

Responses to Recommendations

EGYPT

Review in the Working Group: 17 February 2010
 Adoption in the Plenary: 11 June 2010

Egypt's responses to recommendations (as of 22.06.2010):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
119 REC accepted; 21 rejected; 25 pending	Out of the 25 REC pending, 6 are accepted; 10 partially accepted (underlined in blue), 4 rejected and 1 commented without giving a clear position. REC n°10, 11, 18 and 19 were commented but only to say they will be further considered so we deem them as still pending	The delegation stated that the REC partially accepted should be considered as accepted	Accepted: 135 Rejected: 25 No clear position: 1 Pending: 4

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/14/17:

95. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined and enjoy the support of Egypt:

A - 1. Consider withdrawing the reservations to CEDAW articles 2, 16 and 29 and ratify OP-CEDAW (Norway);

A - 2. Consider prompt accession to the Optional Protocol on the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Bolivia);

A - 3. Continue its ongoing review of reservations entered to international human rights instruments (Bangladesh);

A - 4. Continue harmonizing its legislation with international human rights treaties by taking into consideration specificities of its society and requirement of modernization (Algeria);

A - 5. Continue its ongoing review of national laws to ensure that they are in line with its international human rights law obligations (Bangladesh);

A - 6. Strengthen the legal framework to fight all crimes against children (Syrian Arab Republic);

A - 7. Keep up the positive momentum in upgrading its laws and institutions while ensuring their effective implementation, in particular in the areas of education of all and the rights of women (Indonesia);

A - 8. Continue promoting the work of the Higher Committee for Migration in order to promote the rights of migrants and to implement the possibility for Egyptian migrants abroad to cast their vote (Bolivia);

A - 9. Fulfill its pledge to review the definition of torture in Egyptian law and ensure its consistency with the Convention against Torture in order to strengthen its fight against torture (Japan);

A - 10. Revise relevant laws and practice to ensure compliance with ICCPR including for bloggers and public access to internet (Czech Republic);

A - 11. Consider strengthening the Complaints Office of the National Council for Women and the helpline of the National Council for Children, building on past experience and with a view to strengthening the role and effectiveness of these two institutions throughout the Republic (Palestine);

A - 12. Increase cooperation and coordination between governmental institutions and the National Council for Women as the best framework to ensure that women's rights take root and promote women (Tunisia);

A - 13. Continue its policies in the area of the promotion and protection of the human rights of women (Bhutan);

A - 14. Strengthen its policy on the rights of the child, with attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (Brazil);

A - 15. Continue effective policies aimed at ensuring rights of persons with disabilities through instruments that are in line with respective international conventions as well as by developing and implementing national programs (Kyrgyzstan);

A - 16. That the legislation related to violence against women, which would be promulgated based on the voluntary pledges made by Egypt, include provisions aimed at eliminating de jure and de facto discrimination against women (Mexico);

A - 17. Fulfill its pledge to review the reservations which it has entered to human rights treaties with a view to withdrawing them (Japan);

A - 18. Continue finding the appropriate solutions for the challenges mentioned in the national report and faced by the citizens in their full enjoyment of fundamental rights whether it is political, economic, social and cultural rights (Kuwait);

A - 19. Continue its process of home-grown reforms to deepen democratic reform and strengthen foundations of modern states in which all citizens enjoy all human rights (China);

A - 20. Accomplish the Human Rights Goals (Brazil);

A - 21. Continue promoting its successful cultural policies that have far-reaching social content, stimulate participation by the popular sectors of the population and extend culture to all as a mechanism to combat exclusion and poverty (Venezuela);

A - 22. Improve its cooperation with the United Nations Treaty Bodies by submitting overdue reports as a matter of priority (Norway);

A - 23. Submit overdue reports to the treaty bodies (Austria);

A - 24. Continue to expand the cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Sudan);

A - 25. Give attention and provide adequate follow-up to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism following his visit to the country, in coordination with the involved ministries and civil society organizations (Mexico);

A - 26. Implement the accepted recommendations of the universal periodic review in cooperation with the National Council on Human Rights, NGOs, and the civil society (Indonesia);

A - 27. Establish an effective and inclusive process to follow-up on the universal periodic review recommendations (Norway);

A - 28. Continue efforts to improve the situation of women and their empowerment (Jordan);

A - 29. Continue to adopt strategies to combat discrimination against women (Angola);

A - 30. Continue the implementation of effective programs for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (Belarus);

A - 31. Continue its efforts in ensuring the improvement of the status of women, including through intensifying the implementation of programmes and activities for the empowerment of women and enhancing women's participation in the political field (Malaysia);

A - 32. Further intensify its efforts to promote gender equality, to combat violence against women and girls, sexual harassment and abuse, and recognize the important role of non-governmental organizations in this field (Finland);

A - 33. Consider further steps to ensure a high number of women in decision-making positions (Norway);

A - 34. Respect minimum standards relating to the death penalty as long as it the latter is effectively applied (Belgium);

A - 35. Increase efforts to ensure that the competent authorities, in particular the public prosecutor, investigate all torture allegations promptly and to bring any officials found responsible to justice (Austria);

A - 36. Reinforce the fight against torture (Switzerland);

A - 37. Align the national legislation with international law (Switzerland);

A - 38. NGOs should be consulted widely and have a substantive role in drafting the new NGO law (Ireland);

A - 39. Allegations of torture be effectively and independently investigated at earliest in view of prosecuting the authors of these offences (Switzerland);

A - 40. Continue to intensify its efforts to ensure that violence, in particular hate-motivated crime, does not occur (Finland);

A - 41. Consider elaborating an integrated national strategy to address the different forms of violence against women (Palestine);

A - 42. Take concrete steps to increase the protection of women, ensuring that, complaints of domestic violence are properly registered and investigated by the police, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and convicted (Norway);

A - 43. Continue its efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation and strengthen implementation of its laws and administrative decisions criminalising its perpetrators (Bhutan);

- A - 44. Continue increasing efforts aimed at combating trafficking in human beings at the national as well as at the international level, including through coordination and cooperation with interested governments, international organisations and NGOs (Belarus);
- A - 45. Continue its efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons at the policy and legislative levels in cooperation with civil society and the media, with a view to providing victims of trafficking with the needed protection and counselling, contributing to international efforts in this regards (Philippines);
- A - 46. Continue pursuing social policies in keeping with family values and not be intimidated by suggestions on social norms that are controversial, non-universal and specific to certain societies (Bangladesh);
- A - 47. Continue to create conducive environment for the enjoyment of freedom of religion and belief including through introduction of further measures for promoting equal rights and social harmony among followers of different religions (Armenia);
- A - 48. Better disseminate the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and ensure its full observance (Norway);
- A - 49. Implement programs to fight against child labour (Syrian Arab Republic);
- A - 50. Continue its policies aimed at ensuring the enjoyment by all segments of society of their rights to food and social services (Azerbaijan);
- A - 51. Intensify its programs to extend social and economic rights to all and improve standard of living for those with limited income (Algeria);
- A - 52. Continue to strengthen its efforts in ensuring housing for all Egyptian citizens (Saudi Arabia);
- A - 53. Effectively address poverty and unemployment, in cooperation with international community (Lebanon);
- A - 54. Intensify its efforts to wealth distribution and poverty eradication, especially assistance to the marginalized and disadvantaged groups (Malaysia);
- A - 55. Make additional efforts in eradicating illiteracy (Lebanon);
- A - 56. Continue efforts in eradicating illiteracy and adult education and share its pioneering experience in this field (Qatar);
- A - 57. Continue its efforts aimed at eradication of illiteracy in rural areas (Kuwait);
- A - 58. Continue implementing the National Illiteracy Eradication Project, giving priority to girls and women (Bolivia);
- A - 59. Continue to strengthen policies that have led to a decrease of the illiteracy rates (Angola);
- A - 60. Continue its efforts to promote the political participation of women at all levels and to increase the representation of women in the judiciary (Palestine);
- A - 61. Intensify employment programs for youth (Algeria);
- A - 62. Accelerate programs aimed at job creation, particularly for young people (Cuba);
- A - 63. Strengthen efforts aimed at ensuring equal rights for women in the field of work (United Arab Emirates);
- A - 64. In the spirit of a constructive dialogue and with the cooperation of the international community, continue efforts to enhance the quality of its educational and health system with a special focus on combating illiteracy (Philippines);

- A - 65. Share with other countries its experience in the education of persons with disabilities and in providing them with employment (Qatar);
- A - 66. Continue the efforts and successes achieved by the national institutions in undertaking awareness raising campaigns to spread a culture of human rights (Saudi Arabia);
- A - 67. Continue efforts on human rights education in order to guarantee enjoyment of all people of their rights (Morocco);
- A - 68. Strengthen education in the field of human rights (Jordan);
- A - 69. Include the study of human rights in the curriculum of the various stages of free education provided in state institutions (Bolivia);
- A - 70. Strengthen public education, awareness and capacity building programmes on human rights (Malaysia);
- A - 71. Strengthen programs of capacity building in human rights field and raise human rights awareness level (Kuwait);
- A - 72. Enhance human rights education and training programs for the general public and government officials (Philippines);
- A - 73. Increase public awareness on human rights and promote human rights education and training (Greece);
- A - 74. Continue, with the support of donor countries, its National Capacity Building Program with the objective of expanding the scope of the training and capacity building activities to government personnel (Bhutan);
- A - 75. Continue its efforts to provide training and capacity building in the area of human rights for police officers and members of the judiciary and prosecution as well as journalists (Palestine);
- A - 76. Continue its effort to ensure rights of migrants in the country as well as abroad (Kyrgyzstan);
- A - 77. Continue and strengthen strategies and programs for comprehensive development, especially in the rural and less developed areas of the country (Cuba);
- A - 78. Share experience and good practices with other countries in areas of development and protection of human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- A - 79. Speed up the adoption on anti terrorism law while considering lifting the state of emergency once the law has been passed (Sudan);
- A - 80. Continue its efforts towards the early finalisation of the anti-terrorism law, which can serve to combat terrorism while ensuring promotion and protection of human rights (Pakistan);
- A - 81. Continue its efforts in the context of the Human Rights Council to develop its work on human rights in connection with civilians in armed conflict (Palestine);
- A - 82. Continue to work with the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations system in strengthening human rights in the world (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- A - 83. Persons, who are administratively detained without being formally charged, be the object of an equitable trial or be immediately released (Switzerland);
- A - 84. Expedite the reform of the Criminal Code in order to include a definition of torture in accordance with the Convention Against Torture (France);
- A - 85. Advance in the promotion of the status of women in society in order to achieve full equality in rights between women and men in all matters (Chile);

- A - 86. Repeal of articles in the penal code which allow the imprisonment of journalists for their writing and amend the press provisions of the penal code so that they explicitly state that journalists not be imprisoned or otherwise punished for the sole exercise of their right to free expression (Norway);
- A - 87. Amend the Personal Status Law and Penal Code to guarantee equal rights for women and provide guarantees that domestic violence will be effectively prosecuted (Netherlands);
- A - 88. Continue efforts to reform in the short term Law 84/2002 in order to establish a procedure for setting up NGOs, which is nimble, fast and not subject to administrative discretion (Spain);
- A - 89. Reform the Criminal Code to punish all cases of sexual and domestic violence (France);
- A - 90. Increase efforts to end discrimination and violence against religious minorities and prosecute those involved in incitement to religious hatred and violence (Austria);
- A - 91. Enable human rights organizations to monitor general elections (Germany);
- A - 92. Establish independent monitoring of conditions in detention and prisons together with effective complaint procedure for victims of torture (Czech Republic);
- A - 93. Pass comprehensive anti-trafficking in persons legislation (United States of America);
- A - 94. Consider confessions obtained through torture or ill-treatment as inadmissible (Switzerland);
- A - 95. Consider repealing the provisions, which allow administrative detention and guarantee to all detainees immediate access to lawyers, doctors and family members (Chile);
- A - 96. Guarantee freedom of religion and belief to all groups and minorities, including in relevant legislation, without discrimination (Finland);
- A - 97. Undertake all necessary measures to guarantee the freedom of religion of all religious orientations, in particular the Copts, including the right to practice religion in public (Germany);
- A - 98. Implement the guarantee established in Article 46 of the Constitution, regarding freedom of belief and freedom of religious practice, in order to prevent in practice discriminations which affect this guarantee (Chile);
- A - 99. Promote inter-religious dialogue and other educational measures to increase the understanding and tolerance in society among all religious communities (Austria);
- A - 100. Adopt all necessary measures to provide for a free and independent media which reflects the religious, ethnic and political plurality of opinions in Egypt (Germany);
- A - 101. Take further steps to promote an open and free press where journalists may report on a full spectrum of political, social and economic issues without fear of retribution (Canada);
- A - 102. Effectively guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public life and politics, in line with the obligations set forth in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);
- A - 103. Review its legislation to complete the abolition of imprisonment penalties for publication offences (Netherlands);
- A - 104. Emergency powers should not be abused or used against journalists and bloggers in their exercise of their right to freedom of expression (Ireland);
- A - 105. Take action to secure that the enjoyment of human rights extends to the Internet, as pronounced by the Human Rights Committee and relevant United Nations resolutions (Sweden);
- A - 106. Revise the procedures governing registration of civil society organizations to ensure transparent, non-discriminatory, expeditious and affordable procedures that conform to international human rights standards (Norway);

A - 107. Act in accordance with the standards included in the UN International Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in 1998 and cooperate seriously with human rights organizations, particularly through in-depth discussion of their reports and recommendations in the follow-up of this universal periodic review (Germany);

A - 108. Provide human rights education and training to members of the police, security services, prison and detention staff and judiciary with specific focus on protection of human rights of women, children, national and other minorities, refugees and persons with disabilities and to ensure accountability of security and other state personnel for possible violations of human rights (Czech Republic);

A - 109. Further promote identity and culture of different communities and to raise awareness in the society about their historic presence in Egypt and contribution to the society (Armenia);

A - 110. Uphold its international obligations relating to refugees (United States of America);

A - 111. Implement a program to adequately integrate the refugee populations into the society of Egypt, taking into account the generosity that has historically characterized the country in this field (Mexico);

A - 112. Put an end, as soon as possible, to the state of emergency and ensure that the provisions of the future anti-terrorism law scrupulously respect human rights (France);

A - 113. Lift the state of emergency that has been in effect since 1981 and replace the Emergency Law with a counterterrorism law that guarantees civil liberties (United States of America);

A - 114. End the State of Emergency as soon as possible (Austria);

A - 115. The counter-terrorism law that is to replace the current state of emergency take into account the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Netherlands);

A - 116. The letter and the spirit of the provisions of the new antiterrorism law do not impose restrictions on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms that are contrary to international human rights standards (Greece);

A - 117. Ensure that all anti-terrorism measures comply with international standards (Norway);

A - 118. Require that the police act with restraint when not directly threatened (United States of America);

A - 119. Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sectarian violence and ensure victims' recourse to the judicial system (United States of America).

96. Egypt considers that the recommendations Nos. 85-119 have already been implemented or in the process of implementation.

97. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Egypt:

R - 1. Ensure the protection of women, in practice, from all forms of violence by implementing national legislation, as pledged in its National Report to universal periodic report, and to adopt a unified family code to ensure the equal status of women under law (Israel);

R - 2. Conduct a wide-ranging review of Egyptian human rights laws in order to bring them into line with Egypt's international commitments, as so pledged in its Human Rights Council candidature and within its National Report (Israel);

R - 3. Abolish prison terms for incitement to discrimination regarding sex, origin, language, religion or belief, and for acts damaging to an individual's honour (United States of America);

R - 4. Develop specific awareness raising campaigns to promote tolerance and eliminate discrimination based on sex and gender (Czech Republic);

R - 5. Apply national legislation to individuals without discrimination based on their belonging to a religious minority or on sexual orientation (Switzerland);

R - 6. To engage towards the abolition of the death penalty by adopting a moratorium, commuting all sentences already pronounced and by reducing the number of offences punishable by this penalty (France); Consider the elimination of the death penalty and, in all events, adjust its implementation to the provisions of Article 6 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile); Join the moratorium established by General Assembly Resolution 62/149, as a preliminary step toward abolishing capital punishment (Spain); Consider a moratorium on death penalty with a view to abolishing it in the future (Brazil); Establish, as a first stage, a moratorium on all executions and then fully abolish the death penalty (Switzerland); Introduce at the earliest a moratorium on the death penalty (Belgium); Consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it in the near future (Greece);

R - 7. Review national legal provisions, as e.g. those criminalising "habitual debauchery", which are open to abuse for persecution and intimidation of persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity or of persons with HIV/AIDS (Czech Republic);

R - 8. Fully implement Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status," and to recognize that "sex" also includes sexual orientation (Canada);

R - 9. Remove any categorization by religion on State documents including ID cards (Canada);

R - 10. Pass legislation that allows NGOs to accept foreign funding without prior government approval, legislation that allows for increased freedom of association and assembly, and legislation allowing labour unions to operate without joining the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (United States of America);

R -11. Invite independent national and international election monitoring teams to the upcoming elections (Austria);

R - 12. Allow international election observation in all upcoming elections (Canada);

R - 13. End the exceptional state of emergency and lift the Emergency Law, and to abstain from legislation that introduces measures of Emergency Law into the Constitution (Germany);

R - 14. Remove the penalty of imprisonment from articles 102bis, 179, and 308 of the Penal Code (Ireland).

98. The following recommendations did not enjoy the support since Egypt considers they are inaccurate and/or factually incorrect:

R - 1. Eliminate legal and bureaucratic restrictions affecting an individual's right to choose his or her religion (United States of America);

R - 2. Release bloggers and activists currently detained under the Emergency Law and cease its arrests and detentions of political activists (United States of America);

R - 3. Thoroughly investigate all instances of the persecution of lawyers, members of the judiciary, human rights defenders, and journalists, for legitimate activities in the defence of human rights as well as lift restrictions within national legislation or practice that limit NGO registration and activity (Israel);

R - 4. Strengthen the protection of minorities and ensure an end to impunity in this context (Finland);

R - 5. Not renew the Emergency Law in April 2010, and ensure that future legislation fully respects Egypt's obligations under international human rights law and not entrench under statute law provisions that facilitate human rights violations (Canada);

R - 6. That the emergency legislation under the state of emergency, which is the root cause to many human rights problems in Egypt, be repealed, and that future legislation be elaborated based on the enjoyment of human rights (Sweden);

R - 7. Host in Cairo the new OHCHR regional office in North Africa, as so pledged in its candidature for membership to the Human Rights Council (Israel).

99. The following recommendations will be examined by Egypt which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 14th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2010:

A - 1. Eliminate all legal provisions and policies which discriminate against adherents of other religions than Islam and adopt a unified law for places of worship (Netherlands);

A - 2. Redress laws and government practices that discriminate against members of religious minorities, and in particular urgently pass a unified law that makes construction and repair requirements equal for the places of worship of all religious groups (United States of America);

R - 3. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czech Republic);

A - 4. Immediately release persons detained or imprisoned for exercising their freedom of expression on the Internet (Sweden);

R - 5. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);

R - 6. Ratify individual complaint mechanisms of United Nations treaty bodies (Austria);

A - 7. Consider ratifying the Rome Statute, Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);

A - 8. Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Rome Statute (Chile);

R - 9. Adhere to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (France);

P - 10. Invite the Special Rapporteur on torture without delay and facilitate his visit to the country (Netherlands);

P - 11. Allow the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism free access to detention centers and communication with persons in detention during his next visit (Spain);

A - 12. Establish a fully independent electoral commission allowing for open participation of all political parties and objective certification of election results (Canada);

A - 13. Reform articles 126 and 129 of the Penal Code regarding the crime of torture, in order to broaden the scope of punishable conduct and prevent impunity for perpetrators (Spain);

A - 14. Amend article 126 of the Penal Code to bring into line with the UN Convention against Torture (Ireland);

A - 15. Ensure that the crime of torture is punished in accordance with the comprehensive definition as contained in Article 1 of the International Convention Against Torture (Germany);

A - 16. Allow the visits of human rights special procedures that are pending to take place in a timely manner and consider issuing a standing invitation to the human rights special procedures (Czech Republic);

A - 17. Respond positively to the repeated requests for a visit by the Special Rapporteurs on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; on the independence of judges and lawyers; on the situation of human rights defenders, on freedom of religion or belief; on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Spain);

P - 18. Extend an early invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (Ireland);

P - 19. Reply favorably to the request by the UN Special Rapporteur against torture for a visit and extend its full support to such a mission (Sweden);

A - 20. Issue an open and standing invitation to all special procedures (Spain);

A - 21. Issue an open and standing invitation to all special procedures, particularly to the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment (Belgium);

NC - 22. Amend article 11, 17 and 42 of the current NGO law 84 of 2002 so as to ensure that NGOs activities and activities of all human rights defenders not be inhibited or their ability to raise finance be impeded (Ireland);

A - 23. Withdraw the reservations to articles 2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women (France);

A - 24. Remove all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ireland);

A - 25. Expedite the provision of all official documents, particularly identity documents to all members of its Baha'i community (United States of America).

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