

TIME RECEIVED	REMOTE CSID	DURATION	PAGES	STATUS
November 25, 2015 4:52:17 PM GMT+01	41 22 7384415	121	6	Received
25/11/2005 15:03	41-22-7384415	MISSION EGYPTE		PAGE 01/06

*Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
to the United Nations Office, the World Trade  
Organization & International Organizations  
in Geneva*



البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة، ومنظمة التجارة العالمية  
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى  
في جنيف

URGENT

CHAN. 2015.165

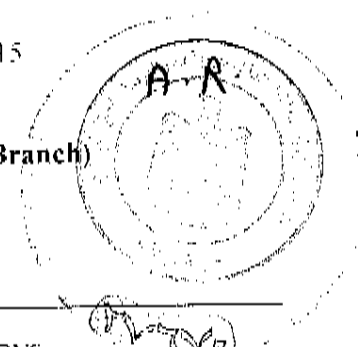
The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to OHCHR's circular note dated 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2015 concerning the questionnaire prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context in relation to her upcoming report to the Human Rights Council's 31<sup>st</sup> session in March 2016 with a focus on the issue of homelessness and the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing, has the honor to attach herewith the answers to the aforementioned questionnaires submitted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its wishes that the attached submission constitute a valuable contribution to the process of the preparation of the report.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 24 November 2015

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch)**  
Fax: +41-22 917 90 08



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS & OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
49 AVENUE BLANC, 1202 - GENEVE  
TEL: +41-22-731.6530 FAX: +41-22-738.4415  
[mission.egypt@ties.itu.int](mailto:mission.egypt@ties.itu.int)

### 1. Please explain how your government defines homelessness?

The Ministry of Housing doesn't have a specific definition of "homelessness", but there are categories which can be classified under this concept as described below:

- **The residents of unconventional buildings:** The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) refers to the unconventional buildings as (Hut - Tent - cemetery -cart .... etc).
- **The neediest and urgent cases:** The Ministry of Housing is allocating housing units to the neediest and urgent cases through the study and research Committee constituted by the Ministerial Decree No. 452 of 2014 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Housing to receive the requests of low income, neediest and urgent cases citizens (low-income people - residents of unconventional buildings - widows and divorced-homeless .....).

### 2. How is Homelessness measured in your country? What criteria and indicators are used and how is data collected and systematically updated for this purpose?

**The residents of unconventional buildings:** The main sources for calculating the population of unconventional buildings are the data released every ten years by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (2006 is the latest version). In addition to CAPMAS periodic annual reports as well as periodic reports issued by the National Urban Observatory (NUO) affiliated to the General Organization For Physical Planning (GOPP).

These data are collected and updated through a comprehensive survey carried out by CAPMAS, that data are used when developing the annual plan for housing in Egypt aimed at providing residential units to cover unmet needs of residential units, including the units of unconventional buildings inhabitants and one-room inhabitants.

Table shows the distribution of families and individuals numbers according to the type of family dwelling in the governorates of the Republic

The whole country	Apartment	More than one apartment	Villa / whole house	Country house	Room / more than one residential unit	One / more separate room	Hut or tent	Cemetery	Other	Total
	12026578	148017	927648	2335583	1007983	352263	32291	2763	11673	17289299
<b>Households</b>	12026578	148017	927648	2335583	1007983	352263	32291	2763	11673	17289299
<b>Persons</b>	43478486	877367	4587182	13170841	3965416	1279538	133682	13465	48252	72349119

Source: final results of the general census of population and housing conditions - 2006 - Table 1 page (413-417)

**The neediest and urgent cases:** The main source for collecting data of the neediest and urgent cases is the social research carried out by sociologists at the Ministry of Solidarity to know if they deserve to get housing units, whether through field visits and each case document, all of these data are reviewed through the study and research Committee constituted by the Ministerial Decree No. 452 of 2014.

The selection Criteria and indicators used for selecting the beneficiaries is done through the availability of the following conditions:

- Low-income citizens (less than 3000 L.E /M for families and 2250 L.E/M for Single).
- The citizen or the family (husband / wife / minor children) mustn't own a housing unit or have an old rent system unit.

**3. What Population groups are most affected by homelessness in your country? How have their experiences been documented and by whom?**

The ministry does not have any statistics in this regard as it is beyond its scope of work.

**4. Please provide information and details on the primary systemic and structural causes of homelessness in your country.**

It is possible to identify a set of main causes for the existence of the neediest and urgent cases through their units' allocation requests as follows:

- The rising rents.
- The low incomes.
- More than one family are living in one unit and the inability to provide another unit.
- Ramshackle or collapsed buildings and the inability to provide another unit.
- Internal migration of unstable labor (day laborers - janitor -...).
- Cases of widows and divorcees.
- Cemeteries inhabitants.
- Slum-dwellers.

**5. Please provide any information available about discrimination and stigmatization of people who are homeless, including laws or policies that may be used to remove homeless person from public space or to promote activities in public spaces such as sleeping, camping, eating, or asking for money.**

We do not have any information about the existence of racism and persecution.

against those categories.

**6. Has Homelessness been recognized as a human right violation by courts or by national human rights institution in your country?**

**First: Egypt's Constitution 2014:**

Egypt believes that adequate housing is one of the essential needs of modern man, it's also a fundamental component of people rights approved by international conventions, one of the basic rights of protection and care provided by the State to its citizens as it comes after the state commitment to provide food and clothing, and from here emerged the importance of housing as one of the main pillars for the security of any society.

The 2014 Constitution reflects the keen interest of the Egyptian Government to provide adequate housing as the article 78 of the 2014 Constitution Stipulated that "The state guarantees the right to adequate, safe and healthy housing to all citizens, ensuring human dignity and social justice. The state is also obligated to establish a national housing plan ..."

Egypt is also a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states (the right to adequate housing) and Article (25) Stipulated" Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control".

**Second: Egypt housing strategy:**

As a part of the state interest to develop a vision for housing which includes stable strategies to define the responsibilities of the housing sector various actors, the Ministry of Housing is currently preparing the final draft of Egypt housing strategy in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the most important objectives of this strategy:

- Citizens empowerment to recognize their right to housing and live a decent life in a stable and secure environment as well as good services, without discrimination on the basis of different social groups and income segments, especially to ensure adequate housing for groups that cannot provide accommodation for themselves.
- Equality and social justice in housing policies.
- Targeting the poor and underprivileged groups to enable them to obtain adequate housing and enjoy prosperous living conditions.
- Achieving sustainability through enabling housing sector to reach the best

use of scarce resources for current and future generations.

**Among the governing principles of the strategy:**

- All citizens enjoy the right to adequate housing: as stipulated in the Egyptian Constitution of 2014 (Article 78) and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25).
- Social Justice: where should not be any discrimination between the community sectors in housing policies and programs and also no sector should be marginalized.
- The state's commitment to help those who are unable to find housing units: including marginalized and disadvantaged groups because of the failures of the market economy.
- Support of housing policies for sustainable national economic development plans, either directly or indirectly: This means the housing contribution in achieving effective economic development for current and future generations.
- Housing policies and programmes based on the accurate information about the sector through its reliance on adequate studies of the housing markets and its dynamics.

**7. What legal or administrative procedures are available to challenge actions or inaction by governments or private actors on the grounds that they lead to or fail to address homelessness?**

The Strategic plans for the cities project prepared by the general organization of Physical Planning, is developing a vision for the proposed housing site for each city (government housing or private sector) which includes sites for building neediest groups projects.

- The state has implemented renting to the neediest citizens project (with a total 43,000 unit) which considered one of the National Housing project components.
- The Social Housing Law No. 33/2014 includes building residential units with rental system targeting low-income categories.
- The law also gave priority of rent to the followings cases:
  - Breadwinner of the beneficiaries' families of monthly social security aids according to the Social Security Law.
  - Breadwinner of the neediest families with total monthly family income less than 1000 L.E.
  - Widowed or divorced breadwinner women.
  - Breadwinner of the beneficiaries' families of exceptional pension (granting) due to illness.

- Breadwinner graduated from one of social welfare institutions.
- 8. Please provide information about any strategies or legislation in place at national, subnational or local levels to reduce or eliminate homelessness.**  
As previously mentioned:

- Egypt Housing Strategy which is currently prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
- There is an orientation to build less areas residential units for rent within the social housing project in accordance with law 33 for the year 2014.
- The committee formed by Ministerial Decree No. 457/2014 is currently allocating units for the neediest and urgent cases.