THE NEW URBAN AGENDA
EGYPT NATIONAL REPORT

Executive Summary

April 2022
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The implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) faced few challenges; mainly due to the global economic slow-down, which was accentuated by the unexpected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, The Government of Egypt (GoE) proceeded with its bold reforms, building new cities to increase the urbanization rate, executing the largest social housing program, and a comprehensive plan to develop the unplanned and informal areas, and increasing access to water and sanitation services. Egypt also adopted the unprecedented “Decent Life” program to improve the life conditions of more than half of the Egyptians. An additional 5000 km of rods were developed to improve mobility. The GoE undertook preventive and adaptive measures to face the implications of climate change. Boosting the urban economy, securing adequate finance, improving urban governance and legislations, and raising human and institutional capacities, are the main challenges that the GoE is dealing with through bold reform measures.

Stakeholder Partnerships and Commitments

The Government of Egypt adopted a participatory approach to prepare Egypt’s Voluntary Report to monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), at the national level. A national committee was formulated to develop the report, with active and effective participation of different stakeholders, including all relevant government officials, private sector and civil society representatives, the academia, and international development agencies. The committee depended on sound references, conducted focus group meetings, organized workshops, and used the most updated data and information. For each pillar of the NUA, the committee identified the main challenges, highlighted the success factors in dealing with these challenges, and emphasized the way forward to accelerate the implementation process. Using smart key performance indicators (KPIs), to measure the progress towards NUA execution was difficult due to data constraints. Coordinating and communicating with a large group of different stakeholders was another challenge, that the committee overcome successfully.

COVID 19 Response

The Government of Egypt (GoE) responded actively to the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. The GoE provided social protection and direct subsidies to the vulnerable groups, the poor, and to street vendors. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were granted tax, fees, and interest rate holidays. The GoE also provided fiscal support to the most affected sectors including the tourism, industry, trade, and agriculture sectors. The budget allocated to the health sector increased several folds to raise its capacity to meet the unprecedent challenges of the pandemic. In addition, the education sector moved towards on-line schooling, and blended education, with the support of the information and communication technology (ICT) services. The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of several pillars of the New Urban (NUA), mainly, increasing open spaces, smart and green cities, smart transportation, and non-motor transportation systems. In addition, the role of urban and local economy was underlined.