



CHAPTER ONE

The Vision

1/1 Preface

The planning process doesn't start from void; it is based on past experiences, current facts and our vision concerning future development and the realization of prosperity for coming generations.

From this perspective, we briefly review the most important achievements realized in Egypt during the past twenty-five years, as well as the main axes of the envisaged comprehensive development and its main features which constitute the general framework for the sixth five-year plan, aiming at securing a better future for Egyptian citizens.

1/2 Past Achievements

It would be impossible to relate all actual achievements realized throughout the consecutive five-year plans, covering a time span of approximately twenty – five years. Besides, listing in detail all achievements – at the macro, sectoral or spatial level would not help much to follow the development path, growth trends and performance rates; especially if we take into consideration the relatively long time period under study, in addition to the new changes occurred under dynamic circumstances and influencing, either positively or negatively, the pace of economic and social development efforts.

Therefore, it seems more appropriate to depict the major achievements which led to structural changes in the Egyptian economy since the early 1980s until present time. The results of this analytical approach will shed light on principal developments witnessed by the Egyptian economy and pave the way for the formulation of planning objectives and determination of development process priorities during the coming period.



1/2/1 The Economic Structure

First: Diversity and Integration of the Production Structure

During the study period (1981/82 – 2006/07), several significant changes occurred in the production structure, mainly the following:

- The relative importance of the industrial production increased while production figures in the petroleum and natural gas sector soared; tourist and service activities grew at accelerated rates; moreover, the communications and information technology sector emerged as a distinctive sector with rapidly growing performance rates [table (1/1)].

This structural evolution of the Egyptian economy reflects its modernization trend and the plans' focus on developing comparative advantage activities, to ensure better exploitation of natural resources.

Table (1/1)

GDP Structural Development, by Sector

(%)

Economic Activity	1982/81	2006/07
Agriculture & Fishing	18.8	13.4
Manufacturing Industries	12.7	17.2
Petroleum and Natural Gas	12.6	16.5
Electricity	0.7	1.8
Construction	5.4	4.2
Tourism	1.0	3.5
Transportation and Storage	10.1	8.7
Communication		2.2
Trade and Finance	18.9	15.2
Social and Personal Services	19.8	17.5
Total	100	100



Increased Industrial Contribution to the Economy

The contribution of the industrial sector in GDP rose from 12.7% in 1981/82 to 17% approximately in 2006/07. No doubt, this positive trend enhances the strength of the national economy given that industry represents the engine of growth and reflects improvements in economic efficiency and international competitiveness.

The study period witnessed an increase in the number of industrial zones from only four zones at the beginning of the period to 90 zones at the present time; while the number of factories increased tenfold from about 1200 firms to 12400 firms.

Hence, the industrial sector was able to provide more than 1.5 million new job opportunities at the rate of 60 thousand jobs per annum, as the number of employees in the industrial sector rose from 1.28 million to approximately 2.74 million during the contemplated period. The evolution of the industrial production revealed improved self-sufficiency ratios for several industrial products, such as sugar (from 63% to 80%), cement (from 44% to 100%) and reinforcement iron (from 38% to 99.5%). Similarly, industrial exports rose twenty times as much, from \$ 0.6 billion at the beginning of the period to around \$ 13.4 billion at the end of the period.

Accelerated Growth of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector

During the period from 1981/82 to 2005/06, investments in the petroleum and natural gas sector reached LE 149 billion. Another amount of LE 16.6 billion is expected to be invested in 2006/07, raising total investments to LE 165.6 billion, ranking the sector in the second position after manufacturing where total investments exceeded LE 186 billion.

The petroleum and natural gas sector witnessed distinctive developments, especially during the last six years, due to large investment flows into this sector and the new discoveries of natural gas. During the period (1982/83 – 1998/99), total investments in this sector were about LE 60 billion with an annual average of LE 3.75 billion. However, during the next six years, investments in this sector stepped up to LE 90 billion, with an annual average of LE 15 billion.



Recently, this sector has realized concrete achievements which were reflected in its performance rates, whether in the domain of exploration, production, manufacturing or exportation. The confirmed reserves of oil wealth increased to LE 15.8 billion barrel equivalents; while those of natural gas reached 68.2 trillion cubic feet and the production of natural gas leaped up from 1.9 million tons in 1981/82 to 38.4 million tons in 2005/06. The available refining capacities rose from 15 million tons to 35 million tons, while the value of petroleum exports kept increasing to reach \$ 10.6 billion in 2005/06.

Continued Efforts for Agricultural Development

Although the relative GDP share of the agricultural sector receded, production and productivity increased. The agricultural areas gained about 2.4 million feddans during the period (1981/82 – 2006/07) with an average increase rate of 96 thousand feddans per year. Meanwhile, the cropped area increased by 3.7 million feddans, approximately at a rate of 148 thousand feddans per year. Moreover, infrastructure works were carried out during that period, covering about 3.1 million feddans; in addition to internal reclamation works for an area of approximately 2.9 million feddans. The reclaimed land for young graduates reached about 490 thousand feddans of which 400 thousand were distributed. Furthermore, the quantities produced of various agricultural crops increased continuously. Some of these crops are listed below.

(Million ton)

Crop	1982/81	05/2006
Grain Crops	8.0	23.0
Vegetables and Onions	8.8	21.3
Fruits	2.6	8.9
Meat	0.26	0.77
Poultry	0.144	1.0
Eggs (billion eggs)	3.2	9.0
Fish	0.21	0.89

The increase in agricultural production entailed a raise in the self – sufficiency rates of some of the main essential goods, such as wheat (from 39% to 58%), and the realization of full self – sufficiency from corn, rice, vegetables, fruits, dairy, products, eggs and fish.



Agricultural exports escalated from around \$ 200 million to approximately \$ 1 billion. The number of new agricultural job opportunities reached about 1.4 million, so that the number of agricultural workers rose from 4.1 million to about 5.5 million.

A Developmental Leap in the Tourism Sector

A great emphasis was directed to the tourism sector since the first five-year plan (1982/83 – 1986/87). The private sector was encouraged to invest in promising tourist destinations through tax exemptions reaching ten years, providing lands at nominal prices, developing and improving utilities and tourist services at the country level. Tourism investments reached LE 35 billion approximately, leading to the flourishing of the tourism sector, as shown by the following indicators:

- * Hotel capacity increased from 18 thousand rooms in 1981/82 to 175 thousand rooms in 2006/07.
- * The number of tourists soared from 1.4 million tourists in 1981/82 to 9 million tourists in 2006/07.
- * Tourist nights rose from 9.6 million to 90 million nights during the same period.
- * Tourism revenues leaped from \$ 0.5 billion to \$ 7.7 billion.

Remarkable Communications and Information Technology Activity

To keep pace with world developments in communications and information technology (IT) systems, special attention was given to that sector, especially during the past period which has witnessed successive innovations representing a real worldwide revolution in the sphere of communications and information. In what follows are some indicators reflecting the considerable achievements carried out in this field:

- * The number of telephone lines rose from 534 thousand in 1981 to 12.9 million lines in 2006.
- * The number of fixed telephone subscribers escalated from 476 thousand (1981) to 10.6 million subscribers in 2006.
- * The number of public service telephone booths increased from 250 booths in 1982 to 56 thousand booths in 2006.



- * The number of international central circuits jumped up from 160 circuits in 1981 to 15 thousand circuits in 2005.
- * The number of technology clubs increased from 30 clubs in 1999 to 1368 clubs in 2006.
- * The number of international communication circuits climbed up from 820 circuits in 1981 to 22103 circuits in 2006.
- * In 2006, the number of subscribers to mobile phone lines reached 14.8 million subscribers.
- * The number of internet users sharply rose from 300 thousand subscribers in 1999 to 5.4 million subscribers in 2006.
- * The number of television channels rose from simply 2 channels to 28 channels in 2006.

Continuous Development of Utilities' Services

Given the importance of providing adequate infrastructure for direct production sectors, including agriculture, industry, mining, etc., the state has allocated LE 450 billion to enhance infrastructure utilities which account for 38% of total public investments. Out of the above mentioned amount, around 53% were spent on transportation projects; 40% went to water, electricity and sanitation projects; and the remaining 7% covered other public utilities. These intensified investment programs led to capacity expansion in the fields of water and electricity, sanitation, transportation and communications.

In the field of **electricity**, the available electric power increased almost four folds, from 22 billion kwh in 1981 to 101 billion kwh in 2005/06.

In the field of electricity generation, the main implemented projects were the following:

- Establishing 14 electricity generation stations and expanding 9 stations.
- Replacing and renewing Aswan (I) hydraulic station and developing the High Dam turbines.
- Replacing and renewing 120 electricity generation stations.



- Establishing and operating a wind farm of 5000 kilowatts capacity in Hurgada, on the Red Sea Coast and a wind farm of 63 megawatts capacity in Al-Za'afarana.
- Adding new electrical powers of 2010 megawatts to the unified network, from the stations established according to the BOOT system.
- Implementing wind farms of 77 megawatts, in the Red Sea governorate.
- Developing units (3) and (4) in the Abou Queir steam electricity station.
- Implementing the two gas units of (2×250 megawatts) capacity each in the North Cairo generation station with a composite circuit.

In order to upgrade the networks, transformer stations of total capacity of approximately 56500 megavolt-ampere, were implemented including the extension of the necessary aerial lines and ground cables of a total length of 18700 kilometers. Moreover, the lighting networks, already in place, of 8600 villages were upgraded; the deteriorated networks of 2700 villages were replaced and renovated; in addition, lighting networks were extended to 28 thousand villages, small villages and housing compounds. Electricity supply was also provided to 123 thousand feddans of reclaimed lands.

In the field of land transportation, the main implemented works were the following:

- Completing the metro first line (Helwan / Al Marg) 44.3 kilometers long; and the second line (Shoubra Al Kheima / Guiza) 21.3 kilometers long and commencing the implementation of the third line (Al-Attaba / Al-Abbaseya).
- Completing Al-Azhar cars tunnel, connecting Salah Salem Road to Al-Opera Square.
- Widening parts of the main road network in Lower and Upper Egypt and South of the Valley region with a total length of 2955 kilometers approximately.
- Establishing a network of main roads, 3750 kilometers long.
- Connecting Sinai roads to main road networks in the Delta and the Nile valley.



- Improving the efficiency of main roads and highways over 4000 kilometers approximately.
- Building new railways, 2265 km long, and renovating railways 5872 km long.
- Building 35 flyovers and 11 bridges over the Nile River.
- Paving 30 thousand kilometers of main and side roads. The total length of paved roads reached about 47 thousand kilometers compared to 17.7 thousand kilometers at the beginning of the period.

The development of the road network led to the increase of passengers' movement and the volume of transported goods by 185% and 224% in year 2005/06 as compared to 1981/82.

In the field of maritime transportation, the main achievements were the following:

- Establishing Damietta seaport with a capacity of 5.6 million tons, later increased to 7.6 million tons, and building a multi-purpose quay.
- Completing the first phase of Al-Dekhiela seaport, of 7.7 million tons capacity and introducing the container circulation service.
- Establishing four container stations in Alexandria, Port Said, Damietta and Al-Dekheila.
- Establishing, operating and habilitating the seaports of Noweiba, Sharm el Sheikh, Suez and Safaga.
- Completing the first phase for establishing Al-Ain-Alsukhna – North seaport.
- Developing and deepening the quays in East Port Said Seaport.
- Expanding the Suez Canal Navigation course and increasing its depth from 53 feet to 66 feet.

These works largely increased the capacity of Egyptian seaports; namely from 15.1 million tons in 1981/82 to about 80 million tons in 2005/06. Consequently, the volume of foreign trade passing through Egyptian seaports more than doubled, rising from 24.8 million tons to 69 million tons.



In the field of air transportation, the most important achievements were as follows:

- * Increasing the air transportation fleet to 49 aircrafts.
- * Developing the passengers' building no. 1; increasing the number of departure and arrival halls; developing the airport zone; starting the preliminary works for completing the passengers' building no. 3 and establishing eleven new aprons for aircrafts.
- * Establishing new passengers buildings in Luxor, Hurgada, Aswan and Sharm el Sheikh Airports; establishing arrival and departure halls at Port Said; expanding passengers buildings at Al-Nozha and Abou Simbel airports; developing the airports and increasing the length of runways.

These developments resulted in the increase of passengers' number from 7.4 million to 9.8 million and the increase of transported goods from 95.2 million tons to 418 million tons, during the period 1981/82 - 2005/06.

Change of the Labor Force Structure in Favor of Service Activities

Despite the change of the production structure essentially in favor of industrial and petroleum – related activities, the employment capacity of those sectors remained relatively limited, whereas service activities absorbed most of the additional labor force, incoming to the labor market, especially in the field of social services. Therefore, while the share of service activities rose by 7 percentage points, the share of the industrial sector, broadly defined, increased by only 2 percentage points of the total labor force, and the increase in the building and construction sector's share was 2.8 percentage points [table (1/2)].

Table (1/2)
Evolution of the Sectoral Labor Structure (1981/82 –2006/07)
(%)

Activity	1981/82	2006/207
Agriculture & Fishing	39.0	27.0
Manufacturing, Mining, Petroleum & Electricity	13.4	15.4
Building & Construction	5.0	7.8
Services	42.6	49.8



Second: Change in Economic Policy Orientation

One of the major factors which engendered radical changes in the production structure has been the ever-growing participation of the private sector in development efforts as the general policy of the state turned towards encouraging individual initiatives within the conversion to the market economy. Legislations provided several incentives to private investment which assumed gradually a greater role in the economic activity. Hence, the participation of private investment in GDP increased from 53% in 1981/82 to 61% in 2006/07. The growing share of the private sector was especially significant in the industrial sector and certain service activities which had been traditionally conducted by public entities, such as electricity generation [table (1/3)].

Table (1/3)

Evolution of the Private Sector Share in GDP By Economic Activity

(%)

Activity	1981/82	2006/07
Manufacturing Industries	33	86
Construction	51	88
Transportation	45	79
Communication		95
Trade	77	96
Finance	26	34
Insurance	17	27
Tourism	79	98
Electricity	-	14
Social Services	32	94

Accordingly, the employment contribution of the private sector rose from 66% to 70% of total employment during the contemplated period, and from 33% to 59% of total employment for non-agricultural activities. The participation of private investment in total investment climbed up from 30% in 1981/82 to 63% in 2006/07.

The distribution of private and public sector investments by activity reflects the difference in relative importance given to the various fields of activity by the two sectors. Public investments concentrated on infrastructure projects (42%); whereas, private investments were mostly directed to the production of goods and services (63%), as shown in table (1/4).



Table (1/4)

Sectoral Structure of Private and Public Investments (1982/81 – 2006/05)

(%)

Projects	Private	Public
Goods and services production projects	63	24
Infrastructural Projects	12	42
Human Development Projects	25	34
Total	100	100

The improved economic climate had exerted a great impact on promoting private investment and encouraging individual incentives as the economic policy shifted towards allowing the private sector to effectively participate in development efforts, in all economic activity. Moreover, the adoption of the privatization policy led to the expansion of private ownership of capital assets.

The past two decades witnessed numerous positive economic developments, including continued efforts in the field of financial and tax reforms, the independence and stability of the monetary policy and the adoption of floating exchange rate; growing capital market activity; increasing foreign investment inflows; achieving additional integration and merging operations between institutions in order to establish strong economic entities, able to confront international competition.

1/2/2 Social Structure

Improved Human and Social Development Indicators

In addition to concrete positive economic developments, the time period from 1981/82 to 2006/07 hosted corresponding achievements at the social level, due to the increasing concern with human development and focusing on the social dimensions of the economic development process.

This is clearly evidenced by the sustained improvement in the human and social development indicators, as shown in table (1/5) concerning vital statistics and the educational, health and housing services and related facilities. Generally speaking, these statistics point out to a concrete progress in the quality of life of the individual and the social environment of the Egyptian household, due to the achievements realized during the past period, in the various service fields.



Expanding educational services, for example, allowed the complete enrollment of students in the first educational stage, thus reducing dropping-out ratios, lowering class density and consequently, reducing illiteracy rates.

Table (1/5)
Human and Social Development Indicators
(1982/81 – 2006/05)

Indicator	1982/81	2006/05
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 newborn children)	71	17
Birth Rate (per thousand)	38.2	26.8
Mortality Rate (per thousand)	10.4	6.4
Life expectancy at birth (years)		
Males	56.6	71.5
Females	60.6	75.0
Enrollment rate in primary education (%)	85.2%	100%
Enrollment rate in university education (%)	18.6%	27%
Illiteracy rate (%)	42%>	29.3%
Average class density (student)	43.2	40.3
Education leakage rate (%)	1.7 %	0.38%
Annual average per capita share of electrical power (kwh)	413	1359
Annual average per capita share of electrical power for household consumption (kwh)	112	498
Rate of beneficiary households from electrical services	95.1 % (*)	99.3%
Rate of beneficiary households from potable water.	82.6% (*)	95.6%
Rate of beneficiary households from potable water (liter / day)	111.2	305.0
Rate of beneficiary households from sanitation.	45.1 % (*)	50.5%

(*) In 1996.

Within this framework, the state has increasingly endeavored to improve the living conditions for citizens through providing adequate housing and extending water and sanitation services. The works implemented during the period (1981/82 – 2005/06) costed almost LE 83 billion, and included the following:



***Housing :** About 3.8 million housing units were added, with investments amounting to LE 113 billion approximately. The private sector implemented 94.4% of these investments while concentrating on economic housing units which represented 72.3% of total implemented units.

***Potable Water :** Eleven water stations were implemented in Cairo and Alexandria; in addition to a water station, four main water pipelines, and 650 mobile distilled water units in various governorates. Moreover, main water networks were extended totaling 28.5 thousand kilometers. Upper and ground tanks of a capacity of 2185 thousand cubic meters per day, were erected; furthermore, 44 water desalination units were established in Sinai, Red Sea and the Northern Coast; 50 water purification units were also implemented in Sinai and the New Valley; the first stage of South – Alamein water station was completed; main and secondary water pipelines, 7623 km long, were extended to newly developed areas; 47 purification stations and 39 water pumping stations were installed; and 72 wells were drilled.

*** Sanitation:**

- 13 stations were implemented in Greater Cairo and Alexandria and 99 stations were implemented in the other governorates.
- Sanitation networks, 802 km long, were extended.
- Three treatment stations were established within the sanitation projects of North and South Sinai.
- Main and secondary sanitation pipelines 4518 km long, were extended.
- 29 treatment stations and 66 pumping stations were established.

1/3 Main Features of the Future Development Vision

Despite all significant developments achieved during the past 25 years, the gap is still wide between the economic and social status and our aspirations concerning the desired welfare level for the Egyptian citizen. Strong challenges are still affecting the development process, impeding its sustainability on one hand, and precluding us from fully reaping its fruits, on the other hand.



Some of these challenges are: the population concentration in 5% or 6% of Egypt's total area; the industrial, research, scientific and technological bases are still far below the required level for catching up with developed actions; open unemployment still prevails (2 million); regional disparities in income levels and living standards remain problematic; and twenty percent of the population are still living below the poverty level.

These "structural" problems require a comprehensive vision of the Egyptian economy, reflecting a whole development system, with integrated elements and dimensions, and realizing the necessity of coordination among successive development plans.

Indeed, the Fifth Five-Year Plan has been consistent, in terms of its objectives and achievements, and since its inception with the comprehensive vision of the development future.

Following the same approach, the Sixth Five-Year Plan has taken into consideration, in the formulation of its objectives and policies, the main features of this comprehensive development vision, aiming at the realization of a better future and a more radiant image of Egypt in the long-run, whether at the global, regional or national level, and from the political, economic, social, cultural, civilization, knowledge and technological aspects.

☒ Motives and Objectives

No doubt the long-run development vision helps to motivate and induce the efforts of individuals and institutions towards realizing our aspirations to a better and more radiant future. It also generates coordination and consistency among those efforts and among the successive Five-Year Plans. Moreover, this vision provides an important criterion for evaluating the achievements of those plans and how far they concur to or deviate from the development paths in harmony with the designed long-run objectives.



The main motives behind the adoption of a future vision for Egypt can be summarized as follows:

- * Sustaining peace, security and stability for the Egyptian citizen.
- * Reconciling the interests of present and future generations within the concept of sustained development.
- * Pursuing economic, political and social reforms in order to realize a comprehensive Renaissance.
- * Mobilizing the abilities and capabilities of society towards a national target.
- * Facing the challenges imposed by the international economic order (market mechanisms, fierce competition, international agglomerations, merging in the global economy).
- * Keeping pace with technological developments in the fields of communications, information and other new fields of knowledge.

Within the framework of the development vision, we may express our hopes for Egypt's future as follows:

- **A State** that has succeeded to reduce population concentration in the Delta and the narrow band of the Nile Valley by expanding inhabitancy into the desert and increasing the inhabited area to 12% or 15% of the national territory.
- **A State** which has a national economy able to face world competition.
- **A State** possessing progress tools in all cultural, knowledge, technological and production fields.
- **A State** that has succeeded in alleviating poverty and reducing disparities between social groups and various regions and between rural and urban areas.
- **A Society** in which citizens enjoy a high standard of living and a good quality life comparable to those prevailing in advanced countries.
- **A Society** in which citizens feel that security, peace and stability always prevail.



- **A Society** without unemployment, where the efforts of its members are combined to push forward the development process.
- **A Society** where behaviors and morals are governed by a system of advanced values, based on respecting diverse opinions.
- **A Society** without illiteracy, competing to benefit from educational sources and acquire knowledge.

Methodology

In most cases, the developmental vision is formed by applying the future extrapolation approach. The starting point is to determine a future situation to be realized at the end of the contemplated time period. This situation is then translated into agreed upon list of objectives. Then there is a comeback from the future to the present situation, to discover possible paths for reaching the set-up objectives.

Therefore, the developmental vision is based on comparing two points in time:

- ④ **The first point** : depicts the current situation with all its challenges and represents the launching platform for the development take-off.
- ④ **The second point** : expresses the future image of Egypt at the end of the fixed term; let us say in year 2027, i.e. after twenty years from the start of the Sixth Plan

Attempts at Suggesting the Future Image of Egypt:

Several studies have suggested a general vision of Egypt's future. They all depended on the idea of the concerted participation of all society categories, in order to reflect the national unity and the solidarity of all the people as they gather their efforts towards realizing the ultimate national goal: **(The Renaissance of Egypt)**.



Some of the most important studies in this respect are the following:

- ◆ **Egypt and the Twenty-first Century** (The Cabinet, March 1997).
- ◆ **A Vision of the Future of Economic and Social Development until year 2022** (The Fifth Economic and Social Development Five-year Plan 2002-2007, April 2002)
- ◆ **Egypt 2020** (the Third World Forum, 2001- 2003).
- ◆ **Egypt and the Realization of the Third Millennium Goals** (the Ministry of Planning, 2005)
- ◆ **The Developmental Vision of Egypt 2015** (the Human Development Report, 2005).
- ◆ **The Future Vision of Egypt in 2025** (The Information and Decision Making Support Center, Symposium in June 2005)
- ◆ **A Future Vision of Egypt 2030** (The Cabinet, January 2007)

Main Axes of Future Vision

In the formulation of the development strategy objectives and derived policies, the Sixth Five-Year Plan (2007/08 – 2011/12) was founded on the main axes of the future development vision stated in the Fifth Five-Year Plan, given that this vision reflects a general perspective extending beyond the time horizon of the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

These axes, as defined in the studies of the National Planning Institute on the modernization of Egypt, can be summarized as follows:

The first axis: Developing the Egyptian individual

- Raising income and living standards.
- Improving the quality of life.
- Realizing a qualitative leap in education and providing a comprehensive health insurance coverage.
- Developing abilities and productive capabilities, training and habilitation.
- Preserving the cultural identity and confirming the national belonging.



The second axis: Developing administration, the institutional structure and the reform mechanisms.

- Promoting participation and democracy.
- Upgrading and modernizing the administrative body of the state.
- Developing planning methods and approaches, based on participation.
- Reforming the legislation base.
- Developing the accounting, control, disclosure and transparency rules and mechanisms.
- Developing the political system to keep pace with the progress in democracy practice.

The third axis: Developing the production base, natural and economic resources.

- Mobilizing savings and achieving high rates of economic growth.
- Developing the natural resources base.
- Re-structuring service activities.
- Developing the competitiveness of domestic production.
- Restructuring the industrial sector.
- Securing the necessary minimum food requirements.
- Expanding and developing the infrastructure.
- Preserving the environment and realizing sustained development.

The fourth axis: Building and developing the national base of science and technology.

- Developing the institutional framework for research, development and innovation.
- Knowledge development
- Providing financing sources for research and development.
- Developing scientific cadres.



The fifth axis Creative interaction with the regional environment and the world order.

- Exploiting the positive aspects of globalization and avoiding its negative impacts on the Egyptian economy and society.
- Maximizing the benefits of partnership with developed countries.
- Maximizing the benefits of development within an integrated Arab, African, and Islamic framework.

The study entitled "A Future Vision of Egypt 2030: The General Framework" issued by the Cabinet (January 2007) has expressed the main objectives and aspects of that vision, which are highly compatible with the suggested targets of the Development Plan, as follows:

☒ General Objectives.

- ✚ Realizing higher rates of sustained economic growth until the contemplated future horizon (year 2030).
- ✚ Reducing social disparities between various social groups and securing fair development opportunities between different regions of the country, especially in the governorates of Upper-Egypt, Sinai and other marginalized regions.
- ✚ Increasing income levels for Egyptians and improving the quality of life within a sound environmental framework.
- ✚ Increasing the Egyptian inhabited area by directing development projects towards desert regions.
- ✚ Securing the continuous role of the state in inducing progress, development and the preservation of social equity.
- ✚ Implanting the concept of citizenship and stressing non-discrimination on the basis of sex, race or religion.
- ✚ Re-arranging priorities of public expenditure to favor investing in human capital, especially in the fields of education, health and the governing environmental conditions.



- ✚ Expanding the scope of political participation for citizens and enhancing democracy practice at all levels; as well as strengthening political parties and the civil society organizations.
- ✚ Preserving our identity and deep-rooting our system of social, cultural and national values.
- ✚ Maximizing the effectiveness of Egypt's regional role – at the Arab, Islamic and African levels – and harnessing this role, efficiently and independently, to realize stability in the whole region.
- ✚ Achieving international relations, on equal bases, with the world community, in order to foster good neighborhood and balanced interests.

☒ Main Aspects

The main aspects of the future development vision can be classified under four headlines, as follows:

1) A Secured State

- Preserving the national security.
- Preserving internal security and fighting crimes.
- Settling regional conflicts.
- Vacating the Middle East region from mass destruction weapons.

2) A State with an efficient and competent economy.

- Maximizing the exploitation of existing capabilities and resources.
- Developing human resources.
- Eradicating poverty and unemployment and achieving social justice.
- Improving the standard and quality of public services.
- Building the knowledge – based economy.
- Promoting the private sector role.
- Giving incentives to prospective sectors and developing the services sector.
- Achieving economic stability.
- Protecting competition and banning monopoly practices.



- Re-evaluating the economic role of the State.
- Developing Egyptian exports, diversifying markets, and expanding the scope of free trade agreements.

3) A democratic and socially integrated society.

- Emphasizing citizenship rights.
- Reviving the positive social values scheme.
- Raising the effectiveness of political and constitutional reform mechanisms.
- Promoting decentralization and local administration.
- Deep – rooting the foundations of the modern State and its culture.
- Empowering women from the economic, political and social standpoints.
- Promoting the role of political parties and empowering the civil society institutions.

4) A State with regional leadership and international impact.

- Realizing integration and Arab economic unity.
- Enhancing our political, economic and cultural presence in the African continent.
- Supporting and promoting regional organizations (the Arab League and the African Union).
- Diversifying and developing our external relations with the emerging world powers in the new millennium (China, India, Russia, etc ...).
- Participating in the efforts spent for reforming the United Nations and expanding the Security Council.