

Report for France: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Implement the Strategy for Women to 2030 adopted by Egypt in 2017.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights progress in the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030, focusing on promoting women's rights in economic, political, and social spheres. However, practical implementation remains inconsistent, with gender-based violence, discriminatory laws, and limited access to leadership roles still prevalent issues. Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the strategy's goals are needed to ensure progress.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should strengthen implementation of the Women's Strategy 2030 by establishing clear timelines, evaluation metrics, and dedicated funding. Programs addressing gender-based violence, legal protections, and women's political participation should be prioritized.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What specific measures has Egypt taken to monitor and evaluate the Women's Strategy 2030?
- How does Egypt ensure that programs supporting gender equality receive adequate resources?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee freedom of expression and the press, as well as the right to peaceful demonstration, in accordance with Egypt's constitutional provisions and international commitments.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report emphasizes constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression and assembly. However, restrictive laws, including the Protest Law and various media regulations, continue to curb these freedoms. Reports indicate that journalists, activists, and protesters face harassment, arrest, and prosecution, with a limited space for independent media and peaceful protests.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend restrictive laws that limit freedom of expression, the press, and peaceful assembly. The government should ensure that citizens can exercise these rights without fear of reprisal, in line with Egypt's constitutional and international commitments.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to amend laws that restrict freedom of expression, the press, and peaceful assembly?
- How does Egypt safeguard journalists, activists, and demonstrators from harassment and prosecution?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition; ensure that no person who was a minor at the time of the crime is sentenced to death and reduce the number of crimes punishable by death.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report justifies the death penalty as constitutionally supported. While Egypt asserts procedural safeguards, reports indicate that minors have been sentenced to death, and the number of crimes punishable by death remains extensive. No steps have been taken toward establishing a moratorium or reducing death penalty applications.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should implement a moratorium on executions as a step toward abolition, ensuring no minor is sentenced to death and reducing the scope of crimes carrying the death penalty. A review of current death penalty cases should also be conducted to ensure fair trial standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps toward establishing a moratorium on the death penalty?
- How does Egypt ensure that minors are not sentenced to death and that fair trial standards are applied in capital cases?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Following the adoption of the new law on NGOs, allow the effective development of an active and dynamic civil society.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report discusses Law No. 149 of 2019, aimed at regulating NGOs. However, the law still imposes substantial restrictions on civil society activities, with strict government oversight and limitations on funding. HRDs and NGOs face travel bans, asset freezes, and operational challenges, which stifle the growth of a dynamic civil society.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should amend Law No. 149 to ensure civil society organizations can operate freely, without undue restrictions on funding and activities. Protections should be provided for HRDs and NGOs against arbitrary travel bans and asset freezes.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What amendments has Egypt made to facilitate a more independent and active civil society?
- How does Egypt ensure that civil society actors are protected from undue interference?

5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Bring the definition of torture in the Egyptian Penal Code into line with international law.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has not updated its Penal Code to align its definition of torture with the standards outlined in the Convention against Torture. Reports indicate that incidents of torture and ill-treatment in detention centers persist, with limited accountability for perpetrators and an absence of comprehensive legal protections for victims.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

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Recommendation 5: Egypt should revise its Penal Code to incorporate a definition of torture that fully aligns with international standards. This includes establishing independent oversight mechanisms to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to align its definition of torture with international standards?
- How does Egypt investigate allegations of torture and ensure accountability?

6. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, end excessive preventive detention, and ensure competent authorities can conduct unannounced visits to places of detention.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and preventive detention practices remain a concern, with reports of excessive detention times and limited access to detainees. Independent access to detention facilities is restricted, hindering effective oversight and protection against abuse.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 6: Egypt should ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, limit the use of preventive detention, and allow independent bodies to conduct unannounced inspections of detention facilities to safeguard detainees' rights.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken any steps toward ratifying the Convention on Enforced Disappearance?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure preventive detention practices are not abused and that detention facilities are independently monitored?

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Conclusion

France's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to advance women's empowerment, protect civil liberties, align its legal definitions of torture with international standards, and take steps towards abolishing the death penalty. Egypt's National Report addresses these areas but indicates limited progress. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize the need for legal reforms and protections that align with Egypt's international human rights commitments.

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