

Country: Arab Republic of Egypt

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Agenda Items:

I. Promoting Sustainable Education for Climate Action,

II. Strengthening the Protection and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage



### I. Promoting Sustainable Education for Climate Action

The Arab Republic of Egypt, located in the northeastern corner of Africa is known for its diverse historical and cultural background and possesses a crucial role in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. With a high amount of increasing population which has passed 110 million Egypt has widely acknowledged the critical significance of education as a propelling factor in sustainable development. Egypt also is a founding member of UNESCO and an active member who contributes to UNESCO regularly. We recognize climate education as a central role while shaping our future.

Egypt is one of the most vulnerable countries in the face of these climate challenges especially in terms of water famine since rising sea levels affect the Nile Delta. Desertification is another essential problem that we are facing at present. Being aware of these threats Egypt has taken fundamental steps to mitigate the harmful impacts of desertification and water famine. The National Climate Change Strategy 2050 initiation which is hosted in Egypt aims to achieve sustainable economic growth and low-carbon development and improve governance and institutional capacity for climate action. Our Ministry of Education works to integrate climate protection topics in school curriculums in order to stimulate an environmentally conscious generation. Furthermore, Egypt has a campaign called “Green Schools” which was implemented to encourage schools to adopt environment friendly activities such as; recycling, tree planting and waste reduction including community projects led by students. Egyptian universities have launched sustainability and research programs particularly in topics like renewable energy, climate science and environmental engineering via collaborations with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that comprise training among students. Additionally COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt under the name of “Together for Implementation” ,focused on the implementation of prearranged climate projects especially in vulnerable areas. As the host, Egypt emphasized the specific challenges faced by the other African countries in the South. The agreement to establish a Loss and Damage Fund to help developing countries was accepted and enacted. Notably, COP27 featured the first Children and Youth Pavilion that marked a significant step toward including young voices in climate projects.

As a solution Egypt wants to enhance the ongoing developments such as the promotion of climate education in all countries as it's a necessity that must be embraced by all member states. Moreover Egypt supports the advancement of regional climate education workshops which could be hosted with the funds of Non Governmental Organizations such as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace MENA, 350.org, Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM), Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE). These workshops could be located in urban areas, tourism regions and educational spaces such as universities and high schools since these areas are highly populated and most affected.

## II. Strengthening the Protection and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Arab Republic of Egypt as one of the oldest nations in the world recognizes the relevance of preserving intangible cultural heritage as a state of national identity and intergenerational transmission. With its traditions and festivals Egypt always had a vital role in centuries of historical layers shaped by Pharaonic, Coptic, Islamic, and Mediterranean features. As a country that has approved the 2003 Convention for the Prevention of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Egypt stands for the protection and promotion of intangible cultural heritage as a responsibility.

Egypt has taken numerous efforts to preserve its both tangible and intangible heritages including the initiatives done by the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Ministry of Culture with notable examples like traditional Nubian language, the Tahteb martial art and festivals like Moulid has been under protection for their persistence. However urbanization and loss of traditional customs led to marginalization and erosion of many intangible features especially in rural regions. In November 2010, Egypt hosted the Phase II evaluation meeting in Cairo after the the original Mediterranean Living Heritage (MedLiHer) initiative which focused on building national inventories and to enhance 2003 Convention. Egypt has launched awareness campaigns about heritages in order to encourage young participants to contribute.

Furthermore Egypt successfully nominated many cultural creations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity which ensured the continuity of these pieces. We engage in regional collaborations with other Arab, African and Mediterranean countries for the purpose of sharing preservation strategies under frameworks. Capacity building is one of the key provisions in conventions and cooperations. Consequently Egypt has hosted several capacity-building workshops in collaboration with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO, primarily focusing on the implementation of the 2003 Convention. Mentioned workshops included training to locals, community leaders and cultural workers about the documentation of heritage. As an addition to workshops, the Ministry of Culture and the Supreme Council of Culture has launched training programs for practitioners of traditional crafts including art, calligraphy, architecture. Egyptian universities such as Cairo University and Ain Shams University have collaborated with Non Governmental Organizations including Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Center for Arab-West Understanding (CAWU), Megawra, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) through initiatives like UNESCO-MoTA University Heritage Forum. These

partnerships enhance the community engagement and heritage management in urban regions. Egypt acknowledges the efforts done by the United Nations such as the creation of global recognition mechanisms, capacity building programs, community based promotions, integration into educational systems, encouragement to international cooperation, reporting systems, the adoption of the 2003 Convention and calls for the sustainability of these actions.

From 2014–2019, Egypt participated in regional capacity projects and recommends the continuation of capacity building programs with the budget of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (ADTCA) focusing on Arab and African regions. Egypt launched the UNESCO–Italy project “Enhancing the Role of Women as Custodians of Handicrafts in order to include more people under the aim of intangible heritage protection while emphasizing the role of women in projects. As an addition to this past action conducted by Egypt, we recommend advocating a new version of culturally embedded entrepreneurship programs with UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund through Karama Foundation which is a Non Governmental Organization accredited by UNESCO. Egypt firmly believes in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) Article 15 which ensures the participation of everyone in cultural life and proposes the promotion of inclusive access to heritage for indigenous communities.

## References

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966. [UN Treaty Collection](#)

COP27 Official Website: <https://cop27.eg>

UNICEF Egypt: “Green Schools Initiative,” [www.unicef.org/egypt](http://www.unicef.org/egypt)

UNDP Egypt: Sustainability and Youth Training Programs

Greenpeace MENA [www.greenpeace.org/mena](http://www.greenpeace.org/mena)

Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM) [www.aycm.org](http://www.aycm.org)

Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) [www.nceegypt.org](http://www.nceegypt.org)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF): Education and Climate Action Programs UNESCO: 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

<https://ich.unesco.org>

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Egypt entries)

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/egypt-EG>

ICCROM: International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property <https://www.iccrom.org>

CAWU – Center for Arab-West Understanding [www.cawu.org](http://www.cawu.org)

Megawra Built Environment Collective: <https://megawra.com>

Zay Initiative (Arab Dress Heritage Archive): <https://thezay.org>

UNESCO–ADTCA Project: Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding ICH in Egypt (2018–2021)