

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

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Report for Switzerland: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025**1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Pursue its efforts in social and economic inclusion by allocating appropriate funds for health and education.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report highlights investments in healthcare and education reform, but funding shortfalls and regional disparities continue to limit access, particularly in rural areas. Enhancing social and economic inclusion requires sustained investment and targeted programs to ensure equitable access to quality services across all regions.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should increase funding for health and education, with a focus on reducing regional disparities and improving access in underserved areas. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established to assess the effectiveness of these investments in advancing social and economic inclusion.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What specific measures has Egypt taken to ensure equitable access to health and education across all regions?
- How does Egypt monitor the impact of its social and economic inclusion programs?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, and protect the persons who exercise these rights.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report asserts constitutional protections for freedom of expression, association, and assembly. However, restrictive laws, such as the Protest Law and Anti-Cyber Crimes Law, continue to limit these freedoms. HRDs, journalists, and activists face risks of detention, harassment, and prosecution, which restricts civic participation and public discourse.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend restrictive laws to ensure freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Legal protections should be strengthened to safeguard HRDs, journalists, and activists from reprisals and to promote an open and inclusive public sphere.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to revise laws impacting freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly?
- How does Egypt ensure that individuals exercising these rights are protected from harassment and detention?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee the right to a fair trial and limit the jurisdiction of military courts to military cases.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report emphasizes adherence to fair trial standards, but the continued use of military courts for civilian cases, particularly in politically sensitive situations, remains a concern. Limiting military court jurisdiction to military personnel is essential to uphold international standards on fair trials and judicial independence.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should amend its laws to limit military court jurisdiction to military personnel only. Independent judicial oversight should be enhanced to ensure civilians receive fair trials in civilian courts.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt implemented to ensure that only military personnel are tried in military courts?
- How does Egypt ensure fair trials for civilians, particularly in cases involving political or civil rights?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), cease the practice of pretrial detention, and ensure that detainees have access to medical care, their lawyers, and their relatives.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has yet to ratify OPCAT, which would mandate establishing a national preventive mechanism for detention monitoring. Additionally, the widespread use of pretrial detention, limited access to medical care, and restricted communication with family and legal counsel raise serious concerns about detainees' rights and humane treatment.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should ratify OPCAT, end the routine use of pretrial detention, and ensure that detainees have guaranteed access to medical care, legal representation, and family visits. Independent oversight mechanisms should be established to monitor compliance and address any violations in detention facilities.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to limit the use of pretrial detention and ensure detainees' access to medical care, legal counsel, and family members?
- Has Egypt made progress towards ratifying OPCAT and implementing independent detention oversight mechanisms?

Conclusion

Switzerland's 2019 recommendations focused on enhancing social and economic inclusion, protecting fundamental freedoms, ensuring fair trials, and preventing abuse in detention facilities. Egypt's National Report highlights some progress, but critical reforms are necessary to fully align with international human rights standards. The proposed recommendations for 2025 underscore the importance of legal updates, oversight mechanisms, and protections for civic rights.

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