

Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership between The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Denmark

Today, on the occasion of the first Egyptian State Visit to Denmark on 6-7 December 2024, The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Abdel Fatah Al Sisi and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark H.E. Mette Frederiksen reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Denmark through elevating this relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership.

The bilateral relationship is firmly rooted in the close historical and cultural ties as well as the mutual respect that binds both countries. Since establishing diplomatic relations on 1 June 1922, Egypt and Denmark have continuously worked to forge a strengthened partnership in light of global developments and shared interests. Egypt and Denmark share the commitment to their obligations under international law, fostering cooperation and dialogue in the multilateral system as well as free market economy, human rights, ambitious action on climate change in addition to the importance of people-to-people dialogue and exchange.

Both parties recall their commitment to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and other relevant multilateral agreements. Egypt and Denmark share a mutual recognition as reliable partners. Denmark acknowledges Egypt's unique and vital geo-strategic importance as a pillar of security, moderation, and peace in the region of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa. In the same vein, Egypt acknowledges the strategic importance of Denmark as a close partner on trade, migration and green transition. Egypt and Denmark equally share the ambition to strengthen their collaboration with African countries via equal partnerships to strengthen political, economic, and security policy dialogue with Africa at all levels and to realise the development, trade and investment potential of the continent.

In order to promote a more peaceful, equitable, secure and sustainable world, and advance their common values and interests, Egypt and Denmark agree to explore and expand bilateral cooperation with a particular focus on:

- 1) Promoting political dialogue, security, economic and trade relations.
- 2) Heightening partnership in energy and climate change.
- 3) Enhancing cooperation and dialogue on socioeconomic development, migration, culture, digitalisation and human rights.

The two countries enter this Strategic Partnership that will set the path and ambition for the continuous evolvement of their bilateral partnership. To this end, this Strategic Partnership, which is based on the values of partnership, equity, mutual respect and trust, will be regularly assessed in its scope and implementation.

On this basis, Egypt and Denmark will:

- 1. Promote further political dialogue, security, economic and trade relations**
 - 1.1 Hold regular consultations at appropriate level to discuss issues of mutual interest in line with this joint declaration, and in this context, assess the status of implementation of the Strategic Partnership.
 - 1.2 Accord priority to enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the United Nations, and other multilateral fora dealing with questions pertaining to international peace and security inter alia, in light of Denmark's membership of the UN Security Council 2025 - 2026 and Egypt's membership of the AU Peace and Security Council 2024-26.
 - 1.3 Both parties further reaffirm their endeavours to combat all relevant security challenges, including in the framework of the current mandate of the Egyptian-EU co-chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum.
 - 1.4 Explore opportunities for enhanced dialogue between Egypt and the Nordic countries.
 - 1.5 Encourage Danish companies and investors to explore promising investment opportunities in Egypt, taking into consideration its competitive advantage and efforts to promote a business-friendly environment and to drive further private sector contribution including from small and medium enterprises to achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

- 1.6 Boost cooperation in vital sectors, such as maritime transportation and shipping as well as clean and renewable energy, to enhance and develop investments by major Danish shipping companies in Egypt to benefit from Egypt's strategic and unique location, including the Suez Canal economic and maritime corridor. This will include working on removing any obstacles in order to ensure the establishment of a regional hub for the production of green fuel for ships.
- 1.7 Establish a bilateral Egyptian- Danish Business Council, to be launched during the State Visit 2024, aiming at strengthening bilateral ties as well as discussing new trade and investment activities of relevance within sectors of mutual interest. From the Danish side, the Danish Embassy in Cairo will facilitate the Business Council in close collaboration with the Danish business community in Egypt. The next Business Council is expected to convene in Cairo no later than 2026.
- 1.8 Enhance cooperation in the field of maritime transportation aiming to promote decarbonization and more sustainable, efficient bilateral and international trade, and further investments in related projects. Green hydrogen is a potential strategic sector for collaboration as both Egypt and Denmark have strong interests invested in the green hydrogen sector.
- 1.9 Explore potential for closer cooperation in health care sector utilising Danish competencies and expertise to support Egypt's ambitions to expand universal health care to all governorates by 2035. Cooperation could include exchange of visits, as well as the sharing of experience and best practices by well-established Danish companies in Egypt, that have, for instance, contributed to treating more than 1 million patients with diabetes in addition to providing training to numerous health care professionals in Egypt.

2. Heighten partnership in energy and climate change

- 2.1 Foster ongoing dialogue in the field of climate change with the aim of increasing global climate finance for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, as well as supporting ambitious action on climate change in various international fora.
- 2.1 Agree to extend, and potentially expand, the energy sector cooperation to 2027, and share the ambition to prolong this cooperation until 2030 if the program continues to witness progress. This would contribute to Egypt's NDCs and long-term climate targets. Egypt and Denmark hereby acknowledge the importance of transitioning to clean energy sources in a just, equitable and orderly manner, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve economies that are more resilient.
- 2.2 Explore potential for broadening green cooperation in areas such as water, sustainable health, sustainable food production and agriculture, green shipping, environmental and eco-system protection, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development and waste handling. New cooperation should be based on equal partnerships making use of existing programs and financing instruments, Egyptian needs and priorities, Danish technology strongholds and mutual interests, as well as commercial cooperation within these sectors.
- 2.3 Explore the possibility of further European engagement in the Nexus on Water, Food and Energy program and support adding this to the EU Global Gateway flagship list 2025.
- 2.4 Both parties affirm their commitment to step up all efforts to tackle desertification, land degradation, drought, and biodiversity loss. They reiterated the importance of preserving water and food security including through enhancing transboundary cooperation in accordance with international law, to ensure a sustainable supply of food production, water for ecosystems, life and agriculture. Recognizing Egypt's heavy reliance on the Nile River in a context of its water scarcity and climate vulnerability, Denmark reiterates EU support to Egypt's water security and the compliance with international law, while recalling that the 'do no harm' principle serves as a guiding principle in the European Green Deal.

2.5 Explore potential opportunities for fostering sustainability dimensions in city planning in light of the large Egyptian infrastructure projects, including the construction building of the New Administrative Capital and potential sharing of experiences with Copenhagen, as one of the world's most liveable cities.

2.6 The two countries will work together on delivering on the IMO GHG strategy, while promoting balanced global international regulation that ensure an accessible, adaptable, just and equitable green transition in the maritime shipping sector, considering the unique circumstances and capacities of each nation.

3. Enhancing cooperation and dialogue on socioeconomic development, migration, culture, digitalisation and human rights

3.1 Advance a comprehensive approach to migration governance, guided by the principles of partnership and burden and responsibility sharing, considering Egypt's status as a country of origin, transit and destination. Cooperate on capacity development and strengthening of key state institutions involved in migration governance, including in the field of asylum systems, return, re-admission and reintegration and management in line with international obligations including human rights obligations.

3.2 Support Egypt's successful efforts in combating illegal migration, by addressing its root causes, for example through supporting the Egyptian Government's developmental efforts, supporting livelihoods initiatives raising awareness on legal pathways, etc.

3.3 Support Egypt's efforts in combating trafficking in persons, for example through capacity building of relevant authorities, devising and advertising protection schemes available for victims of trafficking, and strengthening prevention measures, including awareness raising campaigns.

3.4 Support Egypt with projects aimed at alleviating the burden carried by Egypt as a result of hosting large and increasing numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. This support includes enhancing the resilience of migrants, refugees, as well as host communities, and assisting Egypt to provide protection and basic needs in line with national priorities and international standards.

- 3.5 Commit to stimulate the exchange of experiences and best practices regarding existing channels of legal pathways for migration, while underlining the importance of preventing brain drain. In this regard, Egypt and Denmark agree to promote safe, orderly and regular pathways in accordance with applicable national laws and based on a mutually & equally beneficial approach.
- 3.6 In light of both parties' recognition of the importance of building capacity of the human component in the pursuit towards development, both parties reaffirm their support to promote technical and vocational education and training including with regards to the youth.
- 3.7 Encourage and foster collaboration in the field of public digitalisation in partnership with Digital Hub Denmark, including through the exchange of knowledge and expertise, such as facilitating potential delegation visits between Egypt and Denmark. Specific activities will be agreed upon based on the interest and capacity of both sides.
- 3.8 Continue dialogue and cooperation on human rights issues in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, and also in support of the implementation of Egypt's national strategy for human rights. Welcome the technical collaboration between Egypt and Denmark's two national human rights institutions under the Danish Arab Partnership Programme (DAPP), the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and Egypt's National Council for Human Rights (ENCHR).
- 3.9 Support the activities under the Danish-Arab Partnership Program (DAPP) 2022 – 2027 in Egypt as a central part of the bilateral partnership.
- 3.10 Continue to engage in and support the Danish Egyptian Dialogue Initiative (DEDI) and its program activities from 2024-2028 in, inter alia, sustainable design and fashion, green environmental literacy for youth and youth dialogue on climate and security.
- 3.11 Explore opportunities for establishing and implementing development programs in Africa through tripartite cooperation in collaboration with the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) in areas of mutual interests, that could include capacity building inter alia within health and climate change. The framework of which would be defined and agreed upon separately.

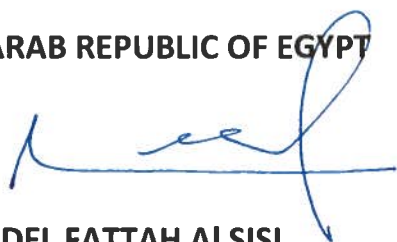
3.12 Utilise and improve existing opportunities for student exchange in short-term courses and master programmes, research collaboration and training. Work towards increasing exchanges, including of master students, through the upcoming Danish Programme for Knowledge and Innovation to be launched in mid-2025.

3.13 Both sides agree to strengthen cultural cooperation among youth in the fields of research, archaeology, architecture and renovation of buildings worthy of preservation in Islamic Cairo. Welcoming in this context the opening of the Denmark Studio for Culture and Research in Cairo.

Signed in Copenhagen on 7 December 2024, in two original copies in Arabic and English languages, and in case of difference in the interpretation of the text, the English language text shall prevail.

PRESIDENT

OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT



ABDEL FATTAH AI SISI

PRIME MINISTER

OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK



METTE FREDERIKSEN