



Unofficial translation

**Statement by
The League of Arab States
Follow up Mission of the Egyptian Presidential Elections
26-28 May 2014**

In response to an invitation extended to H.E. Dr. Nabil Elaraby Secretary General of the League of Arab States from Judge Anwar Al-Ass Head of the Supreme Electoral Commission in the Arab Republic of Egypt to participate in the following up process of the Egyptian presidential elections, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States assigned H.E. Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General, Head of Media and Communications Affairs, to be heading the Arab League follow up mission which consisted of 100 members from the General Secretariat's staff that are holders of 17 Arab nationalities, excluding staff with Egyptian nationality so as to guarantee impartiality of all the mission members.

In this context, the Arab League Mission signed a memorandum of understanding with the Supreme Electoral Commission on the rights and duties of the Mission members who were entitled to free transfer, to obtain the needed documents, to undertake the necessary contacts, and to request clarifications from all the authorities concerned with the electoral process. They were also entitled to follow up the process developments since its inception until the announcement of the results. The Mission members were committed to respect the Egyptian laws and the Code of Conduct for international election observers, and to abstain from interfering with internal affairs, hindering or influencing the course of the electoral process.

During their mission, the Arab League delegation held a number of meetings with the Egyptian authorities concerned with the electoral process. They met with the Head of the Supreme Electoral Commission, the Foreign Minister and officials from the Ministry of Interior. They were briefed on the preparatory procedures for the elections, and discussed all details concerned with the participation of the Arab League Mission.

The Mission also met with a number of international organizations that participated in following up the electoral process, including the



European Union, the International Organization for Democracy and International Organization of La Francophonie. During the meetings, they exchanged points of view and observations about the electoral process.

For the first time, the Arab League followed up the Egyptian elections abroad by the staff of League's offices in 15 countries during the period 15-19 May 2014. In general, the process was well-organized and in accordance with the stipulated procedures. In this context, the Mission commends the use of e-reader device abroad, which helped identify the voters data and facilitate the polling process and the screening procedures. The Mission also appreciates the efforts exerted by the Egyptian embassies abroad in facilitating the polling and screening process.

The Mission members observed the continuation of electoral propaganda during the polling period abroad, an incident that needs to be avoided in the future. They also observed some sporadic polling manners which is not consistent with the polling confidentiality concept in some sub-committees abroad.

The Arab League Mission followed up the electoral process in 22 Egyptian governorates in Lower and Upper Egypt and Suez Canal cities where the Mission members visited 1733 sub-committees in 1123 polling centres. Members of the Mission also attended the screening process in 47 sub-committees.

During their visits, the Mission members were able to assess how developments in the polling and screening processes during the elections matched the procedures stipulated in the Egyptian law, the executive procedures of the Supreme Electoral Commission and the recognized international standards, including the procedures of forming, opening and closure of the sub-committees, and the steps taken in the polling process, and the logistical material needed for its conclusion. The Mission also assessed the course of the screening process.

In view of the above mentioned, the Mission noted a number of observations on the electoral process, which are as follows,

First: the positive observations

- 1- Good safety measures were undertaken to secure polling centres by police and military forces.*



- 2- *Good participation of women, elderly and disabled voters.*
- 3- *Provision of logistical material needed for the polling process in the sub-committees.*
- 4- *Members of sub-committees were often present in their positions.*
- 5- *The presence of queue organizers contributed to the good organization of the electoral process in the polling centres.*
- 6- *Good participation of regional, international and civil society organizations in following the process.*
- 7- *Assistance was provided to the elderly and disabled.*
- 8- *The awareness of the heads and staff of the sub-committees about the screening process contributed to conclusion of the process in an organized manner and in time.*

Second: the negative observations

- 1- *Late opening time of some sub-committees was evident.*
- 2- *The voters' lists were not hanged outside some sub-committees.*
- 3- *Phosphoric ink was not used in some sub-committees in spite of being provided.*
- 4- *Some polling cards were unsealed in some sub-committees.*
- 5- *The polling booth was placed in a way that does not guarantee polling privacy in some committees.*
- 6- *In some committees, the ballot boxes were not properly closed.*
- 7- *Representatives of one of the candidates were not present in many committees.*
- 8- *Weak participation of youth.*
- 9- *Continuation of electoral propaganda was detected in and out some polling centres, thus breaching the electoral silence period.*
- 10- *Some observers were not allowed entry inside the polling centres by the security forces and were asked to present entry permit in spite of the cards granted to them by the Supreme Electoral Commission. This was may be due to the insufficient awareness of the role of observers and their rights. Reference should be made, though, to the immediate intervention of the Supreme Electoral Commission on having been reported of those cases.*
- 11- *The unawareness of some voters about the polling procedures particularly in some rural and remote areas requires the need to increase awareness campaigns in the future.*
- 12- *Limited presence of political parties in the electoral scene.*



The League of Arab States Mission affirms that those negative observations made by the Mission members during the elections did not affect the course of the electoral process as a whole, and consequently will not affect the final results of the elections.

In this context, the Mission commends the decision made by the Supreme Electoral Commission to allow many regional and international authorities to follow up the elections. The Mission also expresses appreciation to the Supreme Electoral Commission headed by Judge Anwar Al-Ass for its cooperation with the Arab League follow up Mission of the Egyptian presidential elections, as the Commission has provided all the required information, clarifications and documents, thus contributing to facilitation and success of the Mission's assignment.

In conclusion of their assignment, the Mission of the League of Arab States expresses appreciation for the efforts exerted by all the Egyptian authorities which participated in organizing the electoral process, and particularly commends efforts by police and military forces in ensuring safety of the elections and for the legislative supervision on the electoral process.

The Mission shall present its final report to the Secretary General of the Arab League, including their detailed observations, and special recommendations on means to avoid and deal with the negative aspects in the coming electoral processes. A copy of the report will be sent to the Supreme Electoral Commission and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Finally, the Mission expresses utmost wishes of success for the president-elect in assuming his huge responsibilities at a critical phase of Egyptian history, a phase that requires hard work and solidarity of all the devoted Egyptians to overcome challenges and to achieve the aspirations of the brotherly Egyptian people for a bright better future with stability, security, prosperity and progress.