

Raising Egypt's Ranking in Governance Indicators



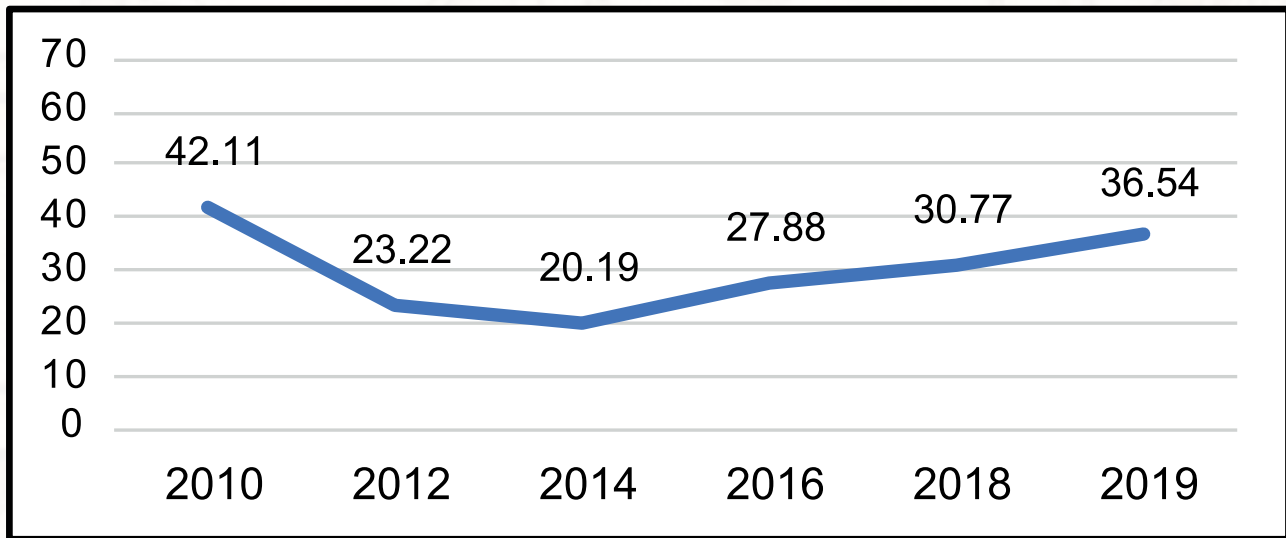
Governance is the cornerstone of the development process; it includes the principles of transparency, participation, accountability, justice, and the rule of law. When applied, they pave the way for achieving comprehensive development. The international development agenda pays special attention to governance; the UN Sustainable Development Goals included the 16th goal on “peace, justice and strong institutions”. This goal reflects the magnitude of governance and the efficiency of institutions in achieving sustainable development.



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**Egypt improved ranking according to government effectiveness index
2019 - 2020**

source:

Worldwide Governance Indicators World Bank (Multiple Years).

Additionally, many empirical studies have shown the positive impact of governance on economic growth (Ahmed and Tarek, 2013; Saidi, et al, 2015). The competency and efficiency of governmental institutions massively contribute to poverty reduction (Henderson, et al, 2013; these institutions are the basis for achieving prosperity and growth. Governance helps promote investment, especially foreign direct investment (Stein and Daude, 2001); it reinforces the investor's sense of security which leads to making positive investment decisions (K.m. and Aysan, 2006) and boosting economic growth rates (Nawo and Njangang, 2018).

Egypt's sustainable development strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030 has reflected the vast importance of governance. Indeed, enhancing "transparency and efficiency of governmental institutions" is the state's main objective. In addition, the state embraced both the vision of administrative reform and the national strategy of combating corruption in its second edition 2019-2022-. Despite these efforts, there are still several challenges facing strengthening governance in Egypt. This paper attempts to review Egypt's position in international and regional indicators of governance; it also seeks to explore the most important recommendations that can contribute to overcoming potential challenges.

First: Egypt's Position in the International Indicators of Governance:

Governance receives wide attention from international and regional organizations. This is reflected in their issuance of many indicators of governance. Despite the criticism to their methodologies, they provide supporting tools for making decisions of investment and

development aids according to their ranking of countries. As a result, countries are working to improve their ranks in these indicators. There are several indicators and reports of governance, such as global indicators of governance, e-government and open budget, and Ibrahim Index of African governance.

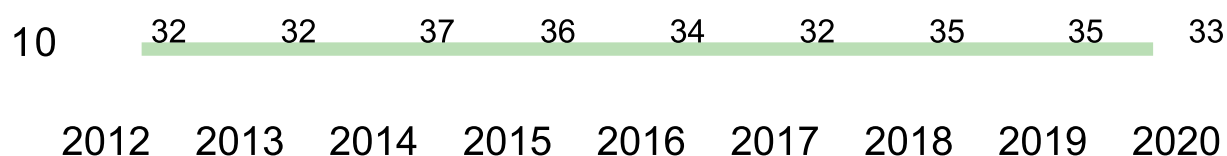
Indicators of Governance and Anti-Corruption:

The global indicators of governance issued by the World Bank include six main indicators: government effectiveness, control of corruption, rule of law, organizational quality, political stability, participation and accountability. The government effectiveness index is concerned with the quality of public services, public officials, the process of preparing and implementing policies and the government's credibility in its commitment

to implementing those policies. The best rank of Egypt was in 2010 when the percentage reached 42.11. In 2014, the rank dropped sharply reaching to 20.19, due to the political conditions of Egyptian state which cast a shadow on the performance of many public and private agencies. Since 2015, Egypt has started to rise again in this indicator until it reached its highest rates in 2019 compared to 2014, bringing the percentage to 36.54, which indicates the Egyptian state's recovery from its sharp decline.

According to Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Egypt has had its lowest rank in 2013, dropping to 42.4 points, due to the political and economic conditions of the state. From 2014 and on, the indicator began to gradually rise until it reached its highest rank with 49.9 points in 2017. However, the index fell again in the last

On a scale from 1 to 100



Egypt improved ranking according to corruption perceptions index, Transparency International

source:

Transparency International (Multiple Years)· Corruption Perception Index

report issued in 2020 to 47.4 points.

Anti-corruption policy is one of the basic principles of governance. The Corruption Control Index of the Global Governance Indicators and the Corruption Perceptions Index of the Transparency International are main indicators of corruption. With regard to the Corruption Control Index, Egypt's highest rank was about 34.13 in 2017, compared to the lowest rank in 2011 with about 25.59. However, there was a drop in 2019 to 27.88, although many policies and procedures were taken to reduce corruption rates. As for the Corruption Perceptions Index issued by Transparency International, Egypt scored its highest points in 2014, with about 37 points while it decreased in 2015, 2016 and 2017, to reach 36, 34 and 32 points, respectively, then began to rise again in 2018 and 2019 to reach 35 in each. However, it dropped again in 2020 to 33 points.

Transparency Indicators:

As for indexes of transparency, the Open Budget Index is one of the main indicators. ;in 2010, Egypt scored its highest rank with about 49 points, then it dropped sharply in 2012 and 2015 to 13 and 16 points, respectively due to the political conditions especially the absence of the Legislative Council which represents a major component of the index. In 2017 and 2019, Egypt achieved a remarkable increase, reaching 41 and 43 points, respectively, due to the implemented reforms with regard to the publication of the general budget data comprehensively and in more details, in addition to the presence of an elected parliament that exercised

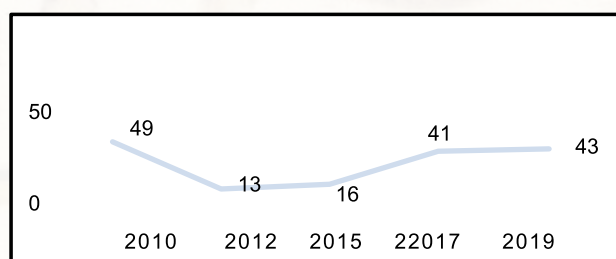
its oversight powers, alongside other agencies led by the Central Auditing Organization.

Digital Transformation Indicators:

The e-government index issued by the United Nations measures the ability of national institutions to use communications and information technology in the provision of public services. The best ranking of Egypt was in 2014 when it reached 80 out of 193 countries, but it declined significantly in 2016 and 2018 to 108 and 114 out of 193 countries, respectively. In 2020, there was a slight improvement, where Egypt reached 111 out of 193 countries.

Second: Recommendations to enhance Governance in Egypt:

According to the above-mentioned review, Egypt's rank in the governance indicators shows that more efforts are required to deal with the challenges in the field of governance. We need to build on the policies taken by



Egypt improved ranking according to Open Budget Index

source:

International Budget Partnership (Multiple Years)· Open Budget Survey

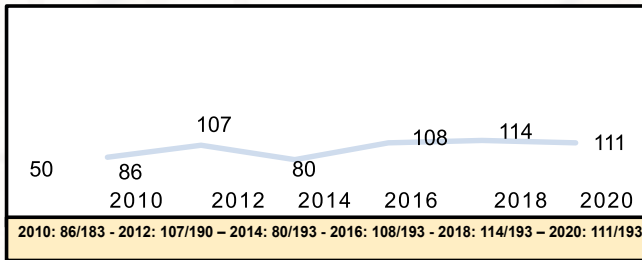
The culture of governance and prevention of corruption is reinforced through spreading the principles of governance, not only in the State's administrative apparatus, but in society as well; this may occur via embracing training and awareness programs in partnership with the civil society and the private sector.

the Egyptian government in this regard such as the Civil Service Law No. 812016/ and its executive regulations which represented a major turning point in the public administration system in Egypt, and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 20192022- and its implementation plan which contributed greatly to strengthening anti-corruption efforts.

Despite these efforts, there is a need to execute some recommendations that will strongly help to enhance governance:

Issuing laws that support the process of enhancing governance such as the Freedom of Information Law and the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Law which represent vital anti-corruption reforms, in addition to amending the State's general budget law to reflect the adoption of program and performance budget; this also will reinforce governmental effectiveness and amend the general planning law to improve the planning process at the national and local levels

Making necessary reforms to develop the statistical system and its legislation to be in line with recent developments in statistical monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing development programs. On top of the legislation required is the freedom of information



Egypt improved ranking according to e-Government index

source:

United Nations (Multiple Years)
E-Government Survey

Cities of the world are witnessing unprecedented growth that brings opportunities and risks to individuals, institutions and governments; this requires efforts from all parties to build smarter and more resilient cities. Cities are exposed to many risks due to natural and man-made disasters. Accordingly, there should be a global framework to ensure they remain steadfast in the face of disasters and crises; their ability to provide vital services at all times should be also checked; finally, there should be a guarantee to both the life of mankind and the proper quality of life within them.

circulation.

Empowering the local administration by granting greater powers to governors and municipal employees so that they can meet local needs, increase investments directed to the governorates to reduce development gaps, and issuing local administration law to elect local councils that work to enhance accountability.

Promoting digital transformation through increasing investment in infrastructure and information technology, adopting supporting laws, ensuring safe use of the Internet, increasing investment in the Internet of Things technologies and artificial intelligence, increasing investment in research and development, and considering digital transformation as part of the larger framework of digital inclusion: the efforts of digital transformation must ensure that all individuals, including those most in need, have the ability to access digital services, and the necessary skills to use them in an easy way to benefit from them.

Increasing partnership between the public and private sectors and working to improve business environment by supporting competitiveness and reducing monopolistic practices, as well as supporting the social responsibility roles of the private sector and NGOs.

Enhancing the culture of governance and combating corruption, by spreading the principles of governance, not only in the State's administrative apparatus but in society as well, by adopting training and awareness programs in partnership with the civil society and the private sector.

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