

AIDE MEMOIRE

CANDIDATURE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION COUNCIL ELECTION IN CATEGORY 'C'

2024-2025

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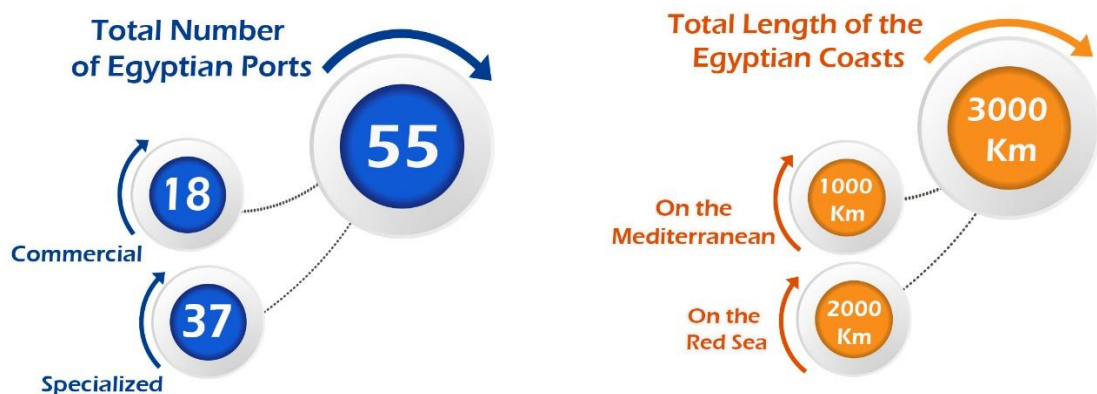
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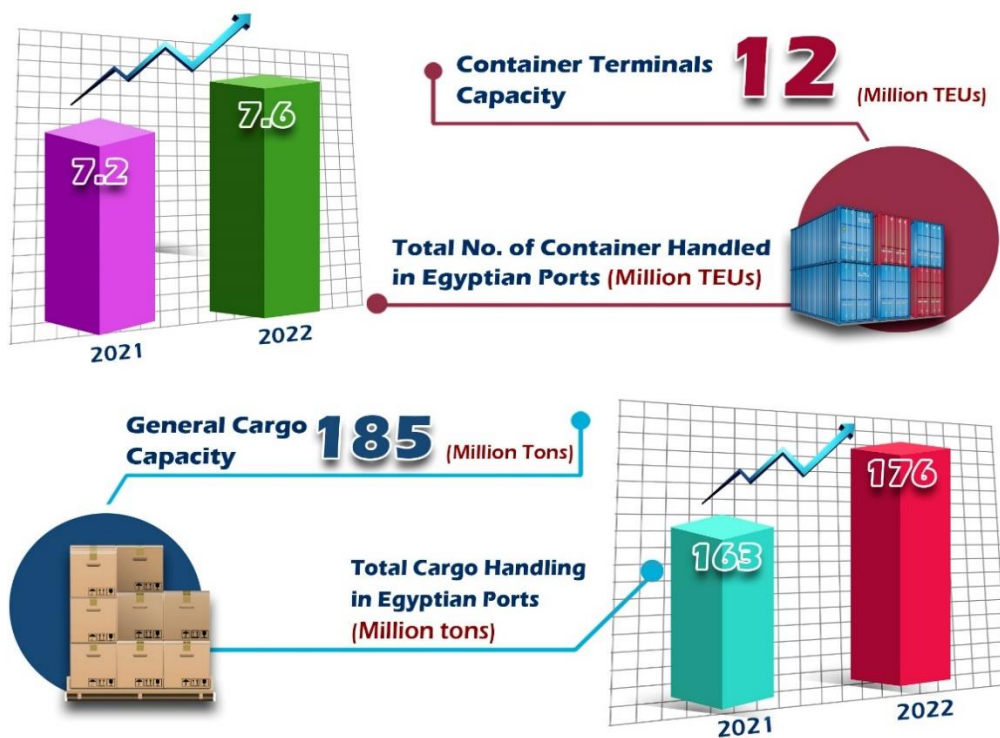
Egypt is seeking the re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in Category (C) at the elections that will be held during the 33rd session of the Assembly in November 2023. By presenting its candidature Egypt aims to maintain the close and consolidated cooperation with all Member States in order to achieve the IMO's main objective for a safer navigation on cleaner oceans.

Introduction

Egypt enjoys a unique geographic location on the crossroads of three continents. Egypt has a Mediterranean coastline which stretches for 1000 km and a coastline up to 2000 Km on the Red Sea, connected to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal which makes Egypt strategically and commercially important for the maritime transport sector. Therefore, maritime activities have long provided great economic value to our country. Shipping lines across Egyptian waters and the Suez Canal carry substantial maritime traffic, including a quarter of globally transported oil and about 90% of Egypt's foreign trade.

Egypt in Figures





Egyptian Ports

- Egyptian ports play a strategic role not only in the transport of Egypt's foreign trade but also in the development of the world trade traffic.
- Egypt has 18 commercial ports and 37 specialized ports (mining/ tourist/ petroleum/fishing).
- Alexandria Port – situated on the Mediterranean- is the main port of Egypt and its Northern gate to the world. Hence, it exerts great efforts to develop its facilities and increase its capacities through investment projects that generate great revenues to the national economy, strengthen the international relations and facilitate the vessels traffic from/to the port. The waterway was dredged to allow the passage of vessels with heavy tonnage. Alexandria Port Authority signed several MOUs with different ports such as Piraeus, Limassol, Alexandropoulos, Kavala, Valencia, Livorno, and Koper.
- Damietta Port is one of the main logistic ports of Egypt on the Mediterranean. Damietta Port Authority carried out several projects aiming at raising the throughput of the port and facilitating the trade flow. The port uses the single window system. Recognizing the importance of the environment protection and pollution prevention, the Port Authority established an Environmental Observatory according to the international standards in order to monitor the air pollution and introduced the onshore power supply (OPS) technique for providing electric power to berthing vessels.
- Egypt has also several ports along the Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aqaba and Suez. These ports are considered the gateway of Egypt to Mashreq area, Near and Far East and East Africa in addition to Port Said (East and West) ideally located on the Northern entrance of Suez Canal at the confluence of three continents, and at the crossroad of the most important world sea trade route between the East and the West playing a prominent role in transit trade.



Development Plans

a. Maritime Transport Strategy

- The Maritime Transport Sector developed a comprehensive strategy in order to increase the competitiveness of Egyptian ports and meet international performance standards that ensure more reliable services and higher standards related to quality, security, safety, financial sustainability, resource and environment protection, community participation, noting that many of these aspects are linked to sustainable development objectives.
- The Ministry of Transport regularly reviews and updates the strategy and follows-up the implementation of its objectives.

b. Master Plan of Egyptian Ports 2030

A study of an overall comprehensive master plan for the Egyptian ports until 2030 was completed in 2021. The plan is one of the main objectives of the State's Strategy for the Development and Increasing the Competitiveness of Egyptian Seaports in order to achieve the integration between the ports taking into consideration the competitive advantages of each port.

Suez Canal

- Suez Canal is one of the most important and busiest trade arteries in the world, linking between the Mediterranean Sea at Port Said and the Red Sea at Suez. It is a significant route for energy, commodities, consumer goods and componentry from Asia and the Middle East to Europe. Approximately 12% of global trade and 30% of global container traffic traverse the Canal, transporting over USD \$1 trillion worth of goods per annum. The canal's location also makes it a key regional hub for shipping oil and other hydrocarbons. It enables the transfer of an estimated 7-10% of the world's oil and 8% of liquefied natural gas.
- The "New Suez Canal" project completed in 2015 involved building a canal parallel to the current Suez Canal, 35 kilometers-long, to minimize the amount of time ships spend crossing the canal. Additionally, the Suez Canal was made deeper and wider to admit larger ships. Suez Canal is now able to accommodate all kinds of ships, especially giant oil tankers. It also saves costs for ships, as it cut down on traffic time.
- In March 2021, Suez Canal was blocked for six days due to the container ship, Ever Given, running aground. The canal was paralyzed for all maritime traffic, resulting in hundreds of ships being unable to travel from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, which underscored the importance of Suez Canal for global freight and supply lines. The Suez Canal Authority led a huge effort to pull the giant vessel out of the waterway via tugboats until it was finally freed and the navigation resumed as normal.

Suez Canal Economic Zone

- The Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) is a world-class free zone and trade hub along the banks of the newly-expanded Suez Canal. Strategically located on the main trade route between Europe and South Asia, more than 8% of global trade passes through every year. Spanning 461 km², the SCZone has four unique zones and six strategically located ports. Six tunnels have been constructed under Suez Canal to connect the Sinai Peninsula to the Egyptian homeland.
- Commitment to a clean planet and sustainable development is at the core of the SCZone's work. The Authority prepared a master plan for green hydrogen projects, which includes land allocations for electrolysis facilities, sea water supply, renewable energy plants, and storage and export facilities in Ain Sokhna. A number of framework agreements with international consortia were concluded for the production of green hydrogen.

Information Technology

- a. The Egyptian Maritime Data Bank (EMDB) affiliated to the Maritime Transport Sector was established with the aim of providing accurate information to decision-makers, planners and researchers in order to achieve the continual improvement of such a vital sector. The bank is electronically linked to ports in order to form an integrated and comprehensive data base.
- b. In order to cope with the world technological development, the Egyptian government applies the Electronic Data Interchange System in the ports of Alexandria, Dekheila, Damietta and El Sokhna.
- c. Egypt launched the National Single Window for Foreign Trade Facilitation “Nafeza” system on April 1, 2021. The initiative is implemented by the Egyptian Customs Authority to modernize and automate customs administration, simplify procedures, and reduce clearance times. It is expected to facilitate and expedite the review and release of foreign shipments upon their arrival at a port of entry within Egypt. “Nafeza” platform will bring the Government of Egypt in line with international standards of trade-related procedures and customs requirements for the clearance of goods. The Egyptian Customs Authority launched the pilot phase of “Nafeza” at the Port of Alexandria. The new system will be applied at seaports first, and airports and inland ports will follow.

Egypt in the Region

- a. In February 2023, Egypt assumed presidency of the steering committee of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development Agency (NEPAD), which is the development arm of the African Union (AU), organizing and financing projects and programs to achieve sustainable development goals in the continent. Egypt will seek to mobilise financial resources in areas of priority for Africa – including infrastructure development – in a way that ensures achieving the goals of the African Development Agenda 2063. The targeted projects include, for example, the navigational line between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea as well as the Cairo-Cape Town Road.

- b. Egypt is also an active member in the African maritime associations such as North African Port Management Association, COMESA and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States.
- c. Egypt has long-standing maritime cooperation relations with African and Arab countries and several bilateral maritime cooperation agreements are already in place.
- d. Egypt is a member state in Med MOU on Port State Control and applies all its provisions.
- e. Egypt hosts the Headquarters of the Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (affiliated to the Arab League) that plays a pivotal role on the regional level offering a great number of training and education opportunities to Arab and African States. The Academy is a founding member of the International Association of Maritime Universities, a member in its board of directors and in the Policy and Planning Committee.
- f. Egypt is a member in PERSGA (Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden) and plays a vital role in promoting regional cooperation by supporting national environment plans and regional strategies as well as organizing workshops concerning conservation of environment and capacity building in the countries of the region.
- g. Egypt also hosts the Headquarters of the Arab Seaports Federation that aims at the development and coordination of the work of its members and contributes to the economic integration between Arab countries.
- h. Egypt contributed to drafting the Second Ministerial Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean concerning Blue Economy and Integrated Maritime Policy in 2/2/2021 to reinforce the existing process and to call for new joint actions to speed up recovery of the blue economy sectors in the Mediterranean as well as to ensure its long-term sustainability.
- i. Egypt along with Jordan, Morocco Joined Blue MED Partnership Initiative , at the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) announced the creation of the Blue Mediterranean Partnership, which aims to support the development of a sustainable blue economy in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood countries in the Mediterranean region. It aims to bring together international donors, beneficiary countries, interested financial institutions and philanthropies to support policy reforms, attract donor funding and mobilise public and private financing for projects initially in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

Egypt & IMO

- a. Egypt has been a member in IMO since its establishment in 1958 and has been a member in IMO Council from 1977.
- b. Egypt actively participates in all meetings of main and sub- committees as well as working groups namely the working group on council reform.
- c. It acceded to 38 conventions and protocols, issued by IMO, and implements all the related provisions by amending its national legislation.



- d. Egypt was subject to the IMO Member State Audit Scheme in 2016 in order to ensure the efficient implementation of IMO instruments and the audit result was satisfying. The Egyptian authorities are now completing all necessary corrective actions.
- e. Egyptian qualified auditors who participated in the IMO Member States Audit Scheme (IMSAS).
- f. Egypt participates effectively in the meetings of the bodies affiliated to IMO such as REMPEC and EMSA.
- g. Egypt is keen to celebrate the World Maritime Day every year and celebrated for the first time the Day of Women in Maritime in 2022 according to the resolution of the Assembly in 2021.

IMO Regional Presence Office in Egypt

- a. Egypt offered to host a Regional Presence Office (RPO) to enhance the implementation of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for the Arab States in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- b. The decision to boost IMO's presence in the Middle East and (MENA) region with the establishment of an RPO was made by the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee at its 72nd session in October 2022. This was subsequently endorsed in December 2022 by the IMO Council at its 128th session.
- c. The office will be situated within the premises of the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety (EAMS) in the port of Alexandria.
- d. Administrative procedures are in process to begin the operation of the Office as soon as possible.

Commitments

Egypt as a coastal/ port state is always keen to fulfill all of its obligations related to the main objectives of the International Maritime Organization and spares no efforts to comply with its instruments.

a. Safety and Security

- Egypt has fulfilled all of its obligations pertaining to maritime safety and security and the safety of lives at sea through the implementation of LRIT, VTS, AIS, GMDSS.
- Egypt has a complete system supported by 13 maritime units along the Egyptian coasts in order to provide the necessary support to search and rescue operations. The whole system is operated by the Search and Rescue Center, which is considered one of the first centers in the Middle East and Africa. It played a significant role since the 40s of the 20th century until now.

- The Center provides its services using the latest technologies and according to the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization. It owns the necessary equipment for the search and rescue operations (aerial- maritime- land) as well as the evacuation, aerial firefighting and flying hospital. It also owns a communication system fully capable of receiving the distress signals.
- Egypt supports the international and regional counter- piracy efforts as well as the efforts exerted by the International Maritime Organization within the framework of the Maritime Safety Committee.
- The Maritime Security Institute carries out the security assessments and the security plans for ports, port facilities and vessels flying the Egyptian flag according to ISPS Code. The Institute is also committed to hold the IMO Model Courses in order to qualify the security personnel and officers.

b. Environment Protection

- In keeping with its commitment to enhance environmental protection, Egypt exerts every possible effort to implement the related IMO instruments namely MARPOL, London Convention and Protocol. Recognizing the importance of pollution prevention and combating, Egypt acceded to the Ballast Water Management Convention and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships
- Egypt is now taking the final procedures to ratify Annex 6 of MARPOL Convention
- Egypt contributed to the implementation of the REMPEC's Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
- A committee was established according to a Cabinet Decree to regularly review and monitor the environmental status of Egyptian ports.
- Egypt took part effectively in the two decade discussions and negotiations of the new legally binding international instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, known as BBNJ which was agreed on 4 march 2023.
- Egypt joined the Regional Expert Meeting on the harmonization of procedures, in the Mediterranean pursuant to the Ballast Water Management Convention held in Kappara, Malta from 20 to 23 March 2023, to establish a uniform framework for a regional harmonized approach in the Mediterranean on ships' ballast water control and management that is consistent with the requirements and standards of BWM Convention.
- Egypt joined the panel of countries that designated the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides. This designation came as an introduction to our long-awaited accession to MARPOL Annex VI that will soon crown our efforts in transforming the shipping sector in Egypt into a truly green sector.
- **COP27:**
 - The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, (COP27), was the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, held from November 6 until November 20, 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. It took

place under the presidency of Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry, with more than 92 heads of state and an estimated 35,000 representatives, or delegates, of 190 countries attending. It was the fifth climate summit held in Africa, and the first since 2016.

- The decisions taken in Sharm el-Sheikh require all countries to make an extra effort to address the climate crisis – starting now. The Conference closed with a breakthrough agreement to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts and other climate disasters and this was widely lauded as an historic decision. Moreover, countries reaffirmed their commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The COP27 cover decision, known as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, highlights that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least USD 4-6 trillion a year. Delivering such funding will require a swift and comprehensive transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors.
- The package of decisions adopted at COP27 have a strong focus on implementation – they aim to strengthen action by countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change, as well as boost the support of finance, technology and capacity building needed by developing countries.

c. Human Element

- The IMO panel of competent persons found Egypt giving full and complete effect to the STCW Convention. Therefore, Egypt has been included in the report of the Secretary General to the Maritime Safety Committee MSC 106 on the evaluation of information communicated pursuant to regulation I/8, paragraph 3 of the 1978 STCW Convention
- Egypt has several bilateral agreements with regard to the mutual recognition of certificates.
- Training is always a major point of interest for Egypt as it is a member of the International Association of Universities. The maritime education, training and qualification of cadres in Egypt and the Arab and African countries are carried out in cooperation with IMO through the Egyptian training institutes and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) affiliated to the Arab League. Headquartered in Egypt, the Academy provided a large number of training and education opportunities in different specializations.
- The Academy also established the maritime center of excellence that includes the College of Maritime Transport and Technology, Sea Training Institute, Integrated Simulators Complex, Maritime Safety Institute, Upgrading Studies Institute, Maritime Examination Center, Regional Maritime Institute, and the IMO Compound that implements the IMO policy and requirements in cooperation with the Arab maritime

administrations in order to enhance the maritime safety and marine pollution prevention.

- Egypt owns the training vessel (Aida) for training sea cadets.
- Port Training Institute affiliated to the Maritime Transport Sector (Ministry of Transport) provides the required qualification and training for different sea professions according to STCW95. It also provides training opportunities to Arab and African cadres.
- A candidate from the Maritime Transport Sector obtained the Master Degree in Malmoe- Sweden- from the World Maritime University.
- During the crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, Egypt officially designated seafarers as key workers.
- The Maritime Transport Sector has taken serious steps to adopt the Maritime Labor Convention (MLC, 2006). The Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers has approved the Draft Presidential Decree on the adoption of the MLC, 2006 the matter that will eventually crown our efforts towards providing a better life to seafarers in our land.

Sustainable Development Goals

- In line with the 2030 Agenda, the Egyptian Government has launched a working plan called Egypt's Vision 2030, also known as Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). The SDS promotes economic flourishing based on justice, social integrity and participation. It is under the SDS that all development plans in Egypt are incorporated while at the same time being strongly guided by the SDGs. The government is also developing a scientific methodology to measure its performance and track progress.
- Egypt made remarkable strides in all aspects related to gender equality which have been translated into significant improvements in all the gender equality indicators whether related to political participation or labor market.
- In the maritime field, the Egyptian women now perform duties as maritime officer/ engineer onboard merchant vessels. Total number of women working in maritime sector and port authorities is 1428 representing 18% of the total number of workers. This percentage is expected to increase in the future within the framework of Egypt's vision 2030.
- The "Arab Women in Maritime Association" AWIMA established under the auspices of IMO is a platform that brings together the women working in different sectors of the industry in the region with a vision that aims at achieving effective Arab women to promote a strong maritime sector.
- In February 2021 Egypt launched the "Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator" action plan in collaboration with the National Council for Women (NCW) and the World Economic Forum (WEF), and in partnership with the Private Sector. The Accelerator is the first of its kind public-private collaboration model in Africa, Middle East and North Africa. It aims to address current gender gaps and reshape gender parity for the future. In 2022, global

gender gap index for Egypt was 0.64 index. Global gender gap index of Egypt increased from 0.58 index in 2007 to 0.64 index in 2022 growing at an average annual rate of 0.70%.

- On the environmental level, the environmental policy of the Government of Egypt seeks to achieve environmental protection through the establishment of proper institutional, economic, legislative and technical frameworks at the local, regional, national and international levels.
- Egypt is committed to deliver its fair share of climate action as part of global action to address climate change. However, given Egypt's high vulnerability to climate change, adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change is an imperative necessity. From this standpoint, Egypt launched its billion-dollar National Climate Change Strategy 2050 to support a stronger, greener Egyptian economy. The strategy includes adaptation and mitigation programs in all sectors until 2050, the most important of which are: Energy, transportation, agriculture and water resources.
- In our endeavor to shift Egyptian ports into green ports, we implemented several measures to reduce pollutants and emissions in port area. Electricity powered operations in Damietta and Alexandria ports are good examples. Waste incinerators, air pollution sensing devices and solar energy powered networks are also available.
- Egypt has made significant progress in energy transformation over the past few years through massive investments in wind and solar energy, as well as progress in the innovative adaptation of water resources to meet urban and agricultural needs. Our engagement in partnership with UN entities such as FAO, UNDP and WMO reflects our interest in several priority areas.
- Egypt ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 to be among the first countries to respond to the threats of climate change as per the equity principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with the respective national capabilities.
- Egypt submitted its initial, second and third national communications to the UNFCCC in 1999, 2010 and 2016, respectively. Moreover, Egypt's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) was submitted in 2019 and the fourth national communication is underway and expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of 2024. These reports presented the cumulative adaptation and mitigation measures and envisaged plans to achieve Egypt's commitments under the UNFCCC. Since then, Egypt adopted additional range of actions to respond to the climate change challenges such as Energy policy reforms, renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon transport, green finance, climate adaption action, etc.
- Egypt joined the African Energy Interconnection Sustainable Development Alliance (AEISDA) that aims at enhancing joint cooperation to support the clean energy in the African continent.
- In an effort to conserve the valuable natural resources of Egypt, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) was established to protect and effectively manage Egypt's marine and coastal areas. Since its establishment, the ICZM has pioneered a number of policy initiatives to accomplish this goal, including the founding of a national committee for coastal conservation, the drafting of the Environmental Guidelines for Coastal Areas, and the development of the National Environmental Action Plan.

- The ICZM has also overseen a number of different projects targeting coastal area development and conservation; these include a coastal zone management project in Alexandria funded by the World Bank, a shoreline management project for the coastal area between Hurghada and Ras Ghareb funded by the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and a national marine litter-monitoring.
- Egypt is committed to pursuing sustainable practices to conserve its natural marine resources, and to put forth the necessary regulatory framework to accomplish this goal.

Conclusion

- All the above shows how much Egypt is devoted to the support of the IMO mission and how much it is keen to enhance the maritime safety and security as well as the protection of maritime environment and trade facilitation.
- In its desire to maintain its seat in the IMO Council and given its strong commitment to the realization of IMO objectives, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt would highly appreciate the valuable support of the esteemed Governments of the IMO Member States for its candidature to the IMO Council in Category "C".