



## Egypt: Gateway to Africa

**As Africa's third-largest economy, Egypt is a critical partner for peace, security and prosperity with other countries across the continent and serves as a vital bridge to the Middle East. In 1963, Egypt became a founding member of what would eventually become the African Union (AU). More than fifty years later, Article One of Egypt's Constitution continues to enshrine this enduring commitment, stating that the nation "belongs to the African continent." On a four-nation African tour in August 2017, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi reaffirmed that Africa is one of the most important axes of Egyptian diplomacy. Today, the Government of Egypt continues to expand strategic ties and strengthen partnerships across the continent.**

### PEACEKEEPING AND SECURITY

- › **Egypt in the African Union (AU):** In 2019, Egypt will preside over the AU's 31st annual session. Egypt is one of the top five contributors to the AU's annual budget, supplying 12% of the total contributions from member states.
- › **AU Peace and Security Council:** Since September 2016, Egypt has served on the African Union's Peace and Security Council, working to maintain vigilance among member nations against extremism and regional instability. Egypt is also enhancing cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on growing transnational threats, including terrorism and organized crime. In 2015, AU members unanimously endorsed Egypt's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.
- › **Egypt in the United Nations:** Egypt's first participation in an African peacekeeping mission was in Congo in July 1960. According to the latest figures issued by the UN Department of Peacekeeping, Egypt ranks 7th in top troop-contributing countries in all UN Peacekeeping missions. Egypt currently participates in all six United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, with more than 3,000 troops and police officers.
- › **Egypt and CCCPA:** The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), established in 1994, is a key training hub for the strengthening of African diplomacy, military and police capacity. In recent years, CCCPA hosted a training course for the AU's African Peace Support Operations cadres, in addition to training UN peacekeeping operations cadres.
- › **Egypt in the Africa Standby Force:** Egypt is the current president of the North Africa Response Capability (NARC) – a division of the Africa Standby Force (ASF). In light of the growing trend towards strengthening regional peacekeeping capabilities, Egypt hosts the NARC's brigade command headquarters and one of its two administrative bases.
- › **Al-Azhar in Africa:** As home to Al-Azhar, the world's oldest institution of Islamic teaching, Egypt's role remains crucial in the fight against extremist ideologies in the Sahel region and East Africa.



“

As Egypt's geographical home, Africa lies at the heart of Egypt's foreign policy, for it is in Africa that our historic roots lie, and it is from Africa that we derive pride in our identity and our deep sense of belonging.”

—PRESIDENT EL SISI AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, SEPTEMBER 2017





## AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- › **EAPD:** Since 2014, the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) has advanced international cooperation efforts and development projects in Africa. EAPD provides Egyptian experts and consultants to major projects across the continent, as well as training and human resources development and participation in pan-African endeavors. Since its founding, EAPD has arranged 230 trainings for more than 6,800 leaders across Africa.
  - EAPD also coordinates an Egyptian governmental fund dedicated to Nile Basin countries. The Egyptian Initiative for Development in Nile Basin Countries provides funding to implement developmental projects in several fields, including power generation and the construction of solar power plants; water resource management projects such as rain harvesting and dredging wells; health care projects, including establishing fully-equipped specialized clinics; and various other development projects.
- › **Egypt in COMESA:** Since 1999, Egypt has been a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), one of the largest economic blocs on the continent. Egyptian exports to COMESA member states reached \$1.7 billion during 2017. In December 2018, Egypt will host the next COMESA Forum in Sharm El Sheikh.
- › **Egypt in AfCFTA:** Egypt is a founding signatory of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which was signed in March 2018 by 44 AU member states and once ratified will create a single African market. Egypt intends to use its presidency of the African Union to drive ratification and development of the agreement. AfCFTA will boost Egypt's exports to other African nations by four times above its current \$4 billion.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- › **Egypt and Public Health:** Egypt was greatly concerned by the spread of Ebola in West Africa and the devastation it brought to the people of that region, and provided support to combat the epidemic. Egypt also initiated the establishment of the Endemic and Communicable Diseases and AIDS Center in Africa, to ensure the continent is better prepared to deal with such public health emergencies. Today, the Ebola crisis has been greatly diminished, and Africa is better equipped to contend with future threats.
- › **Egypt in CAHOSCC:** Egypt recently chaired the African Union's Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) during a critical point in global negotiations on climate change and the United Nation's Post-2015 Development Agenda, with a focus on guaranteeing that the needs of Africa are not ignored. During that period, President El Sisi launched the African Renewable Energy Initiative, an ambitious plan that targets increasing Africa's renewable energy production by 10 gigawatts by 2020, and producing 300 gigawatts by 2030.

“  
As Egyptians, we are proud of our African roots and share the dreams and ambitions of our African brothers and sisters.”

—FOREIGN MINISTER SAMEH SHOUKRY  
AFRICA DAY 2016



**The relationship between Egypt and Africa began in the era of the Pharaohs.** Queen Hatshepsut visited some areas in East Africa in the fifteenth century A.D., and a Paranoiac Egyptian delegation was entrusted to make a tour around Africa in the era of King Nixau in the sixteenth century A.D.