



**Embassy of Egypt**  
WASHINGTON, DC

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## Newsletter – November 2014

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### 1. President Abdel Fattah El Sisi meets with U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly:

On 25 September 2014, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi held a bilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. At the meeting, the two presidents discussed ways to strengthen the Egypt-U.S. strategic partnership, and underlined the need for consultations on a wide range of regional and international issues. The two leaders also agreed to launch a strategic dialogue at the foreign minister level. This was their first face-to-face meeting.



During the meeting, President El Sisi confirmed that the government is adapting its policies in response to popular will and national priorities that resulted from Egypt's two great revolutions, which have put Egypt on the path towards building an inclusive, democratic government that enhances the values of freedom, respects human rights and satisfies the aspirations of the Egyptian people for development and progress. President El Sisi referred to hazards emanating from unstable conditions in Libya and the need to confront terrorist organizations there. Both presidents stressed the importance of supporting Libya's elected and legitimate institutions.

The two presidents rejected foreign interference in Libya, and financing terrorist elements there—stressing the need to launch a political dialogue among groups that reject violence and terrorism within the framework of the initiative, which was agreed to by Libya's regional neighbors.

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## **2. Egypt's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council 2016-2017:**

Egypt officially announced its candidature for the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the 2016-2017 term on the sidelines of the 2014 United Nations General Assembly.

As a founding member of the United Nations, Egypt has played an important role in maintaining international peace and security for decades, and is committed to strengthening international action through the United Nations to achieve collective security and uphold the goals enshrined in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Egypt hopes to make concrete and effective contributions to the work of the Council and the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

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## **3. Participation of the Governor of the Central Bank, Minister of International Cooperation and Minister of Finance in the World Bank / International Monetary Fund annual meetings 8–12 October 2014:**

The Governor of the Central Bank, Minister of International Cooperation and Minister of Finance participated in the World Bank / International Monetary Fund (WB / IMF) annual meetings held in Washington, D.C. from 8–12 October 2014. The delegation conducted several meetings with WB and IMF officials to enhance the cooperation between Egypt and the two financial institutions to best serve Egypt's economic and social development plans.

The Egyptian delegation also met with U.S. government officials and U.S. business sector leaders while in D.C. During those meetings, the ministers explored recent economic reform measures taken by the the government, future economic and social development plans, available investment opportunities in Egypt and the upcoming economic summit to be held in Sharm El-Shiek on the first quarter of 2015, which will be a private sector-led conference. During the visit, U.S. private sector leaders expressed optimism about the future of the Egyptian economy and showed interest in doing business in Egypt.

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## **4. Minister of Housing visit to Washington, D.C. 18–20 September 2014:**

Egypt's Minister of Housing visited Washington, D.C. from 18–20 September 2014. The Minister met with the World Bank Group and U.S. administration officials to explore ways to enhance their existing relations with Egypt as it relates to low-income housing, water and sanitation projects.

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## **5. Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visit to the U.S. 24–26 September 2014:**

The Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation participated in the 4th High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in New York. The discussion addressed the monetary and non-monetary benefits generated from the utilization of plant germ plasm under the auspices of the International Treaty. Additionally, participants discussed how they can support agricultural innovation for breeding climate-smart seeds, the impact of climate change on food crops through the Treaty's systems and the value of the Treaty's Benefit-Sharing fund and its projects for climate adaptation of food crops.

The Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation also met with officials from the World Bank Group where talks focused on the Ministry of Agriculture's strategy through 2030. Topics of discussion varied from the World Bank Group's experience in the agricultural sector to the Ministry of Agriculture's needs in areas of land reclamation, agricultural marketing, agro industry, groundwater, cooperatives, contract farming and various other issues pertaining to updating laws and regulations, building capacity of agricultural institutions, agricultural and industrial integration, crop insurance as a risk tool against natural disasters and diseases and the restructuring of agricultural cooperatives. It was also announced that reclamation of land in Egypt will start with one million feddan in 11 locations and expand to four million feddan by 2030, with a focus on fishery industries.

## **6. The New York University School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs hosts Ambassador Mohammed Tawfik:**

The New York University School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs hosted Ambassador Tawfik on 20 October 2014 as part of the Center's series to host diplomats and politicians to discuss international and regional issues. Professor of International Relations and Middle East Studies Dr. Alon Meir moderated the discussion.

The discussion focused on the latest political and economic developments in Egypt, including the democratic process. Ambassador Tawfik also addressed regional issues including the war against ISIS, the spread of terrorism and violence in the region and Iran's regional position and its relations with Egypt.

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## **7. Ambassador Mohammed Tawfik participates in HANDS gala dinner:**

Ambassador Tawfik participated in a gala dinner hosted by Hands Along the Nile (HANDS), a not-for-profit organization that is committed to building bridges between the people of Egypt and the U.S. and supporting projects aimed at bringing socioeconomic stability to the Egyptian community.

A lively dialogue took place between the Ambassador and the guests who included Egyptian community leaders on the East Coast, executives of oil and gas corporations and U.S. businessmen and politicians. The dialogue was directed by HANDS President Graeme Bannerman. During his remarks, the Ambassador said, "Egypt plays a central role in realizing stability in the Middle East and rebuilding the social contract in the region, which was absent in the last few years resulting in increased violence, extremism and terrorism. The Egyptian traditional leading role in the region was evident in securing the Hamas-Israel cease-fire agreement, exerting efforts to bring Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table, hosting the Gaza reconstruction conference and helping Libya to restore order and rebuild its Army and Police, as well as the health and education sectors."



Ambassador Tawfik condemned the terrorist acts of ISIS, which he believes contradict religions and human values—referring to its ideological roots, which were promoted by the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). He also called for confronting ISIS and like-minded groups using a comprehensive political and military approach. The Ambassador further said, "Egypt and the region were heading to a catastrophic situation under the rule of the MB, which supported the terrorists' attempt to seize power in Mali and encouraged jihad in Syria turning the aspiration of the Syrian people for a better life to a sectarian conflict, leading to more extremism and terrorism in the world."

The closing remarks of the Ambassador indicated that empowering women and youth and improving the health and education sectors are the top priorities for the Government of Egypt.

### **8. Ambassador Mohammed Tawfik participates in the Meridian Global Leadership Summit:**

Ambassador Tawfik participated as a keynote speaker in the Meridian Global Leadership Summit organized by the Meridian Global Center on 17 October 2014. During the session, Ambassador Tawfik highlighted the significance of the profound and unprecedented changes Egypt has undergone over the last three years, stressing that it was not easy and it took some time for the people to reach a national consensus on their aspirations for the future of Egypt.



In his remarks, the Ambassador also underscored the significance of people beginning to show hope in Egypt's future, both in further advancing development and achieving their collective aspirations.

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### **9. "AMEN – A Prayer for the World" Exhibit Displayed at the National Cathedral:**

The Washington National Cathedral in D.C. hosted the 6th annual "CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art." This year's exhibit was a collection of work featuring interfaith artists from Egypt and the West, which represent the harmonious spirit of all Egyptians during the 25 January 2011 revolution. The theme of the exhibition was "AMEN – A Prayer for the World" and it showcased 48 works of art from Muslim, Christian and Jewish artists.

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### **10. National Identity Cards:**

The Egyptian Civil Affairs Authority sent a delegation to the Egyptian Consul General in New York from 17–21 October 2014. Unfortunately, the delegation was unable to travel to Washington, D.C. this time due to the limited number of community members who expressed their willingness to issue and renew I.D. cards. We urge all Egyptian community members to send their requests and contact information to: [IDrequest@egyptembassy.net](mailto:IDrequest@egyptembassy.net).

The embassy is seeking to bring another delegation to Washington, D.C. once we reach the targeted number of applicants.