



President El Sisi Convenes First Monthly Youth Dialogue

On 10 December, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi inaugurated the first monthly youth dialogue to discuss implementing recommendations from October’s National Youth Conference. Egypt’s first annual youth conference, and the ongoing dialogue, are key parts of the government’s effort to expand engagement with the 52 percent of Egypt’s population that is aged 24 or younger.



December’s day-long dialogue comprised of several public sessions focusing on education, recent economic reforms, population growth, challenges facing Egypt, and upgrading the agriculture and oil sectors. The meeting also followed-up on several key decisions reached during October’s Youth Conference, including the formation of a committee to review the cases of youth prisoners for possible pardon. The various youth participants in the dialogue also presented a video endorsing Egyptian diplomat, Ambassador Moushira Khattab, for the position of director-general of UNESCO.



THE PARTICIPANTS

As many as 1,000 youths participated, including volunteers from the Ministries of Youth and Sports, members of political parties, intellectuals, parliamentarians, journalists and media figures. From the government, Prime Minister Sherif Ismail, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) Tarek Amer, the Ministers of Finance, Investment, Oil, Agriculture, Education, the Head of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) as well as other experts took part in the day-long dialogue.



PRESIDENT EL SISI’S REMARKS

At the conclusion of the event, President El Sisi provided closing remarks and discussed how the Government of Egypt is fighting for the future prosperity and security of Egypt’s youth while implementing their ideas and proposals.



“I address you directly without any mediator as there are no mediators between me and the young people of Egypt who are on top of the interest of the Egyptian State as you are the hope for carving out the present and the symbol of the promising future of the homeland. The achievements that are taking place on the soil of Egypt are for you and your future; and through your determination we will together make history that could be added to the great history of our nation. Expanding the scope of your participation in public action is a must for us and creating the suitable atmosphere for your moving ahead is a duty that is required by the Egyptian demographic structure which made of our nation a real young nation. I am sure that the issues of youth and their aspirations will form the future vision and make the identity of the nation.”

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, 10 December 2016

THREE KEY OUTCOMES

Towards the end of his remarks, President El Sisi laid out three policy areas he directed the government to take concrete action on:

- **First:** Entrusting the government to outline a draft law amending the protest law in light of the ruling issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court while taking into consideration all proposals presented by the National Council for Human Rights and civil society organizations along with political parties.
- **Second:** Asking the House of Representatives to discuss once again the civil society organizations law in a way that suits the nature of their work without violating the constitution and national security considerations.
- **Third:** Maintaining action of the committee formed to review the cases of detained young people and the initiatives of volunteer action and societal dialogue to address the issues of education and religious discourse.