

## Introduction

I have the pleasure to present the “Egypt State of the Environment Report for 2005, the second annual report issued as a clear demonstration of the environmental- political undertaking of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The report comes as a reflection of the keen interest of the political leadership in Egypt in mainstreaming the environmental dimension in all areas for achieving sustainable development. It also reflects the political leadership conviction that environment preservation has become indispensable for the protection of the people’s health and for enabling them to enhance production through the rational utilization of natural resources.

This report is issued in compliance with Law no 4/1994 on Environment Protection which, according to its Chapter 2, provides for the compilation of an annual report on the environmental situation to be submitted to the President of the Republic and the Cabinet, with a copy thereof deposited in the People’s Assembly.

This report is the collective effort of experts and specialists in the field of environment as well as institutions, ministries and authorities concerned together with the staff of the Ministry of State for Environment Affairs.

The report contains a comprehensive analysis of available data and information regarding different elements of the environment in Egypt.

Sustainable development is based on three parameters namely: social development, economic growth and environment protection which provide natural resources and ecological services around which development programs are built.

We are all aware that Egypt, and so do most of the countries seeking to achieve economic and social development, faces multiple environmental problems, given steady demographic increases and as a corollary the expansion in industrial, agricultural and tourist activities to realize economic development catering to the needs of ever-growing population , thus leading to sustained pressure on natural resources.

This growing population areas coupled with increased internal migration from the countryside to urban areas, doubling Egypt’s urban population by three times during the last couple of decades which even put more pressure on the urban environment in general.

Meanwhile, environment preservation issues have topped world concerns as one of the crucial questions at stake domestically, regionally and globally.

Discussions over environmental management does not focus at present on pollution issues but rather on the rational utilization of different natural resources and the prevention of practices and activities likely to result in the drain-off of such resources which actually constitute a considerable stock needed for development processes and one of the rights of generations to come.

To this effect, Egypt has devoted unflinching interest in environment issues and signed a number of international conventions and instruments in pursuance of environmentally sound policies. It also established the legislative and institutional structure required for the preservation of the environment and its natural resources.

In this respect, a battery of Egyptian laws aimed to keep the environment safe had been issued. The State of the Environment Report in 2004 detailed the most salient laws and presidential decrees of relevance. The latest of these was the decree that established of the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs reinstating the Environmental Affairs Agency under the supervision of the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs alongside its affiliation with the Cabinet.

The philosophy of environmental action in Egypt briefly rests on striking the balance between pressing economic and social development requirements and sound utilization of natural resources and wealth.

This report brings to light the most significant changes in the environmental situation in Egypt during 2005 , factors affecting it and the efforts of the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs and State institutions concerned in support of environment-oriented policies and the improvement of the quality of environment in Egypt.

This year's report, besides the themes dealt with in the first report in 2004, addresses two more topics namely: noise and energy.

The Ministry of State for Environment Affairs is evidently faced with accumulated problems in connection with the environment in Egypt. It is fully aware of the need to enlist the co-operation of different organizations and institutions in Egypt with particular emphasis on the role of civil society.

The Ministry has taken wide strides in the direction of sound environmental planning by issuing the National Environmental Action Plan 2002-2017 as well as programs and projects to give effect to environmental action cited in the State's Five-Year Plan

2002-2007 with clear- future visions and outlooks.

The Ministry is doing its utmost to ensure environment preservation and pollution control and to face the manifold challenges for the sake of safekeeping the health of the Egyptian citizen and the rights of future generations to our natural resources.

The Ministry is in the hope of improving the state of the environment one year after the other.

May God guide our steps and path

***Minister of State for  
Environmental Affairs***



***Eng. Maged George Elias***