

Policy Brief **7**

Egypt 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy: Between Great Expectations and Challenges to Implement 2018

Under the slogan “leaving no one behind”, global action is being taken by countries to achieve seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. Egypt’s vision for its 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) is committed to these global goals. However, the political, economic, and social context present a number of questions regarding the implementation of the policy design. As a result, the ambitious vision requires a complementary implementation plan to coordinate collaboration between the different stakeholders, develop engaging messaging to overcome the public’s resistance to change, establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation framework that brings all stakeholders together, and presents a monitoring and evaluation system.

This brief examines the policy design of Egypt’s 2030 vision, provides comparative insights from the experiences of other countries implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on the monitoring and evaluation process, and presents an assessment of Egypt’s experience in implementing the MDGs in 2015 and the lessons it bears for current efforts to implement the SDS. The brief lists, and provides a critical reading of, some of the obstacles and limitations that emerge from the local political, economic and social context.

Introduction:

The Egypt 2030 vision is a long-term plan with great ambition that requires global partnership. In accordance with this vision, Egypt will allocate local resources and global partnerships to achieve the SDGs. Egypt has taken steady steps towards achieving the following sustainable development goals: economic reform, infrastructure and distribution of electricity, highways that will create economic opportunities, and administrative reform of the public sector. This includes collaboration with various stakeholders on national and international levels where Ministries, United Nations agencies, the private sector, and civil society are involved. This effort began with Egypt’s endeavors to achieve the eight Goals of Millennium Development.

Egypt only succeeded in achieving six targets and declared that another eleven targets were difficult to achieve. Since the SDGs propose a wider range of goals and targets, it is imperative to look at how the state will measure success. This includes the types of indicators required and the monitoring and evaluation framework best suited to the Egyptian context.

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2030 VISION OF EGYPT

Study Findings:

1) Identifying Challenges

Building on Egypt's experience with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this brief points to the challenges anticipated in accomplishing the 169 targets out of the proposed 17 goals contained in the general framework of the SDGs. The brief highlights some of the local challenges. For example, at the local level, Egypt faces challenges such as the lack of human capital trained to implement the SDGs, lack of a coordination framework among the previously mentioned bodies, and lack of data and information necessary to create accountability and measure progress.

2) Learning Experiences in Implementing SDGs

This research reviews successful countries' experiences in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals by looking at their frameworks for monitoring and evaluation. It summarizes lessons learned from their experiences, which might inform the Egyptian case.

a) South Korean experience in Sustainable Development:

The South Korean case presents a guide for implementing a large-scale national strategy plan. It demonstrates how the establishment of a Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD) contributed to the success of the National Basic Plan for Sustainable Development (NSSD). It formulated and disseminated strategies establishing indicators and a monitoring and evaluation system. The monitoring framework, consisting of three levels, linked the departmental implementation with the national sustainable development indicators.



b) The Malaysian Experience in Sustainable Development:

The Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) were established to conduct monitoring and evaluation under the supervision of the Prime Minister. This case presents a Project Monitoring System that is divided into operational, managerial and knowledge functions.

It is essential that the Egyptian government continue to make use of tools that are already in place. Thus our policy brief further provides the following recommendations in order to build a framework for capacity-building programs for the civil service in conjunction with the new Civil Service Law 81/2016. This should be complemented with a number of procedural plans to ensure the operationalization of the law. Domestic agencies such as the NMI and the Central Agency for Organization and Administration are well equipped to undertake the task of enforcing existing laws.

3) Rule of Law

This research identifies rule of law as a critical element for the success of the SDS. Accordingly, law should facilitate cooperation among the different sectors, while ensuring transparency, accountability and protecting people's rights. It proposes a number of essential principles that should be incorporated in lawmaking for sustainable development.

Policy Recommendations:

Political will is a critical requirement for the success of any policy. In Egypt, the state's commitment to the 2030 vision demonstrates its political will for change. The government is committed to several projects that aim to improve the wellbeing of Egyptians and to involve different sectors in the implementation of SDS, with a special focus on youth. The following recommendations aim to ensure the success of SDS 2030 implementation:

- 1.** Identify all potential key stakeholders and provide a stakeholder analysis by assessing influence, interest and power.
- 2.** Involve all stakeholders in the process from an early stage. During the planning phase, allow each stakeholder group to set its own baseline, indicators, and targets.
- 3.** Replace the current culture of secrecy with one of open communication: more transparency and information-sharing through sound information systems, electronic mechanisms, websites, and regular meetings among different stakeholders.
- 4.** Commitment to ministries and sustained, effective coordination among them in the short, medium and long term.
- 5.** Implement awareness campaigns while maintaining transparency--the media has an important role to play by informing the public of progress on implemented activities and getting their support.



6. Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system: the Ministry of Planning has to monitor the implementation of planned activities by all ministries, identify the obstacles at an early stage, and revise the plan as required.

7. Encourage involved stakeholders and government employees to report corruption through establishing a formal independent complaint system. If there is corruption, none of the targets sets can be achieved.

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The Public Policy HUB is an initiative that was developed at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) in October 2017. It was designed to fill in the policy research gap. It provides the mechanism by which the good ideas, plausible answers, and meaningful solutions to Egypt's chronic and acute policy dilemmas can be nurtured, discussed, debated, refined, tested and presented to policymakers in a format that is systematic, highly-visible and most likely to have a lasting impact.

The Public Policy HUB provides a processing unit where policy teams are formed on a regular basis, combining experienced policy scholars/mentors with young creative policy analysts, provide them with the needed resources, training, exposure, space, tools, networks, knowledge and contacts, to enable them to come up with sound, rigorous and yet creative policy solutions that have a greater potential to be effectively advocated and communicated to the relevant policy makers and to the general public.

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