



المجلس القومي للمرأة

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN



**Law of the National Council for Women,
its competencies and composition**

The National Council for Women NCW is an independent machinery affiliated to the President of the Republic of Egypt , which aims to advance and empower Egyptian women and achieve their effective participation in development by proposing, following up and evaluating the State's general plans and policies. It also seeks to integrate women's affairs in the State's social and economic development plan. The Council is also responsible for reviewing legislations and laws, proposing amendments, and submitting proposals for new draft laws that ensure the purification of all legislations from any suspicion of discrimination against women. The Council was established by Presidential Decree No. (90) of 2000, and a regulatory law was issued for the new Council (No. 30) of 2018, to replace the Council established by Presidential Decree No. (90) of 2000 and all its rights are vested in it and bear all its obligations.

Council Formation:

The Council is composed of a president and twenty-nine members from among public figures with experience in women's affairs and social activities. The term of membership is four years, renewable, and a member may not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms. A decision to form the Council is issued by the President of the Republic and the Council in its first meeting selects a deputy president, and the president of the Council is the one who represents it before the judiciary and in its relations with others, and she shall have the minister's authorities and powers determined in the laws and regulations. Branches of the Council are established in all governorates, and the formation decision shall be issued by the Council's President after the approval of the Council.

The Council Competences :

The National Council for Women is responsible for the following:

- 1- Propose public policies in the field of developing women's affairs and their empowerment for performing their political, economic, social and cultural roles and mainstreaming their efforts in the comprehensive development programs.
- 2- Propose national plans for women's development and for solving their problems.
- 3- Coordinate with the governmental entities that implement the development programs, activities and projects related to women and that are ratified in the national plan. In addition, cooperate and coordinate with notarized NGOs and international and regional organizations which are licensed in Egypt, in collaboration with the competent bodies in the state.

4- Participate in the committees formed by the State and that are concerned with the study and advancement of women-related development policies.

5- Monitor and assess the application of public policy in the field of women's affairs and submission of its proposals and feedback to the competent bodies.

6- Articulate its opinion in the draft Laws and regulations relevant to its work and recommend the proposal of the laws and regulations necessary for the advancement of women and enhancing their rights and freedoms as provided in the constitution.

7- Articulate its opinion concerning the international and regional conventions and agreements, related to Women. Monitor what has been agreed on, to incorporate it into national legislation, when necessary.

8- Articulate its opinion to the competent ministries in the issues related to its work.

9- Represent the Egyptian women in the international and regional forums of women's affairs in coordination with the national competent bodies.

10- Participate in the meetings of the international and regional organizations related to women's affairs according to its competence in due coordination with the national competent bodies.

11- Contribute in preparing the national periodical reports submitted by the State according to the women-related international agreements.

12- Receive and study the complaints of violation of women's rights and freedoms, and refer them to the competent authorities, work to resolve them with the concerned entities, and provide the necessary legal assistance.

13- Report any violations of women's rights and freedoms to the competent authorities.

14- Disseminate the culture of women's protection and empowerment with the assistance of all audiovisual and printed mass media. Prepare the media materials and programs necessary to raise awareness about the role of women in the society, their rights and duties. Issue bulletins, periodicals and magazines that express the Council's goals and activities.

15- Hold conferences, seminars, and symposiums, prepare the researches and studies related to women's affairs. Organize training courses and programs for raising their capacities and skills in all fields.

Council's work mechanisms:

1- Council Standing Committees:

The Council forms permanent committees to assist it in exercising its functions. The President of the Council may, after presentation to the Council, form ad-hoc or temporary committees to carry out a specific work.

2- Technical Secretariat:

The Council shall have a technical secretariat headed by the Secretary General, which assists the Council in carrying out its work and communicates its decisions, recommendations and suggestions to the competent authorities, and the General Secretary shall be responsible for implementing the decisions of the Council and general supervision over the technical secretariat, personnel affairs, financial and administrative affairs, and managing and organizing the work of the Council in accordance with the regulations.

3- Council Branches in the Governorates:

The Council has 27 branches at the level of the governorates of the Republic, which act as local mechanisms to follow up and evaluate development policies related to women and address the difficulties and obstacles facing their participation in development in each governorate. The branches implement the Council's activities in all fields, as well as create a database for women at the level of each governorate.

In cooperation with the governorate's relevant agencies, continuous communication with the executive bodies, civil society institutions, and all natural leaders within the governorate in order to form partnerships that contribute to solving problems related to women within the governorate.

4- Women's Complaints Office WCO (15115):

The Council's Women's Complaints Office is one of the Council's mechanisms to promote, develop and protect the rights and freedoms of women, as well as consolidate the values of equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination in light of what is Stated in the Egyptian Constitution and laws.

Services provided by the Office:

- Receiving the complainant through psychologists and social workers to provide psychological and social support.
 - Providing legal advice through volunteer lawyers.
 - Taking the necessary legal measures to solve problems that require judicial intervention.
 - Referral and follow-up of complaints to the concerned authorities through

the Council's partners, such as equal opportunity units in ministries, hosting homes of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, units of violence against women, women's skills development center, NGOs and others.

A complaint can be submitted in the following ways:

- Personal interview at the central office in Cairo or the office branches in the governorates.
- Hotline for Legal Advice (15115) is available 12 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Mailing letters to the following address:
Abdel Razzaq Al Sanhoury Street Off Makram Ebeid, Nasr City, Cairo.
- Main Branch Fax: 0223490066- 68
- E-mail : Complain.office.2001@gmail.com
- Social media : And through the page of the National Council for Women.
<https://www.facebook.com/ncwegyptpage>

5- The business Center:

The business Center aims to empower Egyptian women economically by working on four main pillars: Training and capacity building - networking - marketing - guidance and counseling, as the center works to help women establish small and micro enterprises and develop their products to compete in the local and global markets, and assist them to market them through participation in exhibitions and e-marketing. The center also works to create job opportunities for young men of both genders by providing them with the skills necessary to enter the labor market, and these axes are activated through a set of activities that it carries out either by itself or in cooperation with partners. The center is also working on adopting several initiatives that work to empower women economically.

You can contact the center by visiting the headquarters of the Council, the official page of the Council, or by calling the Council numbers 23490060/23490061

Ext. 139-140.

6- Specialized Library:

The National Council for Women library is specialized in women's issues and affairs, as well as gender and related issues and studies.

The library has two websites:

First: Within the Supreme Council of Universities website, in which it displays its capabilities and services, while providing an electronic index of the information contents in the library on the site, so that the site visitors can search for what is available in the library of information contents.

<https://bit.ly/2PVsavG>

Second: Within the official page
of the National Council for Women on the
Internet

<http://ncw.gov.eg/ar>

Services provided by the library:

- Indoor viewing and photography, subject to copyright laws
- Responding to inquiries and bibliographic services
- Transitional Broadcasting and direct search services on the Internet
- Intensifying and extracting Egyptian intellectual production in the field of women and guiding the beneficiaries to resources of information and how they are used.
- Ongoing Briefing Service New Arrivals including Book Reviews offerings.

The library can be contacted through:

Visit the headquarters.

Call: 23490060 - 23490061, ext. (240)

7- Combating Violence against Women Unit:

The Council established a unit to combat violence against women in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the aim of coordinating between national authorities to implement and follow up the national strategy to combat violence against women 2015-2020 at the national and local levels, which comes within the protection axis in the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in particular, the fifth goal (gender equality).

The unit contributes to supporting governmental and non-governmental agencies to implement the strategic action plan, follow up implementation steps, and identify obstacles and work to overcome them.

The unit, also, helps create a secure environment for women and girls in educational institutions by encouraging universities to establish anti-violence units , which constitute a mechanism for women and girls to resort to in case of need, in addition to implementing activities related to raising public awareness and creating a positive culture towards women.

The unit contributes to supporting the concerned national authorities to improve the quality of basic services provided to women and girls subjected to violence by raising the capabilities of health, judicial and social service providers and spreading awareness of the provision of these services at the State level.

8- Equal Opportunities Units in Ministries:

Equal opportunity units in the ministries have been established since the National Council for Women adopted in 2002

the idea of the necessity of an institutional building within the ministries to improve the status of Egyptian women in all fields and follow-up and evaluate development programs, projects and plans in order to achieve development goals, especially after the launch of the sustainable development goals. Focusing on the fifth goal concerned with achieving gender equality and empowering both women and girls, and in a way that contributes to the implementation of the Egyptian government's work program based on the sustainable development strategy, Egypt's vision 2030 and what achieves the national strategy for the empowerment of Egyptian women 2030 and related strategies.

The National Council for Women cooperates with equal opportunities units in:

Establishing gender-sensitive development plans.

Supporting the status of women in all laws and policies.

Protecting marginalized groups and identifying the actual needs that hinder their development.

Communicating with the women's complaints office to solve problems and provide legal support.

Capacity building in various fields by obtaining training courses with the Women's Skills Development Center. It is possible to communicate with the officials of following up the equal opportunities units in the ministries through:

- Call: 23490060 - 23490061, Ext. (195)

Among the Services provided by the Council for Egyptian women:

Extracting national ID cards for unable women.

Given the importance of possessing official documents, pertaining to Egyptian women, for their inclusion in development and guarantee their participation in public life, and their access to services and assistance provided by the State. The Council has paid attention to this matter since its establishment, as it works to obtain national ID cards free of charge for incapable women at the level of the governorates of the Republic as part of the initiative (Your Card - Your Rights), through the Council's branches in the governorates and in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and the concerned State Agencies, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Administrative Development and the Ministry of Endowments, as well as cooperating with the executive authorities, civil society institutions and rural leaders to collect data for women in slums and remote areas.

Law No. 30 of 2018

Promulgating Law of Regulating the National Council for Women

**In the People's Name,
The President of the Republic,**

The Parliament decided the following Law, which we issued:

Article 1

The provisions of the attached law herewith in respect of the regulations of the National Council for Women shall be enforced.

Article 2

The National Council for Women which is regulated according to the attached Law shall replace the Council which was created according to the Presidential Decree No. 90 of 2000, to which all rights shall be transferred and obligations shall be handed over.

In its current formation, the Council members shall continue performing their work until the expiry of their legal terms according to the Presidential Decree No. 19 of 2016 for the re-formation of the National Council for Women.

All the employees shall be relocated to the new Council in the same functional and financial state.

Article 3

The Council shall develop a bylaw for regulating its work, human resources, financial and administrative affairs, within six months of the effective date of the herein Law. Pending the issue of this bylaw, the existing bylaws and resolutions shall remain applicable.

Article 4

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the following day after its publication.

This Law shall be stamped with the Seal of the Republic and shall be executed as one of its Laws.

Issued in the Presidency Headquarters on 7 Shaaban of 1439 H, corresponding to 23 of April of 2018 G.

Abdel Fattah Elsisy

Law of Regulating the National Council for Women

Article 1

The national Council for Women is a national independent Council, affiliated to the President of the Republic. Its headquarters is located in Cairo Governorate, it may create branches, offices, or specialized centers to achieve its goals in the Republic.

The Council possess legal personality as well as, technical, financial and administrative independence, in performing its tasks, activities and competences. It shall be referred to hereinafter as “The Council”.

Article 2

The Council aims to promote the rights and freedoms of women, their development and protection, as well as to spread awareness, and contribute to ensuring their practice, and to institute the values of equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, all in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and in the light of international conventions and agreements ratified by Egypt.

Article 3

The Council is composed of a President and twenty-nine members, amidst the public figures, experts and advocates of women’s affairs, rights and freedoms, social and human rights advocates or any distinguishee of this field. They shall be nominated by the competent authorities & entities including the Parliament, National Councils, the Supreme Council for Universities, the National Council for Media Regulation, the Supreme Council of Culture, Syndicates, and non-governmental organizations.

The term of membership in the Council shall be four years; renewable. No member shall be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

The Council’s composition is issued by a Presidential Decree. During its first meeting, the Council shall elect a Vice-President. The remunerations of the Council’s President, its Vice-President and members shall be determined by a Presidential decree.

Article 4

Each President and member should satisfy the following conditions

1. Hold the Egyptian nationality and have all the civil and political rights thereof.
2. Have completed military service or legally exempted thereof.

3. Have not been charged with any final court ruling for a felony or a misdemeanor of dishonesty unless having been rehabilitated.

Article 5

The President of the Council is the representative before Judiciary Bodies and in the relations with third parties. He has the due authorities and of the Minister as per the Laws and regulations in terms of financial and administrative affairs of the Council. The President shall be replaced by the Vice-President in case of any urgent matters or absence. In all cases, the President and Vice-President shall work on a full-time basis.

Article 6

Branches shall be created for the Council in all governorates. Each shall be composed of at least ten members, who shall be selected in accordance to the internal bylaws of the council. The composition of the Council is issued by a decree of the President after the Council's approval. In addition, the internal bylaws determine the rules and procedures of the creation of the offices and specific centers necessary for achieving the Council's goals.

Article 7

Without prejudice to the existent Laws, the Council shall take any measures to realize its goals and in particular:

1. Propose public policies in the field of developing women's affairs and their empowerment for performing their political, economic, social and cultural roles and mainstreaming their efforts in the comprehensive development programs.
2. Propose national plans for women's development and for solving their problems.
3. Coordinate with the governmental entities that implement the development programs, activities and projects related to women and that are ratified in the national plan. In addition, cooperate and coordinate with notarized NGOs and international and regional organizations which are licensed in Egypt, in collaboration with the competent bodies in the state.
4. Participate in the committees formed by the State and that are concerned with the study and advancement of women-related development policies.
5. Monitor and assess the application of public policy in the field of women's affairs and submission of its proposals and feedback to the competent bodies.

6. Articulate its opinion in the draft Laws and regulations relevant to its work and recommend the proposal of the laws and regulations necessary for the advancement of women and enhancing their rights and freedoms as provided in the constitution.
7. Articulate its opinion concerning the international and regional conventions and agreements, related to Women. Monitor what has been agreed on, to incorporate it into national legislation, when necessary.
8. Articulate its opinion to the competent ministries in the issues related to its work.
9. Represent the Egyptian women in the international and regional forums of women's affairs in coordination with the national competent bodies.
10. Participate in the meetings of the international and regional organizations related to women's affairs according to its competence in due coordination with the national competent bodies.
11. Contribute in preparing the national periodical reports submitted by the State according to the women-related international agreements.
12. Receive and study the complaints of violation of women's rights and freedoms, and refer them to the competent authorities, work to resolve them with the concerned entities, and provide the necessary legal assistance.
13. Report any violations of women's rights and freedoms to the competent authorities.
14. Disseminate the culture of women's protection and empowerment with the assistance of all audiovisual and printed mass media. Prepare the media materials and programs necessary to raise awareness about the role of women in the society, their rights and duties. Issue bulletins, periodicals and magazines that express the Council's goals and activities.
15. Hold conferences, seminars, and symposiums, prepare the researches and studies related to women's affairs. Organize training courses and programs for raising their capacities and skills in all fields.

Article 8

The President, the President of the Parliament and the Prime Minister may refer to the National Council for Women any matters which may be pertinent to their competencies. The Council will therein, study and express its opinion concerning these matters.

Each may request the convening of the council to review the matter specified in the request if necessary.

Article 9

The Council forms permanent committees for assisting in exercising its competencies. The internal bylaw of the Council determines the method of the formation, system and procedures of the work of these committees.

These committees may seek the assistance of any experienced experts and professionals when considering any issues under their scope of work. The President may, upon referral to the Council, form special or temporary committees for performing a specific work which is determined by the resolution of their formation.

Article 10

A documentation Center shall be created in the Council for collecting information, data, studies, statistics, and researches related to women, in accordance with the controls and measures which are determined by the Council's bylaws.

Article 11

The Council shall meet, at least, once per month, upon an invitation of its President and when necessary or if it was requested by one-third of the Council's members.

The meeting is deemed as valid when half of its members including the President or Vice President are present. Decisions are issued by the majority of attendees: in case of parity, the faction the President is part of should be endorsed.

The President of the Council may invite to its meetings whom he deems necessary to recourse their opinions and experiences when considering any topics related to their specialties provided that they have no voting rights.

Article 12

The State entities shall assist the Council and its different branches in the governorate, in performing their tasks, facilitating the performance of their work, providing any requested data, information, statistics related to their work in accordance with the regulating laws, rules and discipline.

The Council may invite representatives of these entities to participate in its works or meetings with no voting rights.

Article 13

The entities and authorities in which the Council's members work, shall facilitate the fulfillment of their responsibilities in the Council.

There shall be no disciplinary accountability on council's members or termination of their original work due to their opinions or participation in the Council's work and missions or due to the decisions issued by it.

Article 14

The Council shall have a full-time Secretary-General, other than its members, that is appointed by a resolution of the Council for one year and shall not exceed the Council's membership term. The Council defines his/her remuneration.

The Secretary-General is mandated to execute the resolutions of the Council, supervise the technical secretariat, the personnel, administrative and financial affairs, manage the Council's work and organization, in accordance with its bylaws, may attend the Council's meetings, with no right to vote and subject to the provisions of Articles 4 and 18 of the herein Law.

The Council's bylaw shall determine the Secretary- General's rules of appointment, conditions of service termination and accountability.

Article 15

The Council shall have a technical Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General. It shall assist the Council in its works, reporting its resolutions, recommendations, and proposals to the competent entities. The Council's bylaws shall determine its other competencies.

The Council may appoint an adequate number of qualified staff, experts, and professionals to assist in performing its work.

Article 16

The President, Vice-President, Members, and Secretary-General shall perform their work ensuring the achievement of the Council's goals and the performance of its competencies within a framework of neutrality, transparency, independence, while ensuring the confidentiality of the information and data which are presented to the Council in light of their duties and ensuring that they will not be used for any other purposes than what it was provided for or other than realizing the Council's goals.

Article 17

The President, Vice-President, Members, and Secretary-General shall disclose any case in which any of them or their relatives to the fourth degree, may have current prospective material or moral interest that contradict the due diligence, neutrality and independence that are required to perform their tasks in the Council. The Council shall take the necessary measures to eliminate this contradiction.

Article 18

The Councils' President, Vice President, Members and all the employees, are considered as public authority officials who are governed by the provisions of Law No. 62 of 1975 of the Illicit Gains. Each of them shall present a financial disclosure statement upon their appointment and at the close of each year.

In case, any of them receives, by oneself or by mediation, any material gift due to or as occasioned by ones' work in the Council, they shall disclose the above by writing to the Council stating the person or entity that consigned. Then, the ownership of the gift will be transferred to the Council.

Article 19

In cases other than Flagrante Delicto, the competent investigation authority shall notify the Council when arresting the Council's President, Vice-President or any of its members and provide a detailed statement of the incident.

Article 20

The membership of the Council's President, Vice-President or any of its members shall expire in the following cases:

1. Loss of any of the membership stipulated conditions in the herein law.
2. The submitted resignation to the Council, and it shall be submitted written and substantiated.
3. Absence for six sessions, without an approved justification by the Council.
4. Violation of Articles No. 17 and 18 hereof.

The membership termination shall be issued by a Presidential Decree, upon the approval of the Council and the request of the Council's President.

The successor of the predeceased member, shall be appointed according to articles 3 and 4 of the herein law and for the

complementary membership
term of the predecessor member.

Article 21

The Council shall have its own budget, that follows a similar pattern as its counterparts in the service public entities. It shall include its resources and uses. It starts at the beginning of the State's fiscal year and ending on its closure. The Council's funds are public and are subject to the inspection of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Audit Authority.

Article 22

The Council's resources are composed of the following:

1. The allocation assigned from State budget in reference to its responsibilities, competencies, and the work of its committees, offices, centers and branches.
2. The grants, funds and donations that the Council decides to accept by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members according to the regulating Laws and procedures.
3. Percentage of the value of the incoming funds and donations according to international and regional agreements for women's affairs. It shall be determined by the Cabinet based on Minister of Finance's proposal.

A private account shall be created for the Council in the Central Bank of Egypt where the proceeds of its resources shall be deposited. The surplus of this account shall be carried over at the close of each fiscal year, to the following year's budget of the Council.

Article 23

The Council shall present to the President a report every three months including its efforts, activities, and deliverables. The Council shall issue an annual report including its recommendations, proposals, and procedures related to its scope of work. It shall be submitted to the President, presented to the Parliament and published to the public.



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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

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