

Joint Declaration

between

The Government of the Italian Republic

and

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

On the enhancement of the bilateral cooperation in the promotion and the protection of children rights and family empowerment in Egypt

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Ministry of State for Family and Population hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Bearing in mind

that the Egyptian Government has been reaffirming for over 20 years its strong commitment in the promotion and protection of children's rights, being one of the six initiators of the first World Summit for Children (1990), and an early signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990);

Recalling

that Egypt is currently committed to translate priorities established by the UN Convention into legal and policy instruments for the protection and the promotion of Children Rights, and that, in this regard, both the Presidential Declaration of the Second Decade for the Protection and Welfare of Egyptian Child (2000-2010) and the amended Child Law (126/2008) represent examples of this strong determination;

Considering

that the newly established Ministry for Family and Population, by subsuming the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood within its structure, has confirmed the promotion of children's rights as a priority and an entry-point to ensure the well-being of Egyptian Families;

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Convinced

that, despite the significant progress that has been achieved towards addressing children and family rights, further action is needed to enhance existing policies and intervention mechanisms in order to promote their well-being in Egypt;

Recalling

that the two Governments, bilaterally or supported by multilateral organizations, are strongly collaborating in several fields related to children and family rights, such as the promotion of child health care and nutrition, the promotion of civil and legal rights for children, adolescents and young women, the support towards the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting practise, as well as the fight against child labour and child marriages;

Taking note

that, within the framework of the Italian-Egyptian bilateral partnership the range of significant results that have been achieved has created a solid foundation on which to build an integrated strategy of intervention able to ensure evidence-based policy formulation addressing children and family poverty and deprivation in Egypt;

Considering

the Joint Declaration on the Enhancement of Bilateral Development Cooperation between the Italian and the Egyptian Governments, signed on May 12th, 2009, in which both Governments identified the priority areas and sectors for the three-year 2010-2012 bilateral Cooperation Programme;

Taking into consideration

the Development Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Italian and the Egyptian Governments, signed on January 17th, 2010;

The Parties declare

their determination to the enhancement of the already successful Italian-Egyptian partnership to promote and strengthen the Ministry's core functions in line with its mandate;

their commitment in supporting the implementation of an integrated program focused on children's rights and families' well-being, through the establishment of a fund, created with an Italian grant of 1.500.000

Euro, for the period 2010-2012, as soon as resources are made available in the relevant Italian Financial Law;

that the afore mentioned program will aim at the creation, in the Fayoum Governorate, of an integrated model of development devised to provide the Ministry with evidence for a more harmonized, participatory and evidence-based formulation of policies related to Children, Youth and Families;

that, more specifically, the mentioned program will entail a twofold action, operational at both national and local level, respectively through capacity and institution-building activities to be addressed within the Ministry's core Units, namely Policy and Planning Unit and Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, and through the establishment and the implementation of an integrated model of development, in the Fayoum Governorate;

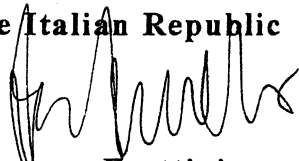
that the activities to be implemented will concern the following fields of intervention:

- Birth registration to be strengthened through capacity building and awareness campaigns, as well as direct support at local level;
- Prevent school drop outs and exert re-entry efforts;
- Prevent child marriages and child labour;
- Reduce female genital mutilation, through direct action at community and family level;

their support to the creation of partnerships and liaising with Italian institutions and centers of excellence, such as the Italian National Institute of Statistic (ISTAT), in order to transfer know-how in the sectors to scientific statistical research to be mainstreamed in national policies;

In witness thereof, the undersigned have signed the present Joint Declaration in Rome on May 19th, 2010, in two original copies in the English language.

**For the Government
of the Italian Republic**



**Franco Frattini
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**For the Government
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**



**Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

