



## THE FIRST MODEL CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES (COSP) TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC) PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION



**By: Leslie Reed**  
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for Egypt \*

The Government of Egypt has made combating corruption a priority, and the U.S. Government, through USAID, is pleased to support this effort through our strong partnership with the Administrative Control Authority (ACA) and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. Together, we are working to build more efficient and transparent institutions in Egypt.

As Samantha Power, USAID's Administrator, recently said, "Corruption is basically development in reverse." It harms long-term economic development, frightens away private sector investment, deepens inequality, and even harms the environment. USAID's goal of creating a more inclusive and competitive economy for the benefit of all Egyptians cannot be achieved without eliminating the burden of corruption on the most vulnerable segments. Through our Economic Governance Activity, USAID is supporting ACA to implement Egypt's National Anti-Corruption Strategy and to advance digitalization to make services more efficient and accessible, and to enforce accountability.

Last November, I was delighted to meet the next generation of leaders in the fight against corruption during the First Model Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The conference was organized

by USAID's Economic Governance Activity in collaboration with the ACA and Cairo University. 140 students from Cairo University participated in the Model Conference, during which students represented different countries and put on the hat of international experts to hold vibrant discussions about anti-corruption. I witnessed how students proposed many thoughtful measures and policies required for building a world free of corruption and how enthusiastic and committed they were to bring about meaningful change.

The USAID, in collaboration with ACA, sponsored 15 students from the Model Conference to participate in the real COSP held in Sharm El-Sheikh. At both conferences, students displayed the best of Egypt's youth: intelligence, dedication, passion and skill. They proved themselves capable of becoming future leaders and drivers of anti-corruption efforts in their country.

Building on the success of this initiative, USAID intends to expand the collaboration with ACA and replicate the Model Conference in other Egyptian universities.

In closing, I wish to thank our Egyptian partners and all the youth who participated in this endeavor; and I look forward to working continuously with them in the years ahead to curb corruption.

- Students and representatives from ACA, Cairo University and the USAID at the closing ceremony of the Model Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, November 16, 2021



- Cairo University students in the 9th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) meet with U.S. Ambassador Jonathan R. Cohen and USAID Mission Director Leslie Reed in Sharm El-Sheikh December 13-17, 2021



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\* Leslie Reed began her tour as USAID Mission Director for Egypt in August 2020, after having served as Mission Director in several other countries. Most recently, she completed a year-long tour as Mission Director in South Sudan. Ms. Reed is a graduate of UCLA School of Law and the University of California, San Diego.