



National Council for Human Rights

Roundtable Discussion

“The Necessity of a Human Rights-Based Legislative Approach – Dialogue with Egypt’s Parliament”

Cairo – Wednesday, April 8, 2025

Speakers and participants

The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including parliamentarians, representatives of civil society organizations, experts in parliamentary affairs—such as Abdel Nasser Qandil and Waleed Farouk—and members of the media.

Among the parliamentary attendees were members of the Human Rights Committees from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as representatives from the Education and Social Solidarity Committees.

Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations

This dialogue underscored the growing recognition among the Egyptian Parliament, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), and political parties of the complex and interrelated challenges affecting the promotion and protection of human rights in Egypt. While several participants acknowledged advances in rights-based legislative reforms, others emphasized the persistent gap between legislative provisions and their practical implementation, as well as the limited participation of national institutions in legislative and policy-making processes.

Reforming the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) Law, activating effective oversight mechanisms, and fostering institutional dialogue between the legislative authority and the NCHR are pressing priorities. The challenge lies not only in drafting legislation aligned with international human rights standards, but also in ensuring its meaningful implementation in ways that positively impact citizens' daily lives and build public trust in the State's commitment to upholding rights and freedoms.

Amid various recommendations, critiques, and differing viewpoints, it is clear that advancing human rights in Egypt requires a collective approach rooted in participation, transparency, and accountability.



National Council for Human Rights

Key Recommendations:

1. The State should adopt concrete and measurable steps to ensure the effective protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with its constitutional and international obligations.
2. The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) should prepare and publish a comprehensive report assessing Egypt's progress in implementing the recommendations accepted under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.
3. Joint awareness-raising sessions should be convened with political parties and parliamentary blocs to promote a human rights-based approach in legislative practice.
4. Institutionalized mechanisms of structured and continuous dialogue should be established between Parliament and the NCHR to support a rights-based legislative environment.
5. The absence of a cohesive legislative strategy on human rights within Parliament should be addressed through the development of a clear, inclusive, and transparent legislative roadmap.
6. The Law Regulating Public Assemblies and Demonstrations should be amended to ensure that it facilitates the right to peaceful assembly, rather than imposing undue restrictions in contravention of international standards.
7. Regular, quarterly coordination meetings should be held between the NCHR and the Human Rights Committees of both Houses of Parliament to ensure the formulation of actionable and implementable human rights recommendations.
8. The Speaker of the House of Representatives should be urged to convene a dedicated parliamentary session to consider proposed amendments to the NCHR Law, with a view to safeguarding its "A" status accreditation under the Paris Principles.
9. A systematic methodology should be developed to monitor and evaluate the legislative impact of laws affecting the enjoyment and exercise of human rights.
10. The NCHR should be formally included in all legislative review processes concerning rights and freedoms to ensure alignment with international human rights standards.
11. The State should be called upon to release individuals detained in connection with the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression, in accordance with constitutional protections and international obligations.
12. The feasibility of integrating human rights principles and relevant legal frameworks into national educational curricula across all levels of education should be examined, as a step towards fostering a culture of rights.