

**ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**



# **ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS**

**NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION**

**MID-TERM REPORT  
JULY 2007–DECEMBER 2009**





# Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we bring to press this important document that sets forth Egypt's National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC).

We are confident that Egypt's people as well as the whole world will benefit from the rejection of the thesis that advocates the clash of civilizations, and the adoption of a Culture of Peace. The Alliance of Civilizations that wants to translate dialogue and learning into action programs and results on the ground is the proper framework to bring together many disparate programs and projects and actions in a manner that makes the whole more than the sum of the parts.

The Plan highlights the relationships between these various programs and projects, many of which are public-private partnerships and all represent collaboration between government and civil society. We have kept the four main themes presented in the AoC report; namely, youth, education, media and migration; and have included others: women, and the culture of peace.

Our National Plan, which covers the period 2007–2012, shows that Egypt immediately adopted this coherent approach as soon as the Final Report of the High Level Group of the AoC delivered its report to former Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Anan, in November 2006. Subsequently, after UNSG Ban Ki Moon adopted the report, we welcomed the appointment of HE President Jorge Sampaio as UN High Commissioner for the AoC, and have supported his activities and those of his colleagues and remain committed to the noble goals of the AoC.

We look forward to closer cooperation with other countries in the implementation of the initiative consonant with our plan. I have asked Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (the New Library of Alexandria); and UN Ambassador for the AoC, and Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Peace Studies, to oversee the implementation of that Plan in close cooperation with the National Council for Women and the Higher Council of Motherhood and Children's Affairs and the organizers of the Reading for All campaign. Annual monitoring and careful evaluation of our work will ensure that the National Plan's lofty ambitions are translated into results on the ground.

Suzanne Mubarak  
Chair  
Egyptian National Plan  
for the Alliance of Civilizations

# INTRODUCTION

It is a pleasure for me to present this Mid-Term Report for Egypt's National Plan of Action for the Alliance of Civilizations (2007–2012). The Report, which covers the period from July 2007 to December 2009, represents a panoramic view of the national initiatives that were launched in response to the UN Alliance of Civilizations, the policies that were developed to reinforce them and actions that were taken to implement them.

The Report is also an occasion for self-evaluation and a means to reflect what we, in Egypt, have achieved in two-years-and-a-half; whether we have been consistent with our Plan of Action and the recommendations contained in the 2006 Report of the High Level Group (HLG Report), in which areas we have been active and successful, and which programs might be subject to improvement and adjustment.

Some programs and projects were implemented several years before the Alliance of Civilizations, the aims of which fall within the goals of the AoC. This reflects the early commitment of Egypt to the dialogue of cultures and civilizations. Therefore, the Egyptian strategy in implementing the AoC objectives has followed three tracks of action: reinforcing and strengthening efforts already underway; fine-tuning some projects and programs to maximize their alignment with the AoC principles and objectives; and proposing new ways to build upon existing efforts and fill the gaps where they exist.

In pursuit of the AoC objectives, Egypt has adopted the four main fields of action highlighted in the HLG Report; namely, education, youth, media and migration, and has added a fifth field dedicated to women empowerment. The overall concept of the Culture of Peace is served by some programs that aim particularly to facilitate the adoption of such a

culture. For the intensity of programming in this area, a whole section has been dedicated to it in both the Plan and the Report.

The Report aims to be quite comprehensive in scope. It tends to cover the national efforts undertaken by several entities in Egypt to promote the culture of dialogue and understanding and the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations, through unilateral, bilateral or multilateral actions. It highlights the major achievements of Egypt through its public institutions and civil society organizations alike, in keeping with the main fields of actions and the practical recommendations of the HLG Report.

Being the Egyptian focal point for the Alliance of Civilizations and the monitoring body of the implementation of the National Plan, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina would like to present its deepest thanks to its national partners for their cooperation and valuable contributions that helped drafting the Plan and reporting the progress in their respective areas.

Ismail Serageldin  
Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina  
Librarian of Alexandria

# **1 PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE**

Recognizing the importance of peace-building in achieving cross-cultural understanding and building bridges between communities, Egypt has created special constituencies to address these issues in a more systematic and holistic approach.

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, the affiliated Institute for Peace Studies and the BA Dialogue Forum, work in synergy to instill the values of justice, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism and the respect of cultural and religious diversity, through carefully designed programs and pre-planned activities.

## **National Programs and Initiatives**

During the period covered by this report, many programs and projects were launched and implemented. A Committee of Experts was formed to review the content of primary school curricula to ensure the inclusion of teaching resources for world history, peace and civic education, in addition to national history and identity. The meetings of this Committee are still under planning.

In July 2008, the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) launched a Summer School pilot program entitled "A Peace Journey" in six schools in five Egyptian Governorates. Based on the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) model, the program aimed at strengthening the concepts of peace-building and protecting the environment through arts, IT, environmental and sports activities.

The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) has been conducting a number of activities to address cultural awareness, openness to others, public and social welfare, and disseminate the concepts of International Humanitarian Law among the different classes of the society, according to its fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

### **The Institute for Peace Studies Activities**

The Institute for Peace Studies (IPS), launched in February 2006 by the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and hosted in collaboration with Egyptian and regional institutions at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, organized several events aiming at promoting peace and goodwill among people.

Subscribing to the international and UN peace-making initiatives, the IPS launched a campaign for "Banning Cluster Bombs" in September 2007, and on 21 September of each year celebrates the International Peace Day by hosting a number of events with the participation of Egyptian public figures and Ambassadors of Good Will for UN agencies.

In addition, IPS has been engaged in more intensive activities by co-organizing and hosting a variety of conferences, seminars, workshops and expert meetings. In November 2007, it organized a seminar entitled "Books or Bombs: Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development", in collaboration with the International Peace Bureau.

In January 2008, it co-organized and hosted "The Third Conference on the Dialogue among Peoples and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Areas".

In October 2008, in collaboration with the Oxford Research Group, the IPS held a roundtable discussion entitled "Regional Consultation on Sustainable Security in the Middle East and North Africa".

In December 2008, it held a workshop on "Violence in Egyptian Society" to discuss the forms, sources, and manifestations of violence in Egyptian society. In addition, it organized a workshop entitled "Cognitive



Map and Founding the Culture of Peace”, which tackled the cognitive map of peace concepts as well as that of Islamic groups.

The last quarter of 2009 was marked by intensive activities for the IPS. In October 2009, the Institute hosted the “Conflict Resolution Workshop: Nile Water Management Case Study” in collaboration with the University of Maryland Center for International Development and Conflict Management. In November 2009, in collaboration with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, the Folke Bernadotte Academy and Gothenberg University, it co-hosted a conference entitled “Preventive Diplomacy and Peacemaking: Past, Present and Future”. In December 2009, the IPS held a one-day seminar entitled “From Violence to Peace: A School-Based Intervention Program Addressing Violence Control among Children and Adolescents Seminar”. It also organized, with the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL, Oviedo, Spain), an “Expert Meeting on the Human Right to Peace”, which resulted in the Declaration of Alexandria.

### **The BA Dialogue Forum Activities**

The BA Dialogue Forum acts as the epicenter to open discussion over issues that affect modern societies, with focus on Egypt and the Arab World.

During the period from July 2007 to December 2009, the Dialogue Forum conducted many events with special attention to intercultural dialogue, knowledge of the other, and relations between Western and Muslim societies.

In November 2007, the BA Arab Reform Forum (an initiative of the Dialogue Forum) organized the Japan-Arab Conference “A New Dawn: Arabs Looking East”, which brought together intellectuals and media people interested in the promotion of Japan-Arab partnerships.

From 28 February to 1 March 2008, the Arab Reform Forum (ARF) organized its third Annual Youth Forum entitled “Youth and the Role of Media in Establishing Culture of Peace, Security and Development”.

In July 2008, the Dialogue Forum hosted a roundtable entitled “British and Muslim: A Contradiction in Terms”, where a British-Muslim delegation

discussed how Islam, and they as British-Muslims, are perceived in the West (in particular the UK) and how they, in turn, perceive the West.

In December 2008, a workshop on the Knowledge Map (KM) was conducted, with the participation of scholars, experts, media men, and academia.

In March 2009, the “Access to Justice Workshop” was held as a collaborative effort between the Dialogue Forum and the IPS to examine the chances of disadvantaged people to obtain legal assistance, participate effectively in the legal system through access to courts, tribunals and alternative dispute resolution.

In April 2009, the Dialogue Forum held a symposium entitled “Humanism in Islam”, which focused on the common values among civilizations and reviving different traditional humanisms highlighting the role Arab and Islamic traditions can play in this new intercultural approach.

In May 2009, in cooperation with the Arab Society for Reform and Development, the Institute for Peace Studies and El-Tasalouh El Kholeqi Organization, organized an open discussion on the award-winning documentary “The Imam and the Pastor”.

In August 2009, the Dialogue Forum organized a roundtable discussion entitled “Policies of Dialogue among Civilizations: Towards a Better Dialogue”, in collaboration with “The Platform of Freedom” Project affiliated to Atlas Institution and Cato Institute Washington, DC.

### **The Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) Activities**

The SMWIPM was created with the aim of helping women and youth develop the skills necessary to initiate and spread understanding, respect, and peace in their communities, their countries and around the world, through diverse initiatives. Between July 2007 and December 2009, the SMWIPM was involved in many activities and programs addressing peace and security-related matters at bilateral, multilateral and global levels.

The SMWIPM successfully pursued its “Peace Matters Lecture Series”, launched in 2004, aiming to stimulate public discussions on the role of women in peace and human security. Building on the success of the Summer School Program (See **National Programs and Initiatives**), the SMWIPM launched in 2008 the Culture of Peace Education Program. A new training manual was developed to train volunteers, students, educators and community leaders on the effective dissemination of peace values and principles in their communities.

On 27 January 2008, the SMWIPM organized a roundtable discussion under the banner “Sharing Perspectives—The Power of Peace-Building”, to explore dynamic collaboration between the Movement, AFS International and AFS Egypt, to build programs that will promote peace.

On 9 February 2008, Dr. Hans Lavender, Chairperson of Life-Link Friendship-School Program, invited by the SMWIPM, gave a presentation on “Strategy of Peace Promotion” to the members of the Youth Network. Throughout summer 2009, new Youth Network groups, composed of 15 young people each, have been created across Egypt.

In May 2008, the SMWIPM organized the “One World” Peace Festival, which was attended by over 30,000 people, celebrating the rich diversity of world cultures.

In line with the African Union Summit, the Movement organized a roundtable discussion between African First Ladies, entitled “Women as Architects of Peace and Security”, on 1 July 2008. The event highlighted the work of the African First Ladies Peace Mission, which aims to invigorate the participation of women in the decision-making spheres, and enhance their human security as a vital cornerstone to peace in the African region.

From 8 to 13 September 2008, several SMWIPM members attended the “People-to-People International 18<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Conference: Symposium on Peace and Conflict”.

On 1 December 2008, the SMWIPM organized an event entitled “Towards a Culture of Peace”, in cooperation with Federico Mayor’s Foundation for a Culture of Peace, to inaugurate the launching of the Foundation’s “Aldea Project”.

During spring and summer 2009, the SMWIPM worked on extending the Culture of Peace Program through local and international partnerships. From 13 to 15 May 2009, it joined hands with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)’s “Girls’ Education Initiative”, to promote the Culture of Peace in girl-friendly schools across Egypt. In June 2009, the SMWIPM organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) for women leaders working in six NGOs under the umbrella of the “Kheir and Baraka” NGO. Throughout July–August 2009, the SMWIPM was able to reach hundreds of young people from all across Egypt in youth summer camps, by organizing seven sessions focusing on the themes of diversity and cooperation. The SMWIPM also carried out Training of Trainers for supervisors and staff of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

The First Ladies Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held 15–16 July 2009 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The event focused on the role of women in crisis management. An outcome of the event was the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration.

On 11 October 2009, HE Suzanne Mubarak met with a delegation from Peace Links Japan, led by HE Kumiko Hashimoto, Founder and President of Peace Links Japan, to exchange ideas and perspectives on their shared mission to build more peaceful and secure societies.

With regard to adhering to UN relevant Acts, the SMWIPM is working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to introduce a new awareness-raising initiative on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

## 2 EDUCATION

Egypt has developed an active Education Program to foster the cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation. To this aim, many programs and projects were implemented on both institutional and national levels: from developing and teaching formal and informal courses on related topics to designing and launching reading campaigns.

### **Peace and Civic Education**

The Institute for Peace Studies (IPS), in partnerships with local, regional and international institutions involved in peace studies, delivered formal courses on Peace and Conflict Resolution during July–August 2007, 2008 and 2009.

In April 2008, the IPS and the UPEACE hosted a workshop to develop a curriculum for a Masters program in Peace and Conflict Studies. The workshop brought together four universities from the region to discuss the regional Masters program. IPS was later chosen as the regional coordinator, and became a partner institution to the four universities.

The BA Dialogue Forum organizes bimonthly lectures allowing participants to freely exchange their points of view on current cultural, scientific, economic, political and development issues. As of 2007, the Dialogue Forum conducted over 30 lectures, discussing topics such as “Human Rights between the State and the Society”, “Freedom and Islam”, “the Culture of Peace”, “Women and Public Life”, “Dimensions of Migration”, and “Media and the Culture of Dialogue”, to name a few.

As an effective means of learning, People-to-People Contact was highly encouraged through peace camps and exchange programs. Within this framework, the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) has been holding the annual event "Peace Camp" to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities.

In 2007, the BA Young People's Library (YP) participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Peace Pals Art Exhibition and Awards. The BA young members were among the top 100 winners in the outstanding international gathering. In May 2009, BA held a roundtable discussion on "Promoting Intercultural Dialogue", which featured students from an Egyptian and an American university discussing issues such as the misunderstanding between the East and the West.

### **Science Education and Scientific Exchange Programs**

The National Plan includes a science program, which focuses on science teaching to promote healthy skepticism, evidence-based approaches and rational discussion.

In 1996, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina partnered with the French Academy of Sciences to build a mirror website, in Arabic, of the French website *La Main à la Pâte* (LAMAP), entitled "*Ektashef Benafsak*" (discover yourself). The website provides essential resources necessary for the development of science teaching. To-date, 50 percent of the original French material has been translated and made available on the mirror website.

In 2007, the BA launched the Science Festivity (SF). The Festivity takes on a different theme every year on the salient scientific issues raised nationally and internationally. The SF has successfully attracted more than 25,000 visitors in 2009.

Within the scope of the BA Visiting Scholar Program, scholars have been invited to the Library to provide lectures, workshops and seminars that strengthen the cross-cultural dialogue, and to exchange knowledge with Egyptian scholars, researchers and students working in the same field.

The Suzanne Mubarak Family Park (SMFP) project was initiated by the Heliopolis Association (an Egyptian NGO chaired by HE Suzanne Mubarak). Built on around 264,000 square meters in Cairo's new suburb El-Tagamoa El-Khames, the Park will house an Arts and Technology Center, a Science Center, a Nature Center, artistic workshops, a theme park, and a 24" gauge railway with approximately 2.4 kilometers of track and six stations. Constructions are almost completed, and the equipment is currently being installed. By April 2010, the staff will be joining the SMFP for 3 months of training before the opening which is scheduled for July 2010.

The BA is currently in the process of preparing a TV science program entitled "Horizons", which will focus on tracing the development of different fields of science throughout the years, highlighting influential scientists throughout history and their main contributions to science. The material for the TV Science Series has been compiled and the database constructed. Production is scheduled for 2010 and broadcasting is scheduled for 2011.

The BA developed partnerships with regional and international scientific entities to implement large scale education and exchange programs in the domain of science. Within this framework, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World's Arab Regional Office (TWAS-ARO) was hosted by the Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP) at the BA.

In February 2008, the BA partnered with the WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Pittsburgh, to extend the scope of the "Supercourse" Project, launched in 2004, to cover scientific areas in addition to the initial field of epidemiology. The new project aims at building a repository of knowledge of more than 100,000 PowerPoint lectures in four scientific domains; namely, medicine, engineering, environment and agriculture. In January 2009, the Science Supercourse project was officially launched in Alexandria, in the presence of 750 participants and 15 eminent speakers. 6,000 DVDs containing the lectures were distributed. By end-December 2009, over 53,000 lectures had been uploaded to the repository.

From 6 to 13 December 2009, the BA invited Eugene Shubnikov, the Supercourse Coordinator and Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh, to hold a workshop on "The

Agriculture Supercourse Training Program: Creating a Network for Agriculture Professionals”. From 21 to 22 December 2009, the BA co-organized and hosted the TWAS-ARO 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on “Science Supercourse: A New Tool for Knowledge Dissemination in the Arab Region”.

### **General Reading Promotion through National and International Programs**

Within the framework of the “Reading for All” program, the Integrated Care Society (ICS) has activated many programs and conducted many activities. In addition to providing language courses to their patrons, the ICS libraries have established special corners running specialized activities; the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Clubs which serve as the people’s gateway to the information age and contribute to their computer literacy, and the Green Corner that offers activities aiming at promoting reading in various scientific domains. The “Reading for All” program has transformed into a model that many countries seek to study and implement.

The ICS has recently launched the “Read for Your Child” campaign targeting parents, and a project entitled “You Are Not Alone” to integrate people with disabilities. It has also initiated many awards, such as the Suzanne Mubarak Award for Children Literature, which encourages writing and publishing books for children. Between 2007 and 2009, the network of ICS libraries has conducted 40 national seminars which attracted 3,894 participants, and contributed 215,816 books to the Million Book Project. The ICS has also published and reprinted 5 encyclopedias, 27 new books including 8 new issues from a series and one book in Braille.

The Family Library Program, established by the Integrated Care Society (ICS), successfully pursues its active program which aims at reprinting classical Arabic and translated works by Egyptian and international authors in economic editions.

In October 2008, an Egyptian Corner (<http://www.egyptiancorner.org/>) was launched by the Baltimore Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. This is an online portal to accurate information about all aspects of the Egyptian ancient and modern life, through book collections, Internet resources and local programming.



At the beginning of 2009, a cultural exchange program entitled “The Big Read” was launched between Egypt and the USA, aiming to introduce the various cultural and historical aspects of each country through literature.

The Integrated Care Society and the Cultural Office of the American Embassy in Cairo signed an agreement for establishing an “American Window” in many Egyptian public libraries. On 18 November 2009, the first “American Window” was inaugurated in the Maadi Public Library. The American Embassy provided 900 books for the opening and the Maadi Public Library contributed the space and the staff who will run the service.

### **Media Literacy and Lifelong Learning**

Since its launching by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the “Lifelong Learning” program has been providing learning opportunities to Egyptians from all walks of life and enabling citizens to embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills technologies and adapt to the requirements of the knowledge-based society, by providing tailored courses and daily sessions in the Library’s full-fledged Learning Center.

The BA also continues to hold the “Research for All” Program which aims at teaching people how to carry out a research in print and online information resources. The program introduces concepts of information literacy and helps in developing lifelong learners, and is being continuously enriched and enhanced with new modules and innovative teaching and learning methods.

### **E-Readiness: Expanding Access to Internet and New Technologies**

The Egyptian Government has successfully been pursuing its efforts to close the digital gap between upper and lower socioeconomic classes, and prepare people for the integration of ICT into the country’s infrastructure through a number of initiatives and projects designed and led by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). In this respect, a number of programs have been implemented in partnership with the private sector and some NGOs.

IT Clubs: IT Clubs aim at providing each and every person in the society the opportunity to develop his/her skills and knowledge through the application of technology. In cooperation with the private sector, MCIT provides at schools, clubs, universities, and youth centers, (especially in low-income areas) fully-equipped computer labs with access to the Internet, well-trained instructors to run them and a wide range of courses to guide them. With about 300 clubs established every year, by end-December 2009, the total number of IT Clubs nationwide had reached 1,954, of which 1,790 are connected to the Internet. Through the IT Clubs, MCIT is also providing services for people with special needs, and children who have dropped out of school.

Mobile Internet Units: MCIT has also partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Italian Cooperation to overcome the unbalanced ICT infrastructure by providing “Mobile Internet Units” in rural and remote areas. Through a comprehensive program, offering training on computer literacy, Internet access, business skills and more, the initiative is contributing to human development and reducing the unemployment rate in the local community.

Since 2002, MCIT, in cooperation with the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Marine Transport, has been organizing an annual competition in IT and programming; the “Egyptian Olympiad in Informatics (EOI)”, for children and youth aged 6–20 years. The EOI tries to measure ICT competitiveness and aptitude among youth, discover and nurture talents among them, promote innovation and give them opportunities for success in the marketplace.

Egypt PC 2010–Nation Online: In 2002, MCIT launched the “PC for Every Home” initiative, aiming to provide low-cost, locally-assembled computers with easy-payment plans. In 2006, the initiative was restructured into a national program called “Egypt PC 2010–Nation Online” which allows for the provision of loans via normal credit banking procedures. The program intends to cover 3 million families by end-2010, with greater focus on lower socio-economic levels. This will cover 25% of Egyptian households compared to the current 7% (<http://www.pc4egypt.gov.eg/pc4everyhome/egyptpc2010/main.html>).

National efforts in this area have also focused on providing general and specialized trainings in the domain of ICT, including ICDL, certified and professional programs, training workshops and seminars on issues related to intellectual property and copyright in the digital age.

### **ICT for Learning**

The Egyptian Education Initiative (EEI) is a public-private partnership between Egypt's Government, the World Economic Forum and private sector companies under the auspices of HE Suzanne Mubarak. The initiative aims to improve education in Egypt through effective use of ICT, collaborating efforts around four-work tracks: pre-university education, higher education, lifelong learning and e-learning industry development. Seeking to add value to the national education process in innovative ways, the EEI has organized its work around five building blocks: availing the ICT infrastructure, building human capacity, building an e-learning industry, supporting change management, and developing quality assurance standards.

In 2007, the EEI created an e-learning focus program for lifelong learners and proceeded to localize international e-content for small and medium enterprises. It now works with 8 multinational corporations, 3 international organizations and over 29 local companies. To-date, the IEE has completed more than 70% of the planned infrastructure objectives. This includes delivering over 39,000 PCs to schools, equipping 2,000 schools with data shows, connecting 900 schools to ADSL and installing learning labs in all 18 universities. The EEI has also accomplished 65% of the set training target, with over 64,000 teachers trained on ICT in education, 45,000 teachers/administrators on digital literacy and 5,000 parents on using ICT tools, in addition to certifying 30% of the IT clubs as multinational academies and 351 local academies as e-learning delivery centers.

The work of EEI has been recognized regionally and internationally on several occasions. In May 2007, the EEI received the first Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) award in recognition of its achievements. In November of the same year, EEI was awarded the Project of the Year prize by the Cisco Networking Academy in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa.

Under the banner of “ICT for Learning”, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) launched three main programs that collectively reflect its vision on the application of information technology in human development and capacity building.

*ICT for Illiteracy Eradication* is a program which focuses on developing simple educational tools that teach literacy and numeracy, based on the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education (GALAE) curriculum for illiteracy eradication. In addition to making self-paced CDs available free-of-charge, MCIT deployed Training of Trainers (ToT) courses in 15 Governorates to serve growing demand on the program.

*E-Learning Competence Center (ELCC)* is a program that targets people working in the e-learning industry.

*ICT for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises* is a program for people working in three business sectors; namely, agro-business (food production and textiles), furniture and handicrafts. The programs have been developed and are run in partnership with Cisco and Microsoft.

### 3 YOUTH

Realizing that youth constitute the largest segment of the country's population, Egypt capitalizes on the role of youth in driving social and cultural change. Departing from this vision, the National Plan of Action for the Alliance of Civilizations has deployed a number of projects to address youth special needs.

#### **Promoting Public Involvement of Youth**

Initiated in 2006 by the BA Dialogue Forum, the Arab Youth Forum provides the opportunity to youth activists from all the Arab countries to gather annually to freely discuss issues pertaining to their problems and concerns as well as their empowerment and mobilization.

In August 2007, the BA Arab Reform Forum in Cooperation with the National Council for Youth, organized a workshop on "National Youth Policy" to discuss the priorities and the interests of young people in Egypt as well as the types of networking between civil society and government institutions, with regards to national youth policies.

In March 2008, the third Annual Youth Forum entitled "Youth and the Role of Media in Establishing Culture of Peace, Security and Development" was organized. About 300 participants from 17 Arab countries participated.

A School Children Training Project was run by the Children's (CH) and Young People's (YP) Libraries of the BA during 2008/2009. The children were trained via publications, training courses and edutainment on first aid, facing emergencies, traffic safety, and proper health habits.

In February 2009, the Dialogue Forum, in cooperation with the Egyptian National Council for Youth, organized the fourth Annual Youth Forum around “Arab Youth and Identity in the Era of Globalization”, to address pertinent issues for Arab Youth.

Since 2003, the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) has been providing training courses for youth on the “Psychological Care for Disaster Survivors”. The trained young people had a prominent role in alleviating human suffering in the Sharm El-Sheikh plane crash, torrential rains in Halayeb and Shalatin, the rockslide of Dowaika, and the subsequent events in Ghaza.

In 2009, the ERC implemented a project to activate the role of Egyptian youth in public life and motivate them to positively lead the process of social change for a better future. This was via workshops, youth camps, sport encounters, and cultural encounters, applying non-traditional methods to allow for democracy, teamwork, and tolerance of others views.

### **Special Outreach in Art and Science**

The BA Arts School aims at promoting the study and appreciation of art and nourishing and honoring the artist in every child through a variety of artistic activities such as music, dancing, painting and photography. Starting July 2007, the BA Arts School organized more than 30 various activities and classes, with more than 618 participants. The students performed in many important events including the BA 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

The BA ALEXploratorium is a hands-on science facility that makes science accessible and interesting to the public through innovative and interactive activities. During the period July 2007–December 2009, the ALEXploratorium organized about 112 workshops which engaged school students in active learning and science discovery through experiments and simulations.

The BA Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP) offers research grants to young Egyptian postdoctoral researchers, below 35 years of age covering research in all fields of natural sciences, mathematics and information technology. To-date, a total of 31 researchers have received the research grant.

In mid-2008, the BA launched an initiative entitled “Embassies of Knowledge” which aims at extending library services to geographically remote locations throughout Egypt. So far, two Embassies of Knowledge were established in El-Gouna and El-Minya, each hosting a selection of print materials donated by the BA, a wide selection of digital outputs, and replicating the full networking functionalities of the BA.

The BA Children’s (CH) and Young People’s (YP) Libraries have implemented several programs to engage youth through various cultural activities. The Libraries implemented intensive summer programs to promote reading and develop IT, art crafts, animation skills, activities and competitions among children and youth. One of the featured programs held at the YP Library is “The Youth Parliament” which is a simulation parliament where youth can openly voice their opinions and suggestions on various issues.

Outreach programs for children and youth were also implemented. These consist of school programs held in 2007/2008 by the CH and YP Libraries in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and numerous schools in Alexandria and Cairo. The school programs included a variety of activities such as research skills courses, computer classes, fun-with-science workshops, book talks, quizzes and reading competitions.

### **Programs for Social Inclusion**

A program entitled “Society Development and Public Awareness” was launched and is jointly run by the Children’s (CH) and Young People’s (YP) Libraries and the Taha Hussein Library for the visually impaired. The program aims to promote social inclusion among children with different disabilities and underprivileged children, and to raise public awareness of their rights through a series of events and activities involving all the concerned groups.

The Resource Development Program for Youth in Upper Egypt Villages, implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), has been providing new job opportunities for youth within or outside of the program, in addition to the establishment of 22 youth clubs. The program, which now covers 113 villages, has also been providing training courses on crafts, first aid skills

and civil defense as a mean to promote youth participation and create job opportunities.

Since 2005, a section of the Suzanne Mubarak Compound concerned with urban development in El Nahda community was dedicated to awareness and youth activities. In 2005, the ERC partnered with the Sawiris Foundation to establish a plant for recycling garbage. Many youth from El Nahda community were trained then hired to run the plant.

### **Networking, Exchange Programs and Organization for Civic Action**

The Arab Info Mall is a trilingual website that was established by the BA Dialogue Forum to enable NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to present their activities and observe the achievements of others at the national, regional and international levels. By end-2009, there were 1,871 registered NGOs from 88 countries, classified under 15 different themes including: community services, cross-culture dialogue, culture and arts, education, human rights, peace issues, women empowerment, and youth employment.

Following the “University Governance” conference in March 2007, the BA Arab Reform Forum and the Ford Foundation organized a workshop entitled “Defining the Rules and Regulations of Public and Private Universities”.

During 2004–2009, youth visits were exchanged between the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and Red Cross Societies. During these visits, Egyptian youth attended numerous meetings, training sessions, leadership camps, and workshops held by the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies at international level. Over this period, 73 young men and women participated in international camps in 18 Arab, African and European countries.

The SMWIPM took the initiative of providing a platform for around 500 young people from all over the world to express their views and aspirations through the establishment of a “Youth Network”. The Network links young people from all over the world to maximize their personal development, help them fulfill their social responsibilities, and establish peaceful relations within their own communities across the world. The International Youth Forum held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 1–3 September 2007, was the first of its



kind to take place in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), organized by the civil society with the involvement of international organizations. It was a conference planned, organized, and run by youth.

JEF Europe's exhibition "Europeanvibes" was hosted by the BA Young People's Library in November 2007. It is an online multimedia competition that utilizes an online sharing platform to display and communicate the contributions of individuals throughout Europe.

On 12 February 2008, members of the Cyber Peace Initiative (CPI) Youth Internet Safety Focus Group (Net-Aman) participated in an international Blogathon on the occasion of the Safer Internet Day. Moreover, on the occasion of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom Africa Youth Forum, a Cyber Peace Camp was organized for over 30 Youth Network members in Cairo, 7–15 May 2008. From 26 to 30 October 2009, the GET-IT Guidance Course was conducted.

Within the framework of its scholarship, youth exchange and internship program, the SMWIPM selected Sara Sherif, a member of its Youth Network, to participate in the Atlantic Wilton Park Youth Forum in the UK, 4–8 August 2008. The event brought together over 40 participants to exchange perspectives on timely topics. The SMWIPM also selected two Youth Network members, Kholoud Hussein and Ahmed El Kotby, to participate in the World Youth Congress (WYC) in Quebec, Canada, 10–21 August 2008.

The SMWIPM incorporated its Culture of Peace program in youth summer camps in Abou Kir. From August to September 2009, Youth Network members initiated the Culture of Peace Education Program in two orphanages in Cairo, Egypt. In addition, Youth Network members conducted presentations on the SMWIPM Culture of Peace Education Program during a roundtable discussion with HE President Jorge Sampaio, on 26 October 2009.

Alexandria International Model United Nations (AIMUN) is a non-formal educational initiative by the United Nations Peace-Building Commission (UNPC), which provides young adults the opportunity to focus on international issues of concern. AIMUN participants are given

intensive training where they discuss issues related to international law, international organizations, the UN mission statement, international economics, sustainable development, diplomatic arts, communication skills and strategic planning.

### **Environmental Action and Employment Programs**

The YES-Egypt network has been established, managed and developed by youth. The YES Alexandria 2007 (26–30 August 2007) was attended by more than 150 experts from 80 countries. On 7 February 2008, the BA hosted the Youth United Nations Model, organized annually by the Sustainable Development Association (SDA) representing YES Network Egypt. The BA also participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Youth Employment Summit (YES) which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 24–27 September 2008, and attended by 500 participants from 70 countries.

As a direct result of the “Youth for Change” project, established by the Arab Reform Forum, the BA sent five active youth from the Youth for Environmental Sustainability and Better Understanding Program (YESBU) to represent the Library in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress at Laval University in Quebec, Canada, 10–21 August 2008. The 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress “Regeneration 2008” was a celebration of youth-led development which brought together 600 dynamic young activists between ages 18–30 years from 120 different countries.

A pilot project was set up in 2008 focusing on 10 priority countries in the MENA region. Fifteen young Arabs received grants of approximately USD 600 to assist them in carrying out their projects, and had e-courses and live chats with active youth with experience in implementing community projects. All project participants were invited to present their success stories in the Arab Youth Forum in 2009 at the BA. The project is now being implemented at the BA as an annual event; a core initiative provided to the Arab youth by the BA and Taking IT Global.

Ramy Gamal, member of the BA Children’s Library, won the 18<sup>th</sup> International Children’s Painting Competition on the Environment, and ranked first in Africa. The Competition was organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Japan-based Foundation for Global

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Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer, and Nikon Corporations. Gamal participated in the Children's Conference organized in Korea, 17–19 August 2009, and received his award in a ceremony held on 20 August 2009.

The BA Young People's (YP) Library won first award in the International CyberFair Competition; the largest educational event of its kind ever held on the Internet, with project ID 5552: Ahmed Zewail; the Egyptian Nobel Laureate, in summer 2009.

## 4 MEDIA

In its commitment to focus on the role of Media, the Egyptian National Plan has several sets of interconnecting activities; from developing public awareness of international issues and human rights to promoting responsible exercise of freedom of press and the right to information; and from sponsoring cultural and educational TV programs to harnessing the Internet and the digital revolution to create a forum for interaction and exchange of ideas.

### **Public Awareness and Outreach through Conventional Media**

Existing conventional Media was used to reach the public and raise their awareness to several issues pertaining to human rights and international events, through workshops and events organization.

Since 2007 to-date, several international events pertaining to human rights have been celebrated; namely, Sailing the Nile 2008 campaign, Stand Up against Poverty campaign, International Human Rights Day, White Cane Day, People with Disabilities Day, and the Annual International Peace Pals Art Exhibition and Awards.

A series of workshops and seminars for the public have been organized by the Institute for Peace Studies (IPS) and the Arab Reform Forum, focusing on sustainable security, violence in Egyptian society, media, democracy and social responsibility, and the role of media in realizing a Culture of Peace, security and development.

On 23 November 2008, the SMWIPM organized a panel discussion on human trafficking with Goodwill Ambassador Julia Ormond and Michael Cory, using the power of the Media to raise awareness about

human trafficking. In line with the same concept, on 11 November 2009, the SMWIPM organized a screening and a panel discussion of the film “Red Light”, focusing on the issue of child exploitation.

### **Promoting Media Freedom and Responsibility**

The BA Media Department has been planning to portray the views presented in the daily Media, analyze how cultures are presented, then release articles and contact television stations to discuss how revealing cultures can be improved.

In a joint on-going program, the BA and the Press Syndicate have developed a course aimed at training young correspondents, preparing future Media leaders and improving their abilities. The trainees received training on the fundamentals of journalism and Media ethics and were granted the opportunity to gain hands-on experience.

As of July 2007, the BA Media Department has been organizing on-going seminars and conferences covering the topics of “Freedom and Responsibilities of the Press” and “Freedom and Expression of Speech”. The seminars and conferences involved entities such as the BA Dialogue Forum, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the Arab Reform Forum.

In 2008, the BA Dialogue Forum organized a seminar entitled “Dilemmas of the Contemporary Opposition Press”, focusing on limits of freedom of the press, freedom of expression and criticism.

Since 2004, the National Council for Women (NCW) has been involved in the Media Observatory Project, based on the agreement of cooperation with UNICEF. The project aims to observe and analyze everything that is published on women via the different Media. As of July 2008, the second phase of the project continues to implement training programs.

### **Cultural and Social TV Programs**

As of July 2007, through the weekly TV program “Salon Al-Qahira” (Cairo Salon), the BA has been presenting composite issues in a cultural

dialogue based on reason. Salon Al-Qahira is a cultural program that aims to be demonstrative and educational while presenting hot topics including national and international history, environment, biodiversity and climate change, to mention a few.

In order to activate the role of the Media in the participation of women in political life, the National Council for Women (NCW) initiated a program entitled “Towards an Active and Effective Woman”, which will be on-going until 2010. The program features a number of public encounters identifying the challenges facing the political participation of women and ways of overcoming them.

From 2003 to 2007, the social TV program “Think Twice” was implemented via the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). The program aimed to improve the social environment for Egyptian Children, develop their decision-making capabilities, and enable them to make use of the opportunities available via direct and indirect Media. The program also conducted a series of seminars and workshops for those in the Media specializing in the production of children’s programs for the Egyptian Television.

### **Harnessing the Internet and the Digital Revolution**

In November 2005, the BA, in partnership with the World Bank, created the Arabic Development Gateway to promote development by building partnerships and information systems that provide access to knowledge for development. The project is set on three phases, two of which have been executed and the third phase is in progress.

The Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) has launched activities focusing on the Media, mostly related to developing Youth ICT knowledge. In 2007, it launched the Cyber Peace Initiative (CPI). Within the framework of the initiative, it engaged experts from Childnet International to empower the youth Internet safety focus group, known as Net-Amman.

In March 2008, the SMWIPM organized an ICT safety conference entitled “Young People in the Internet and Mobile Age: Safe and Empowered!”

During this event, the CPI youth and parent focus groups on Internet safety were launched. On 10 February 2009, the CPI launched a family tool kit, encompassing awareness booklets for parents and children on Internet safety.

In July 2008, the BA co-organized and hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wikimedia Conference, Wikimania 2008, followed by the Arabic Wikipedia Day. As a result, the number of Arabic articles online increased from 70,000 articles in July 2008 up to more than 100,000 Arabic articles to-date.

The BA, through the International School of Information Science (ISIS), has participated in the technical implementation of the World Digital Library (WDL) which was launched in April 2009. As one of the five institutional founders, the BA was acknowledged in the official report issued by UNESCO for its technical assistance in designing and implementing the architecture of the WDL and contributing its unique expertise in the search and display of Arabic texts. The BA is currently co-chairing the Technical Architecture Working Group (TAWG) with the Library of Congress that is mainly created to attend to the prospectus for the WDL and the technical relevant issues.

The Universal Networking Language (UNL) program was initiated within the United Nations and devised by the Universal Networking Digital Language (UNDL) Foundation. The UNL program has become one of the main areas of research in ISIS, where the BA has created the Ibrahim Shihata Arabic UNL Center. The Center's role lies in designing and implementing the Arabic component in the development of UNL. Currently, the Center is working on building and designing the Arabic Dictionary in the UNL system which now contains more than 140,000 entries and over 80,000 concepts. In addition, the workflow for developing the deconversion rules within the Arabic component has been established.

### **Promoting Self-Esteem at Home and New Understanding Abroad**

The National Plan focuses on promoting self-esteem at home and new understanding abroad through traditional and digital media. Since 2005, the Arab Info Mall has been reinforcing democracy, freedom, peace and dialogue. Since 2006, the Monograph Series of the BA Alexandria and

Mediterranean Research Center (Alex Med) has been focusing on subjects related to Alexandria, its history, society and culture.

Alex Med partnered with other institutions in the region, within the framework of the EU-funded RAMSES Program, which aims at bringing the two sides of the Mediterranean together. The first two cycles of the program focused on lectures with speakers from the North and the South discussing issues pertaining to both side. The third cycle will be a joint research on pilgrimage sites and routes in Alexandria, Greece and Spain.

From May 2001 to-date, the Center of Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT) and IBM have been working on the “Eternal Egypt” project; a trilingual website (English, Arabic and French) offering the most robust repository of information and media on Egyptian cultural history. The website recently started the second phase which involves translating the whole content into Spanish and Italian.

The primary long-term objective of the Million Book Project is to transfer all books into digital format, in order to create a Universal Digital Library (UDL). By November 2008, the 1.6 million mark had been passed and the collection published and made available at [www.ulib.org](http://www.ulib.org). The Arabic collection for which the BA is responsible has now reached over 150,000 digital books of which more than 140,000 are in Arabic, rendering the BA the creator of the largest Arabic Digital Library worldwide.

Since 2002, the Digital Manuscript Library has been publishing the rarest and most precious manuscript treasures of Arabic heritage in a digital form.

Since 2003, the International School of Information Science (ISIS) has been creating digital archives documenting the lives of late Egyptian Presidents Abdel Nasser and Sadat, and has digitized all issues of *Al-Helal* Magazine. Currently, the collection is available on 12 DVDs with the required search tools and browsing facilities. The history of the Suez Canal is also available. As of April 2009, the *Description de l’Egypte* has been made available in a digital searchable format, and it was shared with the World Digital Library (WDL) as the BA contribution to the content of the project.



Since 2005, the “Memory of Modern Egypt” digital archive has been a vast digital repository containing more than 69,000 items of various digitized material documenting the last 200 years of Egypt’s modern history. Items in the collection encompass all media types and formats, including images, maps, audio and video recordings, medals, stamps, in addition to speeches and press items.

In 2006, the BA Manuscript Center initiated a project to acquire the largest number of microfilmed and digital copies of Arabic manuscript collection worldwide. The project was initiated with a primary target of 100,000 manuscripts. By end-2009, the BA Manuscript Center had fulfilled 48% of the set target.

## 5 WOMEN

The Egyptian National Plan is committed to the economic, social and political empowerment of women, in addition to building their capacity and raising their awareness via special programs and projects.

### **Economic Empowerment of Women**

Many Egyptian entities took interest in the economic empowerment of women through the implementation of various projects.

The Female Heads of Households project, carried out by the National Council for Women (NCW), is still being implemented. Some 600 women benefited from small loans to carry out small income generating projects.

The Multifaceted Development Project in Minya remains one of the most important projects established by the National Council of Women (NCW).

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) conducted 40 events and workshops to build awareness of small and medium enterprises. It has also built a database for 500 Egyptian Women entrepreneurs and has provided business consultation to 1,600 women. Since 2003, the WBDC has trained about 3,000 women in several disciplines.

During its first phase, the Small Grants Project, implemented through a number of NGOs, has benefited 600 women.

The Syndicates and Equal Opportunity Units, affiliated to the Working Women Program, were established in 32 ministries to ensure equality between men and women.

The Rural Women Program, implemented by the Egyptian Red Cross (ERC), has been providing training sessions for female rural leaders in various Egyptian Governorates.

Since 1998, the ERC has been implementing resource development programs for women and women clubs throughout villages in Upper Egypt, with the purpose of disseminating health, social and cultural awareness.

In 2007, the ERC established the Cultural Social Center for Women, as part of their development work in Zeinoh area. Since then, the Center has been providing training seminars for women and literacy classes.

The National Council for Women (NCW) called for reviving handcrafts as an economical gateway to development. To-date, 800 girls have been trained; 200 from each of the Governorates of Assiut, Mersa Matrouh, Northern Sinai and Sohag, in addition to 16 trainers from each governorate. Furthermore, technical support is still being provided for the trainers via the NCW branches in those governorates.

### **Social Empowerment of Women**

During 2002–2007, the Project for Supporting Reproductive Health and Family Planning, implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), was involved in the establishment of new clinics, the enhancement of previously established clinics, training physicians and nurses, training of social leaders and volunteers, providing awareness seminars, and making house calls.

Since 2005, the women clubs established by the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) in El Nahda community focused on teaching women new skills and conducted seminars on health and nutrition for women.

During 2006/2007, the Shōken Project, in affiliation with the Egyptian Red Crescent, provided training to 200 female health awareness guides from the society to disseminate health awareness.

By April 2007, about 1,888,724 women were able to obtain their identification cards through the National Digital Identification Card Program, implemented by the National Council for Women (NCW).

By end-2007, the Girls' Education National Initiative, implemented by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), succeeded in establishing 1,047 girl-friendly schools, enlisting 31,410 girls aged between 6 and 13 years, preparing 48 trainers, train 140 volunteers, and 1,260 members of educational committees.

On 20 October 2009, the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM), with other partners, launched various events in honor of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On 24 October 2009, more than 6,000 people participated in the 2009 "Egypt Race for the Cure".

The Literacy Program, implemented by the National Council for Women (NCW), initiated a pilot project that set up a database holding the numbers and names of illiterate people, including women. The project covered 350,000 families in the Fayoum Governorate. It also covered the Qalyoubia Governorate.

The Literacy and Women Empowerment Program, implemented by the NCCM, has succeeded in eliminating the illiteracy of 3,890 girls and boys less than 18 years. It has also provided job opportunities, monthly income for 345 families and training to 20 facilitators in Assiut and Aswan.

### **Political Empowerment of Women**

The Women's Political Empowerment Center, established by the National Council for Women (NCW) is an on-going process focusing on raising awareness of the importance of women's participation in political life.

From 1995 to 2008, the Working Girls Project in Helwan, implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent, focused on various female-related issues, in addition to establishing a number of centers for training girls on some income-generating skills.

Since 2004, the NCW has been involved in the Media Observatory Project, based on the agreement of cooperation with UNICEF. The project aims to observe and analyze everything that is published on women via the different media. As of July 2008, the second phase of the project continues to implement training programs.

Since its initiation in 2006, the Egyptian Women Parliamentary Program, implemented by the National Council for Women (NCW), has been promoting the importance of women's role in decision-making.

The National Council for Women initiated a program entitled "Towards an Active and Effective Woman", which will be continue until 2010.

### **Raising Women's Awareness to the Legal Rights**

The NCW is following up on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and preparing the National Report, to be represented every 4 years.

The NCW established the Women's Legal Rights Project, funded by the EU, with the aim of creating an electronic database of retrievable legal information. The NCW also follows up on the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

### **Capacity-Building for Women's NGOs**

The NCW, in cooperation with the UNDP, introduced the results-based management concept in its capacity to develop and monitor strategic and annual plans. A grant was obtained from the World Bank to support the NCW in its institutional capacity-building efforts.

The NCW and IBM collaborated to enhance women's skills in the area of information technology. The first stage of the project involved the creation of a training center for young female graduates on computer skills. The second phase (in process) involves the creation of an electronic portal, entitled "Women's Forum".

The NCW provided on-the-job training to youth through internships, to provide them with skills, insights on development work and new work disciplines. A number of these interns have been hired by international organizations.

The NCW, in cooperation with the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), implemented a coalition project in various

governorates to influence decision-makers and enhance the ability of NCW subsidiary offices to support and follow-up on coalition activities.

### **Defending and Advocating for Women's Rights**

Since January 2006, the “End Human Trafficking Now!” campaign, an initiative of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM), has been working towards the establishment of a worldwide network of help lines and relevant services to support victims of trafficking. On 19 May 2007, the “End Human Trafficking Now!” campaign organized a session on human trafficking for labor exploitation during the Middle East World Economic Forum.

From 23 to 24 October 2007, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) organized the Women in Science Conference with the goal of empowering women in the fields of science and technology.

On 24 October 2007, the BA Dialogue Forum held a seminar and an exhibition celebrating the efforts of 1,000 women peace-builders under the title “Women Changing the World”.

In 2007, the Arab Reform Forum organized a conference entitled “Human Rights, Women and Development”.

On 23 November 2008, the SMWIPM organized a panel discussion on human trafficking with Goodwill Ambassador Julia Ormond and Michael Cory.

On 15 December 2008, members of the SMWIPM attended the International Organization on Migration (IOM) Regional Expert Meeting on Rights-Based Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking. Representatives from 22 Arab States, NGOs and the United Nations attended the gathering.

On 18 December 2008, the BA Dialogue Forum organized a conference entitled “Qassem Amin and Women's Liberation”, discussing Qassem Amin's principles on women's liberation and other related topics.

The BA issued the publication “Imam Mohamed Abdou: A Century Since his Death”, addressing Mohamed Abdou's intellectual reform project.

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From 13 to 15 January 2009, the Arab Reform Forum organized a three-day conference entitled “Arab Women Facing the Challenges of Globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The Conference discussed women’s issues within the global context.

The NCW coordinated and organized the efforts which led to the establishment of the Arab Women Organization (AWO) in March 2003, in accordance with the recommendations of the Arab Women Summit in November 2000. The AWO aims to unify and coordinate the efforts of Arab women at both regional and international levels.

Being one of the most important advocates of women issues in the region, the Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement was involved in many activities concerning women (refer to Section 1 – A Culture of Peace).

## 6 MIGRATION

In its commitment to focus on Migration, the National Plan included two activities; namely, the North-South Mediterranean Dialogue and the “Reissuing the Classics” project.

The first congress of the North-South Mediterranean Dialogue was held in February 2006. In November 2009, in partnership with the European Movement, the Congress of Valencia was organized.

In 2008, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina adopted the “Reissuing the Classics” project, aiming to revive the great classics of Islam and to bring forth the enlightened views of the great Muslim reformers. To date 26% of the works selected for the project have been processed.