworks, as well as the difficulty in securing distinguished specialists to train and enhance the skills of talented individuals in artificial intelligence and information technology. Some countries continue to strive to protect the proprietary advancements in these fields, treating them as competitive advantages that are not easily transferable or teachable, unlike other sciences.

Modern approaches to enhancing human resources role This has necessitated the development of innovative approaches to enhance the role of human resources management systems and methodologies in regulatory bodies to overcome these challenges and keep pace with progress. Some proposed approaches include adopting a Strategic Human Resource Management (Strategic HRM) model, ensuring that every administrative decision aligns with the strategic plans of the regulatory body or agency. This has resulted in establishing specialized units within the human resources organizational structure to manage talent and competencies through integrating artificial intelligence systems into performance analysis, including psychometric testing, ensuring transparency in promotion, evaluation, and job rotation policies, establishing partnerships with universities and research centers to develop specialized training programs for employees of regulatory bodies, fostering an ethical and professional work environment to ensure sustained integrity in oversight functions, and encouraging regulatory bodies to promote values of integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption measures. In conclusion, recent years have demonstrated that human resources management is no longer merely a supportive service function but has become a strategic tool ensuring the effectiveness of regulatory bodies in a dynamic and complex work environment. The success of these bodies in fulfilling their oversight roles and achieving governance objectives depends significantly on the efficiency and effectiveness of their human resources. Consequently, this represents the most critical test of human resources management's ability to keep pace with development and modernization, address challenges, and overcome them through leadership systems grounded in change management and goal-oriented administration. It is essential to employ mechanisms that anticipate future trends to develop plans for addressing new developments or outcomes of operational systems. Thus, it must be emphasized that the future of oversight work is intrinsically linked to the future of human resources management within it, necessitating continuous development of policies, mechanisms, and approaches to align with the demands of the era and the requirements of a modern, ever-evolving state.

The APNAC Network: The Parliamentarian and the Challenge of Combating Corruption



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Democracy is characterized by the sovereignty of the people, who hold supreme power, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. One of the foundational principles of democracy is the balanced separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The legislative branch, in particular, plays a critical role in formulating laws, which serve as the bedrock of democratic governance. Beyond lawmaking, the legislature represents the sovereign people and oversees the actions of the executive branch, namely the government.

Dr/ Fabrice Fifonsi

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In this regard, parliamentarians play a pivotal role in strengthening democracy, including upholding the rule of law through the promotion of good governance and the fight against corruption, particularly in their oversight functions. Consequently, citizens expect parliamentarians to exhibit a high degree of ethical conduct in both their public/professional and private lives. They anticipate that parliamentarians will serve with conviction and a commitment to the public interest, rather than pursuing power for personal ambitions. In return, parliamentarians are granted the legitimate authority to make decisions that shape the welfare of the state and its citizens.

The failure of parliamentarians to meet these expectations can significantly undermine not only citizens' trust in the ability of their representatives and elected officials to act in the public interest but also the legitimacy of the state and its institutions. At best, this may lead to cynicism and apathy among citizens. At worst, it raises fundamental questions about the entire political system. It is therefore imperative that elected representatives adhere to established ethical standards. This necessity is particularly pronounced for parliamentarians who have voluntarily committed to the fight against corruption. As representatives and elected officials of the people, parliamentarians play a preeminent role in combating corruption. Throughout the legislative and budgetary processes, and through their oversight and monitoring

of governmental actions, parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to establish an essential legal framework for preventing and reducing corruption, oversee the implementation of laws and development policies, and serve as a vital intermediary between the government and the citizens they represent. By embodying a culture of governance, they promote environments where transparency, accessibility, and accountability are upheld. Since its inception, the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) has consistently emphasized the necessity for its members to lead rigorous and exemplary public and private lives, demonstrating through their actions a steadfast commitment to maintaining high ethical standards, even when confronted with various challenges in their families and political activities. This exhortation is undoubtedly commendable, and those members who strive to uphold it deserve recognition. However, one particularly complex and problematic aspect of parliamentary ethics pertains to the financing of elections and the broader electoral process. This is an area where APNAC's national chapters should be actively engaged, particularly in the periods leading up to and during electoral consultations in their respective countries. Consequently, the "Development of a Code of Ethics and a Handbook/Manual on Anti-Corruption" should be a priority for national chapters within their respective parliaments. This is especially critical given that, beyond the rhetoric delivered in various



Combating
Corruption



forums, there is a pressing need for “mechanisms” that clearly articulate to parliamentarians the expectations of citizens and delineate what constitutes a breach of public ethics. Such mechanisms, including a Code of Ethics or Conduct, must be rigorously developed, strengthened, and duly publicized to enhance parliamentarians’ accountability to both the parliament and the general public.

Once standards are established by a group of parliamentarians (whether members of APNAC or not) in a given country, there is hope that these standards will not only serve as a benchmark for assessing the performance and ethical conduct of APNAC members but also, ultimately, be adopted by parliaments or national assemblies for all parliamentarians. About the APNAC Network The African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) is an organization dedicated to coordinating, engaging, and building the capacity of African parliamentarians to combat corruption and promote good governance. Since its establishment in 1999 in Kampala, Uganda, APNAC has worked to foster accountability, transparency, and citizen participation in governmental processes as the most effective means of controlling corruption. APNAC operates through national chapters established



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in various parliaments across Southern, Central, Western, and Eastern Africa. These chapters, among other activities, share best practices and knowledge among themselves and collaborate with other anti-corruption bodies within their countries, across Africa, and globally. APNAC represents Africa within the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

Main Objectives of the APNAC Network

The primary objectives of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) are as follows:

- To strengthen the capacities of parliamentarians in their oversight roles, particularly with regard to issues related to public financial management and development;
- To share knowledge on the best strategies and practices for combating corruption among national chapters and other agencies/institutions with similar missions;
- To promote exemplary experiences in reducing corruption by highlighting public policies that set benchmarks in the field;
- To collaborate with other organizations and civil society groups that share the same vision to push back the boundaries of corruption.

Structure, Functioning, Achievements, and Prospects
As stipulated in its 2013 Charter, APNAC’s governing body is a Board of Directors, which is responsible for formulating the organization’s policies. This board is elected during a biennial general assembly, which primarily brings together all national chapters. Broadly, the board undertakes all necessary or beneficial actions for the proper conduct of APNAC’s affairs that are not explicitly provided for in the Charter. The Board of Directors strives, as far as possible, to reflect regional, linguistic, and gender diversity. It consists of ten (10) elected members, including a president, a vice-president, and two representatives from each of the four geographical blocs of sub-Saharan Africa: Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern. The Executive Director serves as the organization’s Secretary and is an ex officio member of the board without voting rights.

One of the responsibilities of the APNAC Secretariat is to support national chapters by developing effective tools



to identify instances and pockets of corruption. This enhances the network’s capacity to engage in the fight against corruption, particularly in the processes of state budget formulation and execution. Consequently, based on mobilized resources, the network has undertaken a series of advocacy campaigns aimed at addressing critical issues in collaboration with identified partner parliaments. In certain cases, this approach may involve proposing amendments to outdated laws—those rendered ineffective due to changes in procedural forms, the adoption of new reforms, or the discovery of gaps in existing legislation revealed during implementation. In some instances, this logically entails the introduction of new legislative proposals to address specific concerns, the launch of public awareness campaigns on corruption through media, and demands for the executive to respond to specific corruption-related questions. These advocacy efforts may take the form of pilot projects led by the relevant national chapters. Specifically, certain national chapters have distinguished themselves through their remarkable work. Notably, APNAC-Benin has made significant strides with its legislative proposals on public-private partnerships, which have explored financing, construction, operation, maintenance, and the transfer of infrastructure development by the private sector, as well as the management of requisitions in infrastructure projects. Similarly, APNAC-Ghana’s proposals to revise the Public Procurement Act and the



“parliamentarians play a preeminent role in combating corruption. Throughout the legislative and budgetary processes, and through their oversight and monitoring of governmental actions, parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to establish an essential legal framework for preventing and reducing corruption,”

law on petroleum revenue management have garnered favorable responses within communities.

As for APNAC-Senegal, the focus has been on laws promoting transparency, including asset declaration, political party financing, and conflict of interest regulations.

The national chapters of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia have distinguished themselves through exceptional work in developing tools and manuals for oversight, codes of ethics, and public financial management legislation. Similarly, chapters such as those in Côte d’Ivoire, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe have not lagged behind, demonstrating significant activism that has influenced numerous public policies and spurred reforms in their respective countries.

Following its general assembly held in 2022 in Cotonou, and after a thorough assessment of the network’s status, several avenues for reflection and action were formulated as recommendations. Primarily, these urge member national chapters, with the support of their partners, to equip the network with the necessary funds and resources to organize effectively and advance the fight against corruption through concrete actions across the continent. The key issues raised include, among others, the threat of modern terrorism and the security crisis (or challenge), institutional and/or constitutional instabilities within our states, and the domestication and implementation of international and regional anti-corruption instruments.

Addressing these issues in an objective, scientific, and impartial manner equips parliamentarians with the essential tools to contribute to the numerous ongoing reforms across the continent. This strengthens their roles in their various functions and repositions them on the critical dimensions of parliamentary ethics and the complex issue of accountability, which citizens expect them to uphold. Such efforts contribute to reinforcing the democratic system and the stability of republican institutions, which enjoy autonomy and independence while collaborating for the benefit of communities and states.



Soft Hegemony: How Cultures Erode in the Digital Age?!



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Khaled Al-Barmawi

■ Digital Media Expert



Throughout history, the world has witnessed various forms of hegemony and control, yet none have reached the level of subtlety and pervasiveness observed in the contemporary era. The emergent digital power manifests as a silent, soft force—seemingly gentle yet profoundly impactful and rapidly disseminated. It imposes itself quietly, establishing a novel and covert paradigm of dominance unprecedented in historical annals. Unlike the overt aggression of traditional conquerors or colonial powers, this form of hegemony conceals itself behind the rhetoric of “globalization” and “technological progress.” It reshapes our lifestyles, consumption patterns, and even our awareness of local societal issues. In the digital age, hegemony no longer operates through conventional colonial mechanisms but adopts a glossy, modern, and “trendy” façade that infiltrates through smart screens. Embedded within this allure lies an existential threat to the identities, cultures, and diversity of peoples.

This introduction might suggest an opposition to the “digital age,” a stance that could be misconstrued given our recognition of technology’s advantages and the pivotal role of digital content systems and analytical frameworks in various facets of daily life. The position toward digital and technological advancement has not wavered or shifted; rather, it is the reality that has transformed. Simply put, the balance appears to tip increasingly toward the negative, with dangers looming large and imminent, while serious solutions remain elusive. Thus, driven by a commitment to objectivity, it becomes imperative to issue a cautionary note to all through this platform, Dameer Al-Watan magazine. The potential adverse effects of digital hegemony become particularly destructive when we consider the fate of cultures and folk heritage among nations and peoples with limited digital presence, regardless of their commanding real-world influence rooted in geography and history—such as the case of Egypt. These cultures face the overpowering allure of a glossy, packaged, and near-uniform cultural model prevalent across global digital platforms.

Deconstructing the Structure of Digital Hegemony

At the apex of the digital hegemony ecosystem sits the “GAFAM” consortium, comprising Google, Amazon, Facebook (Meta), Apple, and Microsoft. Collectively, these corporations boast a market valuation of approximately 12 trillion USD, equivalent to 11.4% of

global GDP—a figure comparable to the combined GDP of all African and South American nations. As described by economic researcher Nick Srnicek in his book *Platform Capitalism*, these titans of digital capitalism exert control not through weaponry but via digital applications and services. These include search engines, social networks, content platforms, e-commerce, operating systems, cloud computing, smart devices, and artificial intelligence. Their unprecedented influence spans knowledge, culture, economy, and politics, enabling them to directly dictate the nature and flow of information: what is published, what is sold, what is purchased, who sees what, and how users interact. This dynamic poses a tangible threat to cultural diversity.

The dominance of Silicon Valley giants represents the primary incubator of digital hegemony, monopolizing most tributaries of the digital economy and wielding power equivalent to over half the internet’s influence. It is critical to clarify that this digital ruling class does not necessarily operate with malicious intent or conspiratorial motives, as some might assume. Rather, it is driven by a singular motive: maximizing profitability. This understanding prompts a pivotal question about how collective human consciousness is shaped in the digital age and whose interests it serves. Over the past fifteen years, the profound impact of these platforms on political movements, both regionally and globally, has been evident.

This dominance thrives only within a fragile framework of legislation, regulations, and policies, enabling the creation of the largest monopolistic model the world has ever known. Whenever a competitor, however small, emerges, it is swiftly absorbed through acquisitions, as seen with WhatsApp, YouTube, GitHub, LinkedIn, Instagram, DeepMind, Siri, and Vine. These once-promising ventures were quickly subsumed into the GAFAM fold, ensuring its continued dominance and the suppression of alternatives.

The Loss of Cultural Heritage

Approximately a year ago, UNESCO warned that nearly half of the world’s linguistic systems, scripts, and cultural heritage are inadequately represented on digital platforms. It further noted that 40% of the world’s active languages face extinction within a few years. This includes many indigenous languages still in use in the physical world, yet the virtual realm tells a different story. According to UNESCO’s *Atlas of Endangered Languages*, 50% of online content is in English, with nine other major languages accounting for 48% of internet content. The remaining 190



**GAFAM Giants Dominate
Digital Landscape,
Commanding \$12 Trillion
Market Value**

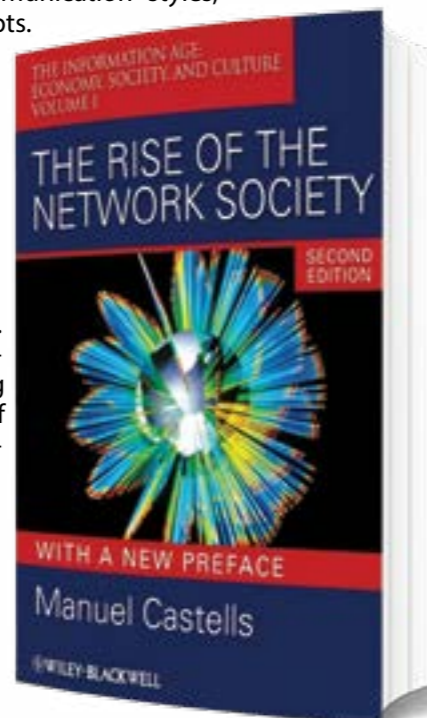
recognized languages share a mere 2%, leaving no room for the other 7,000 languages spoken by the world's peoples.

The absence of equitable linguistic representation in the digital sphere foreshadows a catastrophic process of cultural extinction and loss. This is not merely the erosion of communication tools but the dissipation of millennia of human effort. Language is not just a medium of communication; it is a repository of a people's cultural identity, reflecting their history and lexicon. Excluding a language from the digital world diminishes its presence and influence in reality, particularly among younger generations who spend significant time online. According to the Global Digital Report 2024, young people spend an average of six and a half hours daily on the internet, with this figure rising by an additional two hours in Arab countries, notably Egypt and Saudi Arabia. This poses an existential threat to linguistic and cultural heritage and collective identity. Preserving and transmitting a nation's heritage and values to future generations becomes increasingly challenging. When a culture lacks digital representation, it loses not only its presence but its authenticity, becoming vulnerable to distorted interpretations by external parties that may lack understanding of its historical and cultural context. The claims of the "Afrocentric" movement regarding the construction of the pyramids serve as a stark example of such misrepresentation.

Content Centralization

In his seminal work *The Rise of the Network Society*, Professor Manuel Castells highlighted that information networks have become the primary tool for reshaping society. He described this phenomenon as "digital colonialism," wherein Western cultural and behavioral models are imposed on Global South populations through digital platforms. This hegemony operates covertly, not through brute force but through systematic design, enforcing a uniform cultural model encompassing standards of beauty, behavioral norms, communication styles, language, and trending concepts.

Such imposition undermines the right of peoples to express their unique differences and diversity. Recently, scholars in digital anthropology have increasingly adopted the term "digital colonialism" to describe how dominant cultural models are imposed via digital platforms controlled by giant digital entities. These platforms adhere to quasi-standardized criteria, inundating users with vast amounts of information that reinforce pre-existing biases while obscuring differences and diversity. This process weakens critical thinking and deepens polarization, a phenomenon known as "filter bubbles." As articulated by tech



entrepreneur Eli Pariser in his book *The Filter Bubble*, these bubbles create a disguised cultural isolation. Pariser warned that recommendation algorithms confine users to a narrow epistemic range, exposing them only to content aligned with their inclinations, thereby fostering "echo chambers." In these closed digital environments, individuals lose opportunities to engage with diverse cultures and perspectives, perpetuating intellectual insularity, undermining creative cultural exchange, and gradually eroding authentic local values and practices.

This inexorable trend drives the homogenization of cultural patterns, encouraging populations to consume a standardized global cultural model for ease of commercial marketing and promotion. Just as standardizing a single food category is simpler than managing diversity, this uniform model dominates even languages and everyday expressions, as seen in the prevalence of abbreviations and emojis among youth. This extends beyond aesthetics to the adoption of uniform beauty standards that marginalize and mock deviations, often through ridicule or bullying. Even thought patterns are similarly standardized toward a "binary" mode, where extreme behaviors capture the attention of algorithms designed to maximize engagement rather than elevate human values.

The Greater Dilemma

With the advent of the artificial intelligence (AI) era, humanity stands at a critical historical juncture. While AI is undoubtedly a promising force for the future, questions persist regarding its guiding compass.



Castells Warns of 'Digital Colonialism' Reshaping Global South via Tech Platforms

Some rank it among the foremost challenges facing humanity in the 21st century, particularly given its frenetic development in the absence of robust legal and ethical frameworks.

This portends an exacerbation of digital hegemony and its devastating impact on marginalized cultures. For instance, most AI models struggle to grasp the nuanced cultural contexts of less prevalent languages. This neglect not only marginalizes these cultures but also risks reproducing them in distorted or misleading forms. Such dynamics entrench the dominance of major languages and cultures in future AI models, rendering fair and accurate representation of other cultures a formidable challenge. Leading AI models, such as Gemini, ChatGPT, Grok, and Meta, were trained on vast datasets predominantly derived from Western cultures, inevitably reinforcing American perspectives and interests in fields like



economics, education, content, and culture. Two years ago, Italian researcher Joy Buolamwini founded the Algorithmic Justice League, exposing glaring biases in commercial AI systems, particularly in facial recognition technologies, which demonstrated lower accuracy for individuals with non-white skin. These biases extend beyond human aspects to encompass cultural and linguistic dimensions, further compounding the challenge of equitable representation.

What Lies Ahead

Confronting this pervasive and subtle cultural hegemony demands more than mere warnings or lamentations over humanity's heritage. A genuine digital resistance must be launched, beginning internally through a redefinition of the relationship between the state, society, and cultural heritage in the digital age. Preserving paper archives or expanding traditional museums is no longer sufficient. What is required now is the transformation of heritage—in all its forms, colors, differences, and perspectives—into data that is shareable, interactive, and aligned with the logic of digital platforms, rather than static copies confined to drawers.

Envisioning Egypt's National Digitization Project To this end, Egypt must urgently establish digital repositories for oral traditions, databases for folk

songs, crafts, dances, humor, and even popular myths, translating them into AI models in our languages and dialects to integrate them into algorithmic data streams.



Urgent Call to Digitize Oral Heritage for AI Integration in Local Languages

Dozens of platforms are needed to narrate the Egyptian story from the heart of its society, employing diverse digital languages, formats, and styles.

This requires supporting serious local content creators with tools, funding, and training to tell their stories in ways that compete rather than imitate.

Egypt, the cradle of civilization and the first voice of human conscience, cannot remain a bystander as its narrative erodes under the onslaught of platform cultures that do not speak its language. Egypt, which authored the earliest tales and carved the first symbols, is capable of launching a bold national project to digitize a heritage that is not confined to archives but liberated to endure in the realm of data, as it has endured for millennia on its sacred soil. The battle today is not about who owns history and heritage but about who narrates it. Those absent from the digital stage risk fading from memory, even if they live on in the pages of history.

Can the Next Generation Fight Corruption in the «AI» Era?



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Dr/ Marwa El-Hefnawy

■ Expert in Fifth-Generation (5G) Communications and Artificial Intelligence Technologies



Science and knowledge are among the most critical pillars for the advancement and progress of any nation, followed closely by the efficiency of their application, which depends on the human element and the tools employed. However, if the human element lacks ethics and a conscientious moral compass, science can transform into a tool that harms humanity as a whole. A prime example is artificial intelligence (AI), which can serve as a beneficial tool for humankind, delivering significant advantages, saving time and effort, and achieving highly accurate results for practical and everyday tasks. Yet, at the same time, in the hands of those who abandon their conscience, AI can become a destructive instrument that undermines the interests and lives of others, potentially leading to tragedies or even the devastation of entire populations.



Youth Responsibility in the Age of Technology In the era of technology, the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions, which we are currently experiencing, we must not overlook the significant responsibility placed on the shoulders of youth. This responsibility extends beyond merely learning about artificial intelligence to leveraging it across various specialized fields, understanding its benefits and risks, and promoting this informed awareness throughout society. Such efforts ensure widespread benefits while enabling society to mitigate and address AI's potential harms when necessary.

Youth Engagement with AI: Two Case Studies Within this context, two experiences highlight the enthusiasm of youth for learning about AI in a positive and constructive manner.

The Aswan Simulation Model

The first experience took place in Aswan. In line with the Administrative Control Authority's commitment to providing new and diverse opportunities for youth to acquire skills aligned with the era of information technology and to enhance societal awareness, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, in collaboration with partners including the Economic Governance Project under USAID, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, and Aswan University, organized a simulation model of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. This event, held under the patronage of the Aswan Governorate in 2023, involved over 150 university students from various disciplines in Aswan. My participation in this model, particularly through my lecture on artificial intelligence, its tools for combating corruption, and its associated risks and challenges, as well as the subsequent discussion session and group work, showcased the students' remarkable ideas. These ideas demonstrated



Artificial intelligence faces three primary challenges: the first is the challenge of data, the second is the challenge of algorithms, and the third is the challenge of human nature. Any flaw in these challenges can impair the functionality of an AI tool and even lead to its misuse for purposes that could harm individuals, systems, or entire nations.

their passion and keen interest in utilizing technology for constructive purposes.

The Aswan lecture began by addressing key definitions, particularly the general definition of artificial intelligence: the design and development of intelligent computer systems, such as robots, capable of processing, simulating, and performing tasks with intelligence akin to that of humans.

AI possesses diverse capabilities, including performing vast amounts of complex computations in a short time—sometimes in mere seconds or fractions of a second—as well as making predictions, interpreting, and analyzing data. Consequently, advanced AI tools can make rapid and intelligent decisions.

We also discussed the concept of “machine learning,” a subset of AI that uses data and algorithms to develop specific models, which in turn generate more accurate results and predictions, mimicking human learning



a simulation model of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption 2023

behavior. Examples were provided of predictions enabled by machine learning models, such as forecasting stock prices, detecting financial and credit fraud, medical diagnostics, and predicting corruption risks.

One of the key questions addressed during the lecture was: How did the connection between AI and anti-corruption efforts begin? The answer lies in the vast amounts of data held by numerous institutions, financial organizations, and major corporations. These entities began using data analytics and basic programming to identify risks, compliance concerns, and predict hazardous transactions and relationships. However, reviewing such data and identifying patterns and probabilities required deeper and more precise analysis in record time. This is where AI stepped in, performing highly complex tasks swiftly. Early positive impacts of AI were evident in several cases brought before courts in various countries between 2000 and 2012, where machine learning successfully predicted public corruption based on economic and political factors. Examples include cases related to tax evasion, price manipulation for the benefit of certain entities or individuals, violations by deposit institutions (e.g., banks), non-financial companies (e.g., insurance firms), and crimes involving the misappropriation of public funds. We also explored the advantages of using AI tools compared to traditional anti-corruption efforts, including their ability to analyze, classify, and track complex and emerging corruption schemes, and to make consistent decisions unaffected by conflicts of interest, time pressures, or fatigue. Additionally, we discussed the essential factors for building an AI system capable of making highly professional and transparent decisions. However, the question remains: Is there any technological field in today's world that does not face challenges?

The answer is undoubtedly no. Every technological field has its own challenges, and for artificial intelligence (AI), there are three primary ones: the challenge of data, the challenge of algorithms, and the challenge of human nature. Any flaw in these areas can compromise an AI tool, potentially leading to its misuse for purposes that harm individuals, systems, or entire nations. Numerous examples illustrate this type of harm, such as the use of deepfake technology to create videos featuring celebrities, politicians, or others to manipulate public opinion in certain societies, promote specific political agendas, or advocate ideas contrary to ethical values. These actions often benefit individuals or entities undeserving of

such gains. The healthcare sector is not immune to such misuse either. For instance, an AI tool designed to diagnose diseases like cancer could be manipulated by inputting an X-ray image from a different angle, known to the person operating the device, resulting in a false negative diagnosis to fraudulently claim funds from health insurance companies.

The Need for Societal Awareness Having highlighted several examples that pose real challenges not only to AI tools but also to the humans developing them, it becomes our duty to raise societal awareness about the risks of misusing AI. Such misuse can lead to severe consequences, including cybercrimes, the erosion of human creativity, injustice, bias toward certain individuals or entities, and many other issues. Through discussing these risks, we may reach the realization that AI itself could contribute to corruption rather than combat it if used by corrupt individuals. This raises the question: Should the development and use of AI systems proceed without ethical standards and legal frameworks? The answer is no. Many countries worldwide are developing new



Egyptian youth demonstrate a strong desire to learn everything new, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence, as it represents a step toward the future. They also possess the capability to manage it effectively to maximize its benefits. However, young people consistently need a culture of awareness regarding this technological innovation and its advantages.

approaches, studies, and organizations to research the ethics and responsible use of AI, often referred to as “responsible AI.”

Discussion Session and Group Work

Following the lecture and addressing the students' questions, which reflected their deep understanding of AI's importance in our era and their enthusiasm for learning about new developments, I organized an educational group activity. The students were asked to imagine themselves as a team—whether as auditors,



The “Excellence in Participation” seminar 2 Cairo International Book Fair, Session 55

inspectors, an anti-corruption unit in a company, or founders of a startup—and consider how they would use AI tools to address one of the following issues: fraud, bribery, data leaks, conflicts of interest, or discrimination. They were also tasked with identifying the inputs and outputs of these tools.

The students' ideas and outcomes were impressive, demonstrating innovative approaches to addressing these issues, from programming concepts to detecting violations and devising strategies to counter them. This experience was fruitful and constructive, underscoring that the new generation harbors and dreams of many ideas capable of addressing diverse societal challenges. When provided with opportunities and guided onto the right paths with proper direction, they can achieve constructive results that drive progress.

The “Excellence in Participation” Seminar

The second experience took place at the Cairo International Book Fair, where I was honored last year to be invited by the Administrative Control Authority and the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy to participate in the “Excellence in Participation” seminar. This seminar discussed the success stories of some of Egypt's promising youth and was moderated by the distinguished media figure Osama Kamal. I shared the stage with two inspiring young Egyptians: Abanoub Gamal, an entrepreneur, and Captain Ahmed El-Gendy, Egypt's Olympic champion in modern pentathlon. For part of the session, we were joined by Major General Dr. Mohamed Salama, then-director of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, who was keen to offer valuable advice to the attending youth. The seminar went beyond merely recounting success stories, focusing instead on the challenges young people face in achieving their dreams, whether in Egypt or abroad. We agreed that moral support and recognition are among the most critical factors for perseverance and success. A notable observation was the large number of questions from the audience when the floor was opened for discussion, particularly about information and communication technology, fifth-generation (5G) technology, and AI. This reflected the audience's passion for knowledge and their sustained interest in cutting-edge technological advancements.

Opportunities to Discuss Technology and AI The seminar provided me with an opportunity to clarify the differences between fourth- and fifth-generation (4G and 5G) technologies, including their speeds and new

frequencies, which will contribute to broader horizons for technological applications. These advancements benefit citizens and drive research toward post-5G developments. Some questions addressed artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on how to utilize it, leverage its benefits across various fields, and protect people from its negative impacts. I emphasized the importance of fostering informed societal awareness about AI. One notable moment was a question from a mother accompanying her daughter, who sought advice on whether to encourage her daughter to study AI at university or steer clear of it entirely. My response was that if her daughter is passionate about studying AI as her first choice, without any external pressure, I would



The new generations carry and aspire to many ideas that can contribute to addressing various societal challenges. When provided with opportunities and guided onto the right paths with proper direction, they can achieve constructive outcomes that drive progress.

instinctively advise parents to support her. There is no need to fear studying AI simply because it is a new field, as the future holds immense potential. However, if her daughter is passionate about another field, she should be supported in pursuing that path, with the option to learn AI skills alongside it to enhance her success in her chosen domain.

Conclusion

Egyptian youth demonstrate a strong desire to learn about new developments, particularly in artificial intelligence, as it represents a leap toward the future. They also possess the ability to manage it effectively to maximize its benefits. However, young people consistently need a culture of awareness regarding this technological innovation, including both its advantages and disadvantages. While AI can be a tool for combating corruption, it can also become a means of spreading corruption if handled without ethical values and a sense of national responsibility.



Training Programs and High-Level Delegations: Recent Contributions of the EACA



Editorial Board

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy continues to play a pivotal role in raising public awareness about combating corruption and preparing future generations equipped to address corruption effectively. By employing modern training methods, the Academy has carried out numerous activities, including training courses, workshops, and hosting visits from senior officials of oversight bodies from various friendly and allied countries. These visits aim to showcase the Academy's successful experience and explore avenues for cooperation in training and capacity-building in the field of anti-corruption.



Regional Meeting Concludes: «Promoting Business Integrity and Public-Private Partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa»

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy hosted a regional meeting on "Promoting Business Integrity and Public-Private Partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa" from January 14 to 16, 2025, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the League of Arab States, and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission. The meeting explored ways to bolster the private sector's role in combating corruption and improving the business environment through partnerships with the public sector.

The sessions featured prominent participants, including Ms. Cristina Albertin, Regional Representative of the UNODC for the Middle East and North Africa, H.E. Dr. Maha Bakhit, Director of Legal Affairs at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, and Ms. Rasha Amarneh, Advisor to

the President of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, alongside representatives from anti-corruption agencies, international and regional organizations, experts, and senior officials from the National Anti-Corruption Academy. Discussions focused on the importance of developing public-private partnerships to enhance the business environment, identifying key incentives to strengthen the private sector's role in anti-corruption efforts, and addressing shared challenges and solutions. The meeting also highlighted leading international initiatives to improve the investment climate through effective governance systems, transparency, and accountability.

The meeting yielded several key outcomes, including an agreement to support public-private partnerships to strengthen integrity standards and combat corruption, expand digital services to reduce paper-based transactions, activate frameworks for international cooperation and knowledge exchange to enhance technical support between relevant authorities and international institutions, foster regular dialogue between anti-corruption agencies and private sector entities, and encourage the establishment of investment support units within anti-corruption bodies to address investors' complaints, resolve disputes, and facilitate the removal of obstacles facing investment projects.

This meeting aligns with the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, aiming to exchange perspectives and chart a collective roadmap to improve the business environment, fostering economic and social development in our societies.





Training Program on «Integrity and Anti-Corruption» in Collaboration with The Hague Academy for Local Governance

In line with the Administrative Control Authority's commitment to fostering partnerships and collaboration with international institutions to exchange expertise in promoting integrity and transparency across all segments of society, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy hosted a training program on "Integrity and Anti-Corruption" at its headquarters in Cairo from February 24 to 27, 2025. The program was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Egypt and The Hague Academy for Local Governance in the Netherlands. The program brought together a group of law enforcement

personnel and representatives of Egyptian civil society. It featured a series of lectures and workshops covering concepts of integrity, its mechanisms, strategies for promoting integrity and combating corruption, as well as an overview of the integrity system in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and methods for assessing corruption risks. The training aimed to equip participants with the necessary tools to apply principles of integrity and transparency, drawing on diverse international experiences to enhance operational procedures and strengthen efforts in preventing and combating corruption.



Workshop Hosted by Administrative Control Authority to Bolster Anti-Corruption Efforts in Collaboration with Ministry of Planning and OECD

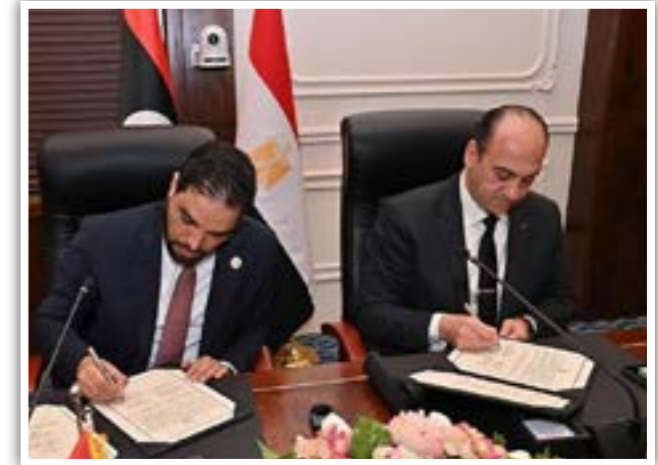
As part of its ongoing cooperation with international organizations focused on governance, administrative, and economic reform, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, in partnership with Egypt's Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), organized a two-day workshop on April 8 and 9, 2025. The event aimed to review Egypt's legal and institutional framework for combating corruption in alignment with international standards and business integrity, while fostering dialogue between the public and

private sectors in this domain. The workshop featured panel discussions on international experiences in tackling corruption in global commercial transactions, corporate liability, and raising awareness of corruption risks in the private sector. It also highlighted Egypt's efforts in this area, particularly within the framework of implementing the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030). The event saw participation from representatives of law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and both the public and private sectors.



Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Egypt's Administrative Control Authority and Libyan Counterpart to Enhance Expertise Exchange

Minister Amr Adel, Chairman of Egypt's Administrative Control Authority (ACA), welcomed Mr. Abdullah Qadirbuh, Chairman of Libya's Administrative Control Authority, at the ACA's headquarters in Egypt's New Administrative Capital. The meeting builds on the strong Egyptian-Libyan ties in the realm of preventing and combating corruption. During the visit, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two parties to facilitate expertise exchange, training, and capacity building in governance-related fields. The agreement includes training 2,000 participants in areas such as anti-corruption frameworks, financial investigations, asset recovery, cybersecurity, cybercrime, development of anti-corruption strategies, the role of media in fighting corruption, institutional development,



and administrative investigation skills. During the meeting, Minister Amr Adel underscored the deep and positive relations between Egypt and Libya across various domains. He highlighted the ACA's role in preventing corruption and promoting governance, as well as the efforts and activities of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy in training both local and international personnel through its specialized programs and academic degrees. For his part, Mr. Abdullah Qadirbuh expressed gratitude and appreciation to the ACA for its efforts in training numerous Libyan personnel in recent years. He commended the high level of academic preparation and diverse expertise acquired by participants in relevant fields.



Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy Hosts Workshop to Combat Cross-Border Crimes, Focusing on Illegal Migration Risks

In a concerted effort to strengthen national and international measures against cross-border crimes, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy held a workshop titled "The Links Between Illegal Migration Crimes and Money Laundering of Proceeds" from April 28 to 30, 2025. The event was organized in collaboration with Egypt's National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The workshop was attended by Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, Ms. Eva Suárez, Director of the Spanish

Agency for International Development Cooperation, and representatives from both entities, alongside law enforcement personnel. Discussions covered critical topics, including legal and legislative frameworks for combating illegal migration and money laundering, the role of financial investigation units, mechanisms for international judicial cooperation, and challenges related to addressing these crimes. Through such initiatives, the Academy aims to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal migration and money laundering, as well as their detrimental impacts on societies. It also seeks to enhance prevention strategies through collaboration with local and international partners.



Administrative Control Authority Shines at Cairo International Book Fair for Fourth Consecutive Year

The Administrative Control Authority (ACA) participated in the 56th Cairo International Book Fair, held under the theme "Read... In the Beginning Was the Word," from January 23 to February 5, 2025. The ACA's pavilion showcased the activities of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, including its training programs, alongside publications and materials related to governance and anti-corruption efforts.

The Authority also organized two cultural seminars and interactive activities featuring experts in governance

and anti-corruption. These events fostered active participation, encouraging the exchange of proposals and diverse perspectives on governance, corruption prevention, and strategies to combat it.

The ACA's participation reflects its mandated role to raise awareness about corruption prevention, promote integrity and transparency, and engage the community in line with the fourth objective of Egypt's National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030): fostering a society aware of corruption risks and equipped to combat them.



Egyptian Character Traits Take Center Stage at Administrative Control Authority's First Seminar at Cairo International Book Fair

The Administrative Control Authority (ACA) hosted its first seminar at the 56th Cairo International Book Fair, featuring a distinguished panel including Dr. Mohamed Salama, First Under-secretary and Advisor to the ACA Chairman for the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, Dr. Wassim El-Sisi, a researcher in Egyptology, and Dr. Khaled Habib, an expert in human resources and planning. The session was moderated by Dr. Sami Abdel Aziz, former Dean of the Faculty of Media and a national expert at the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy. The seminar drew significant attendance and engagement from fairgoers. Dr. Wassim El-Sisi explored the dimensions of the ancient Egyptian character and its enduring



influence on contemporary society. Dr. Khaled Habib addressed the current state of the Egyptian character, highlighting challenges posed by the modern era, including the impact of social media platforms on values and ethics. Major General Mohamed Salama emphasized the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy's commitment to empowering youth with skills and promoting integrity and transparency through effective training and awareness programs.

The event was part of the cultural activities organized by the ACA during the book fair to advance governance mechanisms, prevent corruption, and foster a society that rejects corrupt practices.



Administrative Control Authority Highlights National Anti-Corruption Strategy Applications at Cairo Book Fair Seminar

The Administrative Control Authority (ACA) held its second seminar during its participation in the 56th Cairo International Book Fair, titled "Applications of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy: Egypt's Digital Transformation and Internal Audit Units." The event featured Dr. Marian Qaldas, CEO of the Egyptian Center for Voluntary Arbitration and Settlement of Non-Banking Financial Disputes and an anti-corruption expert; Under-secretary Engineer Khaled Zora, Head of the Information Infrastructure and Digital Transformation Sector at the ACA; Under-secretary Dr. Essam Zakaria, Head of the Strategic Planning Sector; and Engineer Tamer Hawash, Head of the Central Administration for Information Infrastructure at the ACA. The seminar was moderated by Under-secretary Hisham El-Rakaybi, Director of the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy. During the seminar, participants emphasized that combating corruption is a constitutional obligation

and that the National Anti-Corruption Strategy is grounded in principles of integrity, transparency, participation, rule of law, equality, and accountability. The discussion showcased the methodology of Egypt's state information infrastructure project, lessons learned from its implementation phases, opportunities and challenges encountered, and achievements in improving the efficiency of government services. The seminar also addressed the establishment and activation of internal audit units within the state's administrative apparatus, capacity building for their staff, and their role in enhancing internal control measures and governance in government institutions.

This event reflects the ACA's commitment to fostering a societal culture that promotes corruption prevention and combat, while highlighting collaborative efforts to achieve the objectives of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.



Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy Continues Awareness Efforts with Two Training Programs for 168 Participants in Assiut and Sohag

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, in collaboration with Assiut University and Sohag University, organized two training programs on "Governance and Anti-Corruption" during April 2025.

The first program took place at Assiut University from April 13 to 15, engaging 75 participants from the university's staff. The second program was hosted by Sohag University from April 15 to 17, with 93 participants, including faculty members, students, and staff, and was attended by the presidents of both universities.

The programs covered key topics such as the concept of governance, corruption prevention, the role of the Administrative Control Authority (ACA) in combating

corruption, Egypt's state information infrastructure project, and Egypt's Vision 2030. They also addressed areas of administration and workplace ethics.

These initiatives reflect the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy's commitment to fostering institutional partnerships with Egyptian universities to promote a culture of anti-corruption across all societal segments. Through specialized seminars and training programs, the Academy aims to raise awareness of corruption risks and prevention methods, aligning with the fourth objective of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030): fostering a society aware of corruption risks and equipped to combat them.



Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy Hosts Event on «The Role of the Private Sector and Educational Institutions in Combating Corruption and Promoting Integrity»

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), hosted an event titled "The Role of the Private Sector and Educational Institutions in Combating Corruption and Promoting Integrity." The event was attended by Ms. Myrna Abu Habib, Deputy Regional Representative of UNODC for the Middle East and North Africa; Professor Mahmoud El-Said, Vice President of Cairo University for Graduate Studies and Research; Engineer Bassam El-Shenawany, Chairman of the Egyptian Association for Young Businessmen; and representatives from educational institutions, the private sector, and university students participating in training activities under the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative.

The event featured panel discussions highlighting the importance of partnerships between the private sector and educational institutions in promoting integrity

and transparency. It also underscored the role of the Administrative Control Authority, represented by the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, in raising youth awareness about corruption risks and prevention methods, while showcasing collaborative efforts with UNODC in this domain.

The initiative aims to build bridges between university students involved in the GRACE program and private sector representatives, providing students with training opportunities to apply integrity and transparency principles within participating private sector institutions. This enhances students' practical skills and equips them with the expertise needed to meet labor market demands. The event reflects a commitment to fostering collaborative anti-corruption efforts among all stakeholders and embedding a culture of integrity among youth, recognizing their vital role in building societies and supporting development initiatives.

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy has published the second issue of its peer-reviewed academic journal, *Governance, Preventing and Combating Corruption*.

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Journal Awarded Top Evaluation by the Supreme Council of Universities



Year1 – Issue 2- March 2025



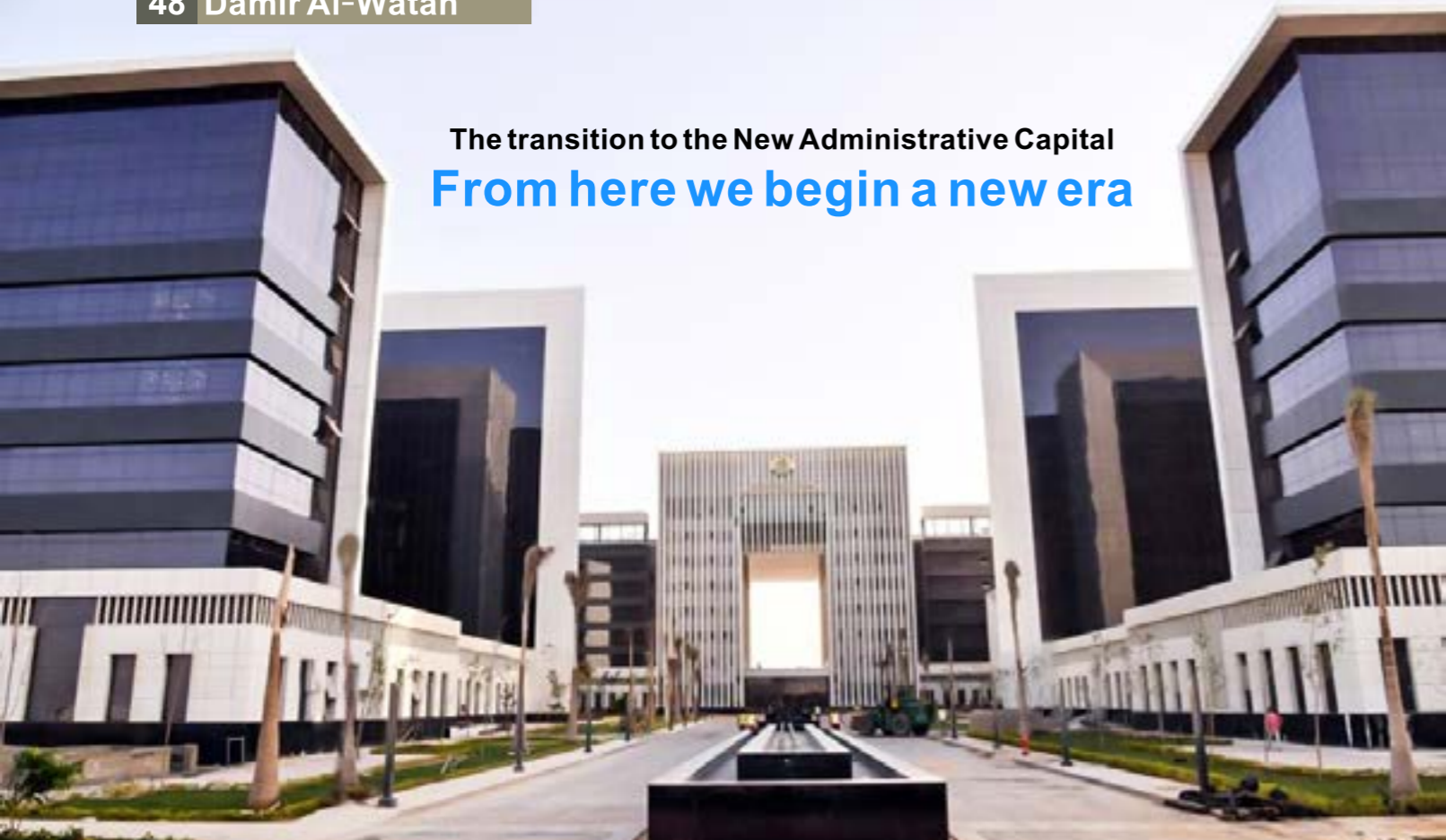
Partnerships to Combat Corruption: Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy and Egyptian Association of Financial Auditors Collaborate on Training and Capacity Building

In alignment with the objectives of Egypt's National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030), which emphasizes the critical role of human capital investment in establishing governance, administrative reform, and combating corruption, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Egyptian Association of Financial Auditors, the official representative in Egypt of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). The agreement focuses on training and capacity building for personnel in internal audit and governance units within the state's administrative apparatus, as well as trainees at the Academy.

The MoU includes organizing training courses,

conferences, and seminars to promote integrity, transparency, governance, and anti-corruption principles. Additionally, it provides a specialized qualification program for obtaining the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation, accredited by the IIA in the United States.

This collaboration underscores the pivotal role of internal audit and governance units in Egypt's administrative system, which enhance governance and internal control by ensuring compliance with laws, regulations, and directives, and by implementing effective procedures to ensure efficiency and quality in achieving the state's strategic objectives.



The transition to the New Administrative Capital
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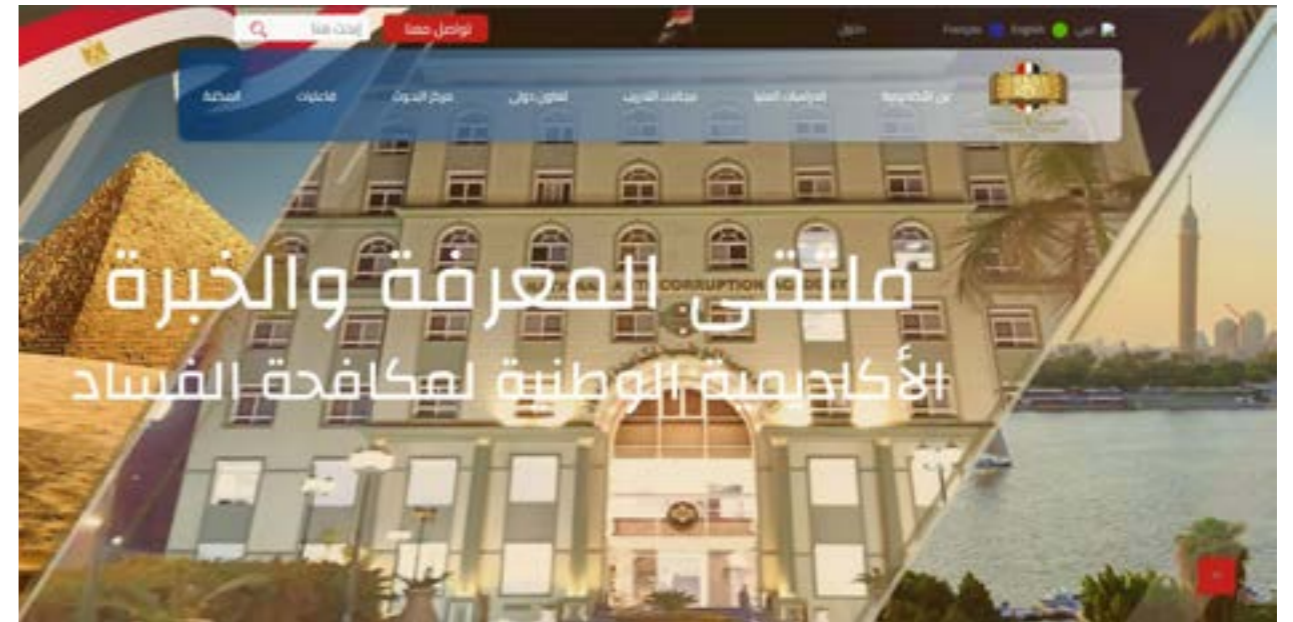
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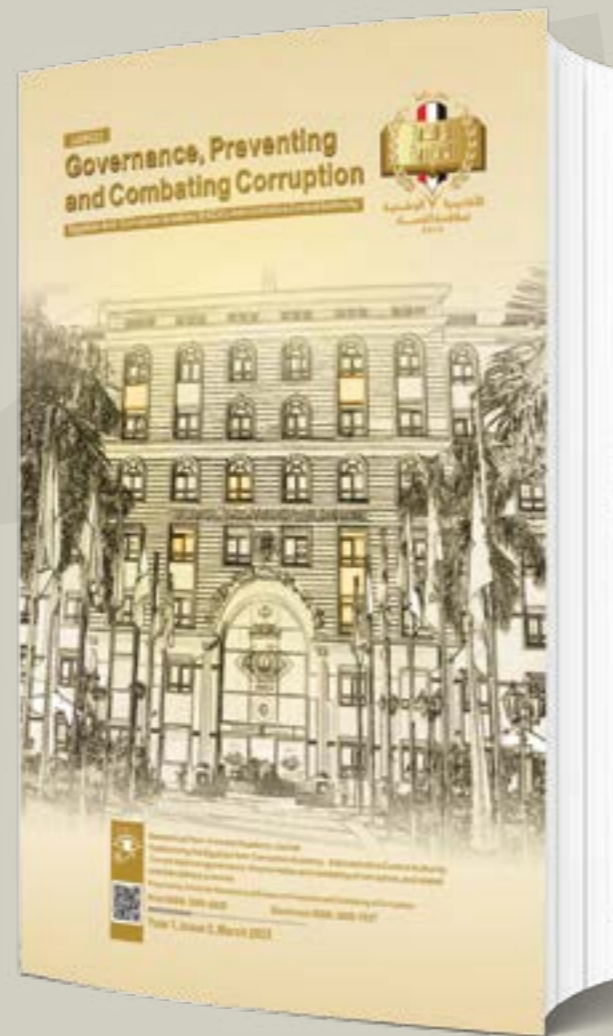
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The Journal of Governance, Preventing and Combating Corruption (JGPCC)

The Journal of Governance, Preventing and Combating Corruption (JGPCC) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy for Combating Corruption. The Journal has received top evaluation by the Supreme Council of Universities 7\7. It aims to disseminate specialized research papers in the fields of corruption prevention, combating corruption, administration, law, economics, and interdisciplinary sciences related to governance and countering corruption.

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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