



Assistant to Chairman of ACA in Post-COVID Session This is How Egypt Defeated the Epidemic!

Major General Khaled Abdelrahman, the Assistant to the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority, highlighted that Egypt is one of the countries that took several measures to encounter the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Egyptian State not only did that at the economic or social levels but effectively dealt with it at the institutional level. It enhanced governance and anti-corruption in line with the recommendations issued by international agencies in this respect. The governance and anti-corruption cases are intersectional ones in all the measures taken by the Egyptian State. This part reviews the institutional framework for dealing with the Coronavirus crisis and the most important measures taken by the Egyptian State in connection with governance and anti-corruption.

In his statement in the the Post-COVID session held within the proceedings of the conference, Major General Khaled Abdelrahman added that the Egyptian State has an institutional framework to cope with the crises and disasters, namely: the Crisis and Disaster Sector at the Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center and the Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management. The latter is chaired by the Prime Minister and encompasses several members from the relevant ministries. The Board of Governors, chaired by the Prime Minister, also represents the mechanism for managing the crisis in governorates. The Board of Governors discusses the decisions issued by the Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management and follows up their implementation in the governorates. As for the legislative authority, both health committees at the Egyptian House of Representatives periodically follows up the performance of the Government in relation to all the decisions connected with the crisis, whether such decisions are related to health, p vaccines provision or sites available for taking vaccines or even measures for making vaccines available for all citizens.

The wide spread of the Coronavirus shocked all the countries and enforced governments to implement quick response policies against such transmission. Due to universal confusion created by the spread of the Coronavirus, several international and regional organizations and donors provided recommendations to governments about the policies and measures that must be adopted to tackle and alleviate the economic and financial repercussions of the pandemic. Egypt was one of the countries that launched incentive packages adopted in response to the pandemic, whether for the individuals, companies or the most vulnerable sectors through COVID-19 Measures Observatory that was launched through the Ministry of Planning & Economic Development to monitor all the measures taken by the Egyptian State.

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State dedication to enhance transparency of the measures taken during the pandemic and support the most needy categories, Egypt created an observatory for the policies and programs responding to the woman's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Egypt is one of the leading countries worldwide that created such observatory. The National Council for Women (NCW) prepared a policy paper that analyzed the current situation of the woman and the proposed response measures in the light of the widespread of the virus within the framework of its impact on health, education, social protection, violence against woman, representation in decision making during crisis management as well as impact on the economic opportunities, enhancement of data and knowledge. As a result of focusing on taking woman-oriented policies and measures, UN-Women and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) commended the measures taken by the Egyptian State in a report about monitoring the worldwide gender-related response, focusing on North Africa and West Asia countries. The report pointed out that Egypt was ranked first among North Africa and West Asia states in measures and procedures applied to three areas: economic protection of woman, unpaid care and combating violence against woman.

The Egyptian Government sought to provide mechanisms for the COVID-19 pandemic-related complaints. In addition, the Cabinet Unified Government Complaints System received, addressed and responded to the pandemic-related complaints whether from institutions or individuals. The Unified Governments Complaints System (UGCS) provides the citizens with the opportunity to file a complaint via the UGCS online portal.

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minimize corruption opportunities. Furthermore, the Egyptian Government created and applied clear and transparent standards to determine priority recipients of the vaccines. The Egyptian Ministry of Health adopted such standards to ensure the fair distribution of the vaccine.

Egyptian Ministry of Health launched the Egypt Health application that contains updated information about the virus, its outspread statistics and guidelines about dealing with the virus in case of infection or in case of contacting the persons infected. The application also provides the services that can be accessed at the different health centers; it also contains the reporting mechanism if a person is a suspected case of the virus. An official website was launched to receive the registration requests to receive the vaccine. Priority categories were determined, including medical sector staff, elderly people, and persons with chronic diseases. The Ministry of Health, in addition to its website, provided its services via the hotline for categories unable to register via the website. It is worth mentioning that 100 Million Healthy Lives campaign that was launched in 2018 effectively contributed to the success of this System through an integrated database for persons with chronic diseases. The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population also launched the Egypt Health Passport application that is used for different travel purposes. To prevent corruption, registration via the application requires a mandatory entry of the national number or passport number. The application is linked with the Vaccine Registration System to find out the number and types of shots a person took and the date taken.

As for the recommendations of international organizations in respect of fostering the systems of public administration, procurements and public finance administration to enhance effective control over planning operations, allotment of budgets to address the pandemic, strengthen control over disbursement,

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distribute the funds dedicated for coping with the crisis to ensure accountability and transparency in distributing funds, Egypt adopted several measures that aimed at the fair and transparent distribution of funds oriented to manage the crisis. In addition, there are strict rules in place to deal with public procurements to reduce corruption.

The Egyptian State launched several awareness campaigns about how to deal with the virus, in cooperation with the different mass media and social media platforms.

Major General Khaled emphasized that within the framework of combating COVID-19, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, in collaboration with Trous Misr Foundation, an Egyptian NGO and in partnership with several owners and heads of companies, launched Misr Hat'aady (Egypt will pass) campaign as the first popular initiative to encounter the economic consequences of COVID-19 to support the most vulnerable categories through motivating the private sector to maintain and safeguard work force.

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