

## League of Arab States' Mission observing the 2025 Egyptian Senate Elections

### **Preliminary statement of the League of Arab States' Mission observing Egypt's Senate elections**

In line with the League of Arab States' commitment to supporting the democratic process, consolidating good governance, and expanding political participation, and in response to the invitation received by Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, from Judge Hazem Badawi, Chairman of the National Elections Authority of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to follow up on the Egyptian Senate elections held on 4 and 5 August 2025, the Secretary-General directed the establishment of a mission headed by Ambassador Khalil Ibrahim Al-Dhawadi, Assistant Secretary-General, comprising experienced observers from the General Secretariat representing ten Arab nationalities, deployed across various governorates of the Republic.

#### **1. Voter Registration**

– The National Elections Authority announced the official closure of the voter database as of July 2025, with limited exceptions such as the implementation of court rulings or the removal of deceased voters. The total number of registered voters in the database reached approximately 69 million, marking an increase of about one million compared to the more than 67 million registered for the 2023 presidential elections. Voter registration is governed by the National Automatic Registration System (NARS), which ensures the automatic

enrolment of eligible voters based on the national ID card database. This system guarantees the registration of all holders of a national ID card who are legally entitled to vote.

– For a limited period, the National Elections Authority provided voters with the ability to verify their polling station via a smart application on its official website by entering their national ID number. It also offered, free of charge, the option to transfer their polling station to the one closest to their residence within the electoral district indicated on their national ID card. This service further enabled family members sharing the same registered address to vote at a single polling station, thereby reducing the need for families to travel between different locations.

## **2. Legal Framework and Amendments**

The mission monitored the amendments introduced to certain provisions of the Senate Law, promulgated by Law No. 141 of 2020, concerning the division of constituencies and the allocation of seats. These amendments reflect demographic changes and the population growth recorded in the voter database between 2020 and 2025.

In this regard, the mission notes that the amendments sought to uphold the principles of “fair representation of the population” and “fair representation of the governorates.” They are also consistent with the requirements of equitable parliamentary representation based on reliable and up-to-date data, while adhering to the electoral timetable by adopting these significant amendments well in advance of the commencement of the electoral process.

### **3. Candidacy**

In accordance with the electoral calendar issued by the Commission, the nomination period was open for six days, beginning on 5 July 2025. This is a shorter period than that of the previous Senate elections, which lasted eight days.

Thirty-five political parties participated in the individual candidacies, with party nominees representing 57% of the total individual candidates. Furthermore, 13 political parties formed a single list to contest the four constituencies under the list system, following a process similar to that of 2020.

The final number of individual candidates stood at 424 after the conclusion of the appeals period, compared to 687 in the 2020 Senate elections, reflecting a decrease in individual candidacies relative to the previous electoral cycle.

The nomination period generally proceeded smoothly and without major obstacles. The Commission addressed and resolved difficulties encountered by candidates and parties through appropriate remedial measures.

### **4. Election Campaign**

The election campaign period lasted 14 days, from July 18 to July 31, 2025, in accordance with Article 24 of the Law Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights, which

provides that “election campaigning begins on the date set by the National Elections Authority following the announcement of the final list of candidates and continues until noon on the day preceding the scheduled voting date.”

The legal framework afforded candidates the opportunity to conduct their campaigns, implement related activities, and present their platforms to the electorate. The mission observed widespread deployment of banners and signs in streets and public squares for both individual and list candidates. In this context, the mission notes that the campaign period would have benefited from an extension, particularly in light of the expanded electoral districts. The mission further underscores the importance of monitoring electoral expenditure in accordance with legal provisions to safeguard the principle of equal opportunity for all candidates.

## **5. Voter Awareness**

The National Elections Authority undertook the regulation of electoral awareness and education programmes in cooperation with civil society organisations engaged in electoral affairs, as well as with national councils concerned with women, persons with disabilities, human rights, political parties, and other stakeholders in the electoral process.

The mission notes the measures implemented by the Authority to facilitate inquiries regarding polling station locations and numbers through its official website, social media platforms, and a newly launched application providing smart electronic services to voters.

The Authority also issued sign language and Braille information cards to raise awareness among voters who are blind or hearing-impaired, and provided voting services in Braille for the blind, as well as sign language resources for the hearing-impaired. Facilities and services were further made available for voters with disabilities and elderly voters at polling stations.

The mission asserts that the Authority placed considerable importance on electoral awareness and education activities, recognising them as a fundamental pillar of a successful electoral process. The mission followed the Authority's comprehensive plan, which targeted diverse segments of society and included specialised programmes aimed at promoting awareness of citizens' political rights. In this context, the mission commends the Authority's efforts to organise educational seminars and meetings in universities, schools, and youth centres; conduct field activities in various governorates, particularly rural areas; and launch media campaigns across visual, audio, and digital platforms.

### **Voting Days**

The mission's teams were deployed across multiple electoral districts and governorates, where they observed opening procedures in six polling stations, monitored voting in 248 stations across 223 polling centres, and attended the counting and sorting process in five stations. The mission's observations are summarised as follows:

## **1. Opening of Polling Stations**

The teams recorded that polling stations opened on the legally specified date in most cases. Opening procedures were conducted correctly and in full compliance with legal requirements, allowing voting to commence on time. Observers also noted the presence of voters waiting to cast their ballots prior to the opening in all stations visited, and generally found access to polling stations to be smooth and unhindered.

## **2. Voting Materials**

Mission members confirmed the availability and integrity of all logistical electoral materials in the polling stations visited, with no complaints recorded in this regard.

## **3. Polling Station Staff**

Teams deployed across various electoral districts and governorates confirmed the presence of the presiding judge and staff in most committees and centers, adhering to legal working hours during the opening, voting, break, and closing periods. The mission noted that staff were well-versed in legal procedures, reflecting their preparedness and contributing to the smooth conduct of voting over the two days.

#### **4. Secrecy of the Vote**

Observers reported that polling booths ensured the secrecy of the ballot in the majority of stations visited.

#### **5. Voter Registries**

Observers confirmed the availability of newly designed voter registers, featuring a QR code for verifying the voter's national ID number and identity. This feature was used in a limited number of stations visited by the mission. In some stations, the number of registered voters reached as high as 14,000, a matter that may warrant reconsideration in future elections.

#### **6. Participation of the Elderly, the Illiterate, and Persons with Disabilities**

Mission observers confirmed that assistance and support were provided to elderly voters and persons with disabilities in a number of stations visited during both voting days.

#### **7. Women's Participation**

The mission observed a significant presence of women among polling station staff, including as chairpersons in 55% of the stations visited. Women also participated actively as voters.

#### **8. Presence of Candidate Representatives and Local Observers**

Mission teams observed the presence of list, candidate, and party representatives in several stations visited, as well as local observers and media representatives in some locations.

#### **9. Voter Turnout**

Observers noted variations in turnout among the stations visited across the two days of voting.

#### **10. Security Forces**

Observers commended the effective security arrangements provided by security forces, which ensured a safe and stable environment for the elections throughout both days.



## **11. Organisation of Entry to Polling Stations**

Observers recorded organisational efforts outside polling stations to help voters locate their subcommittee numbers. The mission recommends additional measures to improve entry organisation, particularly at stations experiencing high concentrations of voters and party representatives at their entrances.

## **12. Closing of Voting and Counting Process**

Observation teams present during the counting and sorting process confirmed that polling stations closed on time in accordance with the law, and that most counting and sorting procedures were carried out correctly and in compliance with legal requirements. The overall process in the stations observed proceeded smoothly. The mission recommends increasing awareness of the rights and role of international observers during voting, counting, and sorting.

## **National Elections Authority**

The mission commends the role of the National Elections Authority in preparing for this important electoral event. The Authority demonstrated a clear commitment to organising the electoral process in line with the legal framework and electoral calendar, ensuring its

smooth conduct. The use of modern technology at various stages further enhanced the efficiency and modernisation of the process.

In conclusion, the League of Arab States' Mission observing the Egyptian Senate elections commends the sound preparation and organisation of the electoral process and the secure environment maintained on both voting days. The mission expresses its appreciation for the significant efforts of the National Elections Authority, which contributed to the successful conduct of the elections.

This preliminary statement reflects the mission's initial observations. A final report will be prepared after the appeals period concludes and the final results are announced. The report will include detailed observations and recommendations on all stages of the electoral process and will be submitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for approval prior to its transmission to the relevant Egyptian authorities.