

# New International Standards for Sustainable Development in Health, Education and Local Government



الهيئة المصرية العامة للمواصفات والجودة  
Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality

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## RESPONSIBILITY

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**"I'm with nature" is the Tagline for  
World Environment Day 2017**



**EOS Participates  
in the ISO/TC  
309 Meetings on  
Governance of  
Organizations in  
Canada**



**Egypt Participates in the Arab  
Woman Initiative "SR Queen  
Program"**

**With the Participation of Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality  
New International Standard for Sustainable Procurement**

EOS Chairman  
**Eng. Ashraf Ismail Afify.**

Chief Editor  
**Eng. Osama Elmeligy**

Managing Editor  
**Mrs. Asmaa Abdel Mohsen**

Editing Secretary  
**Mr. Gamal Abdel Aleem**

Revision  
**Chem. Abeer Abdel Mo'nem**

e- Publication  
**Mr. Ahmed Mohamed**

Coordination & Design  
**Mr. Mostafa Sabry**

Press Output



Written by	
Eng. Ashraf Ismail Afify	
New International Standards for Sustainable Development in	
Health, Education and Local Government.....	3
Eng. Osama Elmeligy	
Sustainability and knowledge management.....	4
Mr. Gamal Abdel Aleem	
Sustainable Development is a Real Benchmark for Govern-	
ment Performance .....	4
Pioneering Experience in SR .....	7
News .....	8





**Written by:**  
**Eng. Ashraf Afify**  
**EOS Chairman**



## **New International Standards for Sustainable Development in Health, Education and Local Government**

The concept of SD, since its emergence, has imposed itself on all levels and economic, political and social entities... and others, and is spread in most countries of the developed and developing world alike, and adopted by official and non-official bodies. The global efforts stand together represented by international organizations and bodies to advocate and supervise the implementation of SD through holding conferences and issuing laws, legislations and standards.

Since the beginning of the eighties of last century, the world began to wake up to the noise of many serious environmental and social problems which threaten the forms of life on the planet, affect human health and coherence of communities, most notably: environmental pollution and increase of exploitation of natural resources, labor problems and deterioration of education, health and community services. This was natural in light of the neglect of development approaches to the environmental and social aspects over the past decades. So, it was necessary to find a new alternative development philosophy to help overcome these problems. Resulting from international efforts, a new concept of development known as sustainable development has emerged for the first time at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992. Since that time until now, a new development model, characterized by rationality in the exploitation of energy and resources, has been crystallized and deals with economic activities aiming at achieving desired and sustainable economic growth rates in order to promote and achieve a good quality of life for present and future generations in the framework of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. Also, interest in applying SR principles and standards has increased to consider the social dimension of development.

From its part, ISO has developed a set of modern management systems that serve as references, operating according to a strategic, steering

approach to serve social, environmental and economic considerations in the context of sustainability. The most prominent of these standards are: ISO 26000 «Guidance on social responsibility», ISO 9000 «Quality management systems», ISO 18091 «Quality management systems in local government», ISO 14000 «Environmental management systems», ISO 45001 (under development) «Occupational health and safety management systems», ISO/IEC 19796-1- «Learning, education and training» and others.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) participates actively in the process of issuing and updating the international standards through the national mirror committees with the participation of all stakeholders from manufacturers, traders, control bodies, consumers and labors as well as experts and academics. From its part, EOS has issued Egyptian Standards in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Education and Technical Education and a number of other concerned bodies on the practices of some professions e.g. profession of industry, repair and maintenance of devices, machines and tools of weight and measurement, profession of wazzan and measurement. Also, EOS is in the process of issuing a number of Egyptian Standards on the practices of some other professions, for example but not limited to: analysis of precious metals and jewelry industry from precious metals and expert value of precious metals and precious stones, profession of maintenance and repair of refrigeration and air-conditioning, profession of metal hoses, profession of welding ...etc.

EOS's efforts continue in the field of spreading awareness on international standards. A communication plan is developed for each new standard and a message to users of standards is addressed that the application of national and international standards is the basis of development, competition and sustainability.

## Sustainability and knowledge management

By: Eng. Osama Elmeligy  
Chief Editor



Organization Knowledge Management is one of the most important challenges facing companies and institutions to implement the strategy of competitiveness and sustainability in the markets. The ability of companies and institutions on the competitiveness and sustainability is measured by their ability to learn quickly "Speed of learning", as the risks associated with sustainability are accelerated due to technological and scientific development, Sustainability cannot be achieved with obsolete knowledge, and lack of skills development and training and leakage of knowledge with each employee or responsible leaving organization taking with him information and data, which is the Organizational memory and assets.

Therefore, an organization knowledge management system has become an essential component of quality management systems in accordance with international standard ISO 9001:2015:

### Knowledge management:

- It is a process of collecting the accumulated experience of an organization regardless of its format, whether in the form of papers or in the database or the minds of individuals, and then spread this knowledge and put it in places where it is needed to achieve the greatest moral and material returns to this organization.
- It is a combination of information systems and work experiences that in turn help the organization better organize, analyze, create and save information.
- It is a modern science of providing a practical model that contains knowledge in the structure of an organization. This knowledge includes many of the trends related to the organization and related to the work plans and information management in the organization and the people and technology in that organization.

### Examples of knowledge:

- New ideas and discoveries.
- Records of operation.
- Procedures and Instructions.
- Experience.
- Research activities
- Reasons for success and failure.
- Observations and recommendations.
- News, events and analyzes related directly and indirectly to the organization business
- Feedback.

### Types of knowledge:

- Type I : Tacit Knowledge
- Type II: Explicit Knowledge

### According to the standard ISO 9001: 2015, the organization shall:

- Determine the knowledge necessary for the operation of its processes and to achieve conformity of products and services.
- This knowledge shall be maintained and be made available to the extent necessary.
- When addressing changing needs and trends, the organization shall consider its current knowledge and determine how to acquire or access any necessary additional knowledge and required updates.

Context of Sustainability



At the end, organizations should adopt a system for knowledge management in accordance with the international standards, use advanced technologies, speed up the closure of knowledge gaps and cope with the rapid development of technology and science through research, development and innovation to ensure its sustainability and contribution to sustainable development.

## Sustainable Development is a Real Benchmark for Government Performance

Sustainable development is one of the modern economic concepts for developing the economies of countries and achieving the optimal investment of available possibilities. It is a process of development of land, cities and communities as well as businesses provided that it fulfills the present's needs without prejudice to the capacity of future generations to fulfill their needs. Sustainable development requires the improvement of living conditions for all individuals of society without increasing the use of natural resources beyond the country's capacity. To achieve SD, work should be done in three main areas i.e. economic growth, conservation of natural and environmental resources and social development.

One of the most important challenges facing SD is the eradication of poverty through encouraging the follow-up of balanced consumption and production patterns without over-dependence on the natural resources. The world leaders have set up, at a historic summit in 2015, the sustainable Development Goals globally agreed

upon to be implemented by 2030. These goals are: No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and well-being, Quality education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions along with Partnerships for the Goals. In spite that the decisions of this Summit and the Goals agreed upon are not legally binding on governments, it is supposed that governments that respect their people and claim patriotism should seek with all their capacities to achieve this global program and the utmost extent of those goals. They should also collect complete information and data for setting-up scientific strategies and using scientific expertise and competencies to manage this global scientific program for the benefit of simple citizen burdened with all kinds of oppression, hunger,



Mr. Gamal Abdel Aleem  
Head, Media Unit at EOS

suffering, lack of essential services, no job opportunities and low purchasing power due to the poor political performance of governments, spread of corruption and altruism of the personal interests of politicians over the citizen's interest.

Last but not least, the implementation of SD concept adopted by most countries of the world and became a necessity to all nations is the test for our governments and the real criterion for its patriotism and professionalism. Each government that does not adopt nor work for this global program caring about the welfare of society is a failed and non-national government that does not deserve respect from its people. We are full of false slogans and failed government programs, and our nostrils aggravated the smell of corruption that spread everywhere. We ask every government that claims patriotism and respect for its people to adopt this scientific program for promoting the national economy, raising the welfare of the citizen and reducing his great suffering.



## Global Principles of Governance and Quality

Dr. Karem Farouk Abdul-Rasoul

Assistant, G.M. for Governance & Quality

Social Fund for Development



The follower of the evolution movement from the scientific perspective of the management profession can monitor many new approaches to maximize the performance of institutions, control their performance as well as to ensure and protect the rights of all interested parties. Among these approaches are quality and governance whose importance of application in the institutions is due to the efficiency of using resources, maximizing the institution's value and enhancing its competitiveness in the markets, enabling it to attract local and international sources of finance for expansion and growth and to provide new jobs while ensuring the stability of financial, leading to the achievement of required efficiency and economic and social development.

There is a correlation between the quality and governance systems since each of them is a MS that leads to the control and improvement of performance of the institution and is based on key international principles that help improve the performance of the QMS in the institution. There is a similarity between them in some principles e.g. the responsibility of management and the role of interested parties. However, there is a difference between them in the principles and concepts in implementation. A fundamental difference between the two systems is the focus on fulfilling the requirements and expectations of the customer in the quality system and on the rights of shareholders and owners in the governance system. The integration and implementation of the two systems in the institution will lead to further improvement and development of the institution's performance.

The OECD corporate governance principles identified in 1999 and their reissue in 2004 and their last amendments in 2015 are considered a general reference to corporate governance worldwide. They are guidelines that help improve the performance of the institution. The main principles of governance are: general framework, rights and equal treatment of shareholders, role of institutional investor and different parties in capital markets, role of stakeholders, disclosure and transparency and responsibility of the Board of Directors.

Quality management principles that ISO 9001:2015 is based on are considered guidelines that help improve the performance of the institution's QMS. The main principles of quality are: customer focus, leadership, involvement of employees, processes methodology, improvement, decision-making based on evidence and facts and relationship management. ISO 26000 is the first international standard on social responsibility that provides guidance on main principles of SR and core subjects and relevant issues. It also addresses the ways that enable organizations to introduce the concept of SR within the framework of their strategies, mechanisms, practices and processes. It is a voluntary standard used as a guidance on SR and is not intended to be binding and accredited. It is not a certifiable standard and is intended for use by all types of organizations from public and private sectors in developed and developing countries. It focuses on three areas i.e. supporting economic growth, achieving social progress and contributing to environmental protection. Clause 6 of ISO 26000 provides guidance on core subjects

and issues related to SR, including «organizational governance» which is considered the key core subject of ISO 26000.

Based on the ISO 26000, a general framework for a new ISO Standard on Governance can be developed that sets out an international standard that provides guidance on the main principles of governance and related core subjects and issues. It also addresses the ways that enable organizations to introduce the concept and practices of governance within the framework of their strategies, mechanisms, practices and processes. It is a voluntary standard used as a guidance on governance and its application and is intended to be used by all types of organizations from public and private sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations in developed and developing countries. It is based on the basic rules of governance i.e. accountability, transparency, fairness and responsibility. Its main axes are: general framework of governance, general assembly of shareholders, board of directors, committees of the board, supervisory environment of disclosure and transparency, role of stakeholders and institutional investor role. The standard includes the following elements:

Introduction: presents information on the content of the Standard and the reasons for its development.

Clause 1: Scope: This section defines the scope, contents and limits of applicability of this Guidance Standard.

Clause 2: Normative References: This section contains a list of documents, regulations and policies of governance that should be read in conjunction with the Guidance.

Clause 3: Terms and Definitions: This section defines the terms used in the Guidance which require definition.

Clause 4: General framework for implementing governance in organizations: This section discusses the historical and contemporary context of governance, in addition to the issues that arise through the nature of the concept of governance and relevant issues of interest to stakeholders.

Clause 5: Principles of governance: This section identifies a set of governance principles derived from a variety of sources, provides guidance on these principles and addresses relevant issues of interest to stakeholders.

Clause 6: Guidance on Core Subjects of Governance: This section provides guidance separately on a set of core subjects and their link with organizations and addresses the relevant issues of interest to stakeholders.

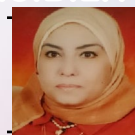
Clause 7: Guidance of Organizations on the Implementation of Governance: This section provides practical guidance on the application and integration of governance throughout the organization, including e.g. policies, practices, methodologies, topics, performance assessment, reporting and communication. It addresses relevant issues of interest to stakeholders.

Informative Annexes: The Standard contains annexes when required. They include documents, regulations and policies for guidance on the application of governance as well as the abbreviations used in the Standard and a list of relevant references.

This is considered an idea for an initial conceptualization of a new ISO Standard on Governance and a modest effort that can be criticized, agreed, analyzed or studied to reach proper application of governance practices.

## Sustainable Development and National Exports Growth

Mrs. Hanan Hassan Mohamed  
Consultant, Government procurement  
Member, NMC To ISO/PC 27001 on sustainable  
procurement



The world around us faces rapid and growing challenges and changes resulting from the rapid growth of population that causes increasing pressures on the environment through spreading industry and using new and densely populated forms of agriculture as well as continuity of violations of human rights and democracy, emergence of ethnic and religious conflicts, violence and gender inequality. This affects values and social, economic and political practices.

All these factors have put the world on an unsustainable track.

Therefore it was necessary to think of a solution to these problems and realize the essential need to develop a new perspective rooted in sustainability values to create a sustainable future.

### Sustainable procurement (SP)

It is a process through which products and services are bought/ provided considering the whole life cycle of those products and services (i.e. the products and services that set the environmental aspect into consideration).

SP is not limited to environmental only but includes the social and economic aspects as well. This contributes to:

- Best value of money represented in the considerations of price, quality, availability and performance of required function.
- Environmental considerations e.g. efficiency of resources during
- Production and consumption, levels of emissions and impact on climate change resulting from purchased products and services,
- Social considerations including eradication of poverty and achievement of justice and equity as a result of distribution of resources according to the conditions of work and free trade.

Therefore

- SP is considered a strategic weapon to create new markets, encourage innovation and fulfill the development requirements at the economic, social and environmental levels.
- SP is considered a significant step towards the economic and social goals stipulated in the international agreements by directing the purchasing power of public authorities towards sustainable products and services with the purpose of reducing the environmental impact

and driving markets towards new patterns of consumption and production.

### Factors to achieve SP

- Planning process for purchasing is one of the most key stages and so awareness should be raised among the procurement officers on the significance of SP and its strategic planning.
- Creating communication channels among interested parties to work on the availability of data and information.
- The minimum price criterion is no longer the sole or key criterion for awarding. Therefore, technical evaluation tools for products and services shall be developed and the purchase of products that have a longer life cycle and can be easily repaired or updated in the future should be stimulated by updating the guidelines of products and services including catalogues and information brochures.
- Flexibility in the development of laws allowing innovation and creating methods and alternative products to get the same results and speed in decision-making.
- Setting – up an item within the terms of conditions and specifications for proposals to be of technical and financial appreciation.
- Expanding in electronic procurement since it has more than economic and environmental impact.
- Changing consumption patterns and moving towards SP where consumption rationalization does not mean lower consumption but consumption that allows consumer to enjoy high quality of life while avoiding waste.
- Increasing the ceilings of local procurement, which leads to raising the level of local development in the governorates.
- Enhancing the role of SMES, considering the stimulation of these small enterprises to adopt the principle of integration in dealing and participation in the implementation of mega projects.
- Setting – up strict conditions for sale of hazardous wastes and restricting their sale to specific suppliers who are licensed to deal in this field and ensuring that they abstain all relevant permit its and licenses.
- Creating communication channels among the parties concerned with procurement with identification of method of communication

to achieve results and assessment and amendment, if necessary.

### Expected Results of SP

- Directing the market towards innovative solutions e.g. recycling.
- Optimal use of available resources and use of renewable resources.
- Getting benefit from energy saving experiences.
- Reducing long-term cost.
- Stimulating economic expansion and diversification.
- Supporting the economy based on knowledge and encouraging innovation.
- Creating new markets for sustainable products, services and infrastructure.
- Introducing new models for industries and businesses based on modern methods of management and manufacturing capable of meeting market needs.
- Developing SMES.
- Increasing transparency and accountability.
- Contributing to environmental protection.
- Development of regions.

Based on the above;

Egypt is invited, in light of the pressing environmental, economic and social challenges facing it, to develop new tools, stimulate the market, face challenges, Keeping pace with international trends and achieve SDGs.

Based on global trends and consideration of applicable international and local laws that take into account environmental requirements, thermal emissions, handling with waste and harmful and radio – active materials and adopt disciplined consumption and production behaviors to achieve the best value of money expenditure so as to achieve SDGs and in line with SD strategy and Egypt's vision 2030.

We can achieve this through the through the legal framework of a sustainable government procurement policy that plays a key role as a driving force towards public policy objectives in the economic, social and environmental fields and as a catalyst for sustainable growth. The volume of government procurement represents the bulk of total public expenditure and major component of GDP.



## Experience of the National Quality Institute in the Implementation of ISO 26000

The National Quality Institute (NQI) is the national expertise house, which is entrusted with spreading the culture of quality in the Egyptian society with all its industrial and service sectors. As part of the pioneering role of the Institute, it participated in the pilot project implemented by ISO in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, including Egypt (2011-2014-) in accordance with the guidance of ISO 26000. Since the Institute is one of the socially responsible institutions whose objectives are to promote ethics, transparency and non-discrimination in all its activities that contribute to the welfare of society. Therefore, the Institute has participated in this project in collaboration with the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to develop the social system implemented by the Institute.

The project started with training a team of the Institute to implement the guidelines of ISO 26000 on SR, in addition to organizing awareness-raising seminars for all staff. The team has made the gap analysis, developed an action plan and started the implementation and development process in cooperation with the national SR experts, Institute's experts and the team composed of the most efficient staff of the Institute. One of the most important achievements during this project is to maintain the structure and make the optimal use of resources so as to preserve the requirements of future generations without prejudice e.g. reduction of waste from paper, electricity, gas..... etc, pay more attention to the workplace and the surrounding environment through the coordination and landscaping

of the entrance of the building in cooperation with the owners' union. Also, the Institute has developed a manual of code of Ethics, implements equality among all its employees in the rights and duties and focuses on the principle of equal opportunities for all applicants for vacant jobs without discrimination based on sex or religion.

The experience was very successful and effective, through which the satisfaction of interested parties was improved as well as the economic, environmental and social performance of the Institute has promoted where all stakeholders and staff have felt this development. The Institute has been given a Letter of Recognition by ISO for its implementation of the guidance and recommendations of ISO 26000. The Institute has developed a plan to ensure the sustainability of the implementation of SR principles in all its dealings. It is worth mentioning that the objective of the establishment of the Institute is to spread the culture of quality within the society and to be a platform for gathering experiences and managing the dialogue of knowledge that contributes to the development of quality system to make the products and services in Egypt reach the highest quality standards in order to gain the satisfaction of customers and consumers.

In view of the social responsibility of the Institute, it has been entrusted with the launch of the National



Quality Award in all sectors, which is considered a certificate of trust for consumers and export support.

For the time being, the Institute prepares to sign protocols with a number of entities to benefit from the expertise and exchange knowledge that benefit the Egyptian quality system. This is important because quality is affected by the available information, measurements, indicators, science, technology, tools and mechanisms. Therefore, it is the result of adherence to all these standards of means of accuracy and workmanship, innovative techniques in the rehabilitation and training on the use of these technologies and the existing management systems, as well as the means of measurement to monitor, develop and check indicators constantly with the new variables and implement plans to spread the culture of quality in parallel with the plans of educational awareness of quality and its indicators, health care plans and service plans to achieve quality standards completely within the framework of social responsibility of the Institute.

## With the Participation of Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality New International Standard for Sustainable Procurement

In the framework of the efficient role played by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in light of the directives of H.E. Eng. Tarek Kabel, Minister of Trade and Industry to contribute to sustainable development through providing technical support for the implementation of a number of international standards on sustainability issues e.g. social responsibility, sustainable procurement, anti-corruption and bribery, governance of organizations, energy efficiency, occupational health and safety and other topics that are considered as tools for achieving SD. In this context, EOS has participated, in cooperation with the corresponding foreign bodies, in the development process of the International Standard for Sustainable Procurement.

Eng. Ashraf Ismail Afify, EOS Chairman, has said that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has recently issued ISO 20400 "Sustainable procurement - Guidance" that aims to assist all types of organizations regardless of their size (large, medium or small), activity (productive or service) or location to integrate SD in their purchasing policies to achieve the least negative environmental impact of the products / services provided by these organizations and the greatest positive social and economic im-

pact on the surrounding communities .

Eng. Afify has pointed out that EOS has participated in the development process of ISO 20400 in its various stages through the formation of a national technical committee comprising different stakeholders from gov-



ernmental bodies, industrial and service establishments and civil society organizations to study the drafts of the IS and to make comments during the balloting period to ensure its publication not to be in conflict with Egypt's economic and commercial interests and not to be used as a technical barrier to trade. Afify added that EOS is in the process of issuing a relevant Egyptian Standard that

will be harmonized with the IS in accordance with the national laws and legislations in this field to insert sustainability aspects with its environmental, social and economic dimensions in procurement and compliance with in governmental and non-governmental tenders for raising the quality of products / services provided and reducing their harmful impact on the environment that will contribute to the advancement of industrial development and conservation of the environment, which will help in turn to achieve the strategy of SD: Egypt's vision 2030 as well as the strategy of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to promote industrial development and foreign trade (2016-2020). EOS Chairman emphasized the benefits and advantages the organizations get when applying and incorporating SD in their policies, processes and strategies embodied in improving the organization's image and reputation, increasing the competitiveness of products and services it provides in the local and global markets, attracting investors, owners, donors, sponsors and the financial community and gaining the confidence of companies, governments, media, suppliers, consumers and local community.

## EOS Participates in the ISO/TC 309 Meetings on Governance of Organizations in Canada

Egypt, represented by the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS), has participated in the 2nd plenary meeting of ISO/TC 309 "Governance of Organizations" held during the period from 22 to 26 May 2017, Canada.

ISO/TC 309 is responsible for developing the drafts of the International Standard (IS) to be published as a guidance on Governance of Organizations due to the importance of this issue to encourage organizations to make optimal use of their resources, achieve sustainable growth and enhance productivity, which will have a major impact on the stability of financial markets and attracting foreign investments. This is due to the close relationship between good governance and combating corruption and bribery, considering that governance is one of the tools to prevent corruption.

The comments of member bodies on the initial draft of the proposed IS for Governance of Organizations, including those of Egypt, were presented and discussed during the TC meetings in Canada.

In view of the linkage of governance, anti-corruption and bribery and other sustainability issues with SD Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030 and with the 5th axis of the Strategy of the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry for Promoting Industrial Development and Foreign Trade (2016-2020) on Governance and Institutional Development, EOS was keen to participate in the work of this international Technical Committee to ensure the issuance of the relevant IS on Governance of Organizations in compliance with Egypt's economic and commercial interests and not to be used as a technical barrier to trade.





## Emirates Dubai Bank Launches a Social Responsibility Program in Egypt

Emirates NBD Egypt has announced the launch of a SR program in Egypt in the framework of its commitment to community development in which it operates and improving its standard of living.

The new program is in line with Egypt's vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This concept has obtained a lot of awards when applied by the Emirates NBD Group in the United Arab Emirates, in recognition of its efficient contribution to the advancement of societies. The program is based on 3 main axes; the first one is to promote job opportunities for youth through training, mentoring, integration in functional networks, capacity building and other efforts. The second axis is to create job opportunities for women by developing their skills and integrating them into the entrepreneurship system. The third axis is the launch of the "Exchanger Programme" which provides regular volunteer jobs for 2100 employees at the bank. This is the program that won the Sustainability Award



for the Best Voluntary Work in the Gulf in 2016.

To encourage employees to contribute effectively to SR activities, Emirates NBD Egypt has decided to grant each employee a one-day leave annually to volunteer to participate in SR activities and initiatives

in partnership with Egyptian charitable non-profit organizations.

It is planned to expand SR activities of the bank in 2018 to include two main pillars i.e. Together limitless, the leading platform for people with disabilities and moneywise to promote and enhance financial literacy.

## Participants in the Arab Week for Sustainable Development

### Sustainable Development Cannot be Achieved Without Security and Peace

The participants in the Arab Week for Sustainable Development, held in Cairo last May, stressed the necessity of concerted efforts to address the challenges facing the Arab region. It is not possible to achieve SD without security and peace and the importance of increasing investment in the region through strengthening partnerships and forming mechanisms for achieving SD in its comprehensive concept. The participants expressed the hope of United Nations to work with competent bodies to implement the Comprehensive Development

Plan 2030, the importance of supporting agriculture and reconstruction projects, increase of investment, addressing climate change and supporting plans to expand the use of technology. This is, in addition to, the importance of addressing the negative effects of famine and food and water insecurity, along with a comprehensive plan for development, job creation and best use of water as the core of SD and necessary to achieve development goals, food security and health. Although it is important to achieve security and stability, which is a necessary condition for development, the eradication of poverty, unemployment and the absence of social justice is the way to achieve security and stability.

The participants asked for providing assistance to less developing Arab countries, stressing the importance of the regional dimension of national efforts in the field of development in a way that reflects the linkage and integration among themselves as no country in the world is capable of achieving SDGs on its own. Therefore, partnerships should be built within the country among governments, parliamentary councils, civil society, syndicates, universities and media institutions to implement this plan with the importance of cooperation and solidarity among the countries of the region to exchange experiences, transfer technology and expand the base of investment and trade among the countries of the region.

## Egypt Participates in the Arab Woman Initiative «SR Queen Program» and Peace

Egypt participates in the Arab Woman Initiative under the slogan «Together We Build a Life» which is organized at the level of the Arab World. The aim of this initiative is to provide protection services for women and children who are victims of violence, trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, to provide economic, educational and cultural support for children and dependent women in the villages that deserve care and do not have access to any kind of services as well as to take care of children exposed to risk resulting from the imprisonment of parents or one of them and provide economic and medical support. The initiative aims also to change the behavior

of children exposed to risk and violence by engaging them in a range of cultural and artistic activities to bring out internal violence and negative energies and their transformation into



positive energy through art. It also provides legal support and raising the standard of living

services for children in conflict with the law in places of detention, including victims of illegal immigration. All these services are provided by the initiative that follows «Humane Context» Institution in collaboration with the stakeholders.

In view of the above, the initiative aims to achieve justice, dignity and freedom for each category whose weakness has led to be outside the scope of care and appreciation as well as pressure on the decision-maker to work to raise the level of government services for this category. It is noteworthy that Egypt is represented in this initiative by Mrs. Rawia El-Saadani from Alexandria.

## «I'm with nature» is the Tagline for World Environment Day 2017



Every 5 June, the United Nations and the world celebrate World Environment Day, which is held this year under the theme “I’m with nature” and invite people all over the world to spend part of their time outdoors, enjoying the surrounding environment. The Earth cel-

brates its mountains, trees, seas and sky. Everyone has to enjoy nature today because tomorrow it may change, the features of the earth we know may be distorted, animals and plants may disappear and many frightening effects await the environment. The most devastating effects, ac-

According to scientists, are the prevalence of local epidemics and the risks of widespread global epidemics at a wide scale. As a result of climate change of the planet, we are now witnessing changes in the places where people live and the way they live. These changes increase the risk of the emergence and spread of deadly diseases more quickly. While the interactions between climate change and the spread of diseases are hard to be predicted in a cer-

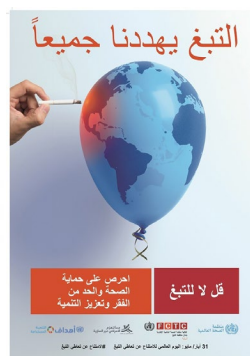
tain sense, the scientific links between them have become undeniable.

The United Nations, in the World Environment Day, is supporting dozens of events in many cities of the world today, starting from China to Chile and from Sweden to South Africa, such as cleaning the beaches or planting trees beside walking to discover nature amidst cities parks and nature and wildlife reserves. In addition, 20 monuments among the most internationally recognized were lightened in green on this occasion; the most notably are Khalifa Tower in the UAE, Giza Pyramids in Egypt and “Empire State” Building in USA and others.

## World No Tobacco Day 2017

Every year, on 31st May, the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), highlighting the health and other risks associated with tobacco and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for 2017 celebration was “Tobacco - a threat to development” that highlights the threats that the tobacco industry poses to SD in all countries, including the health and economic well-being of their citizens as well as the links between the use of tobacco products, tobacco control and sustainable development. In addition, it encourages countries to include tobacco control in their national responses to 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and supports member states and civil society to combat tobacco industry interference in

political processes, in turn leading to stronger national tobacco control action. Also, it encourages broader public and partner participation in national, regional and global efforts to develop and implement development strategies and plans and achieve goals that prioritize action on tobacco control and demonstrates how individuals can contribute to making a sustainable, tobacco-free world, either by com-



mitting to never taking up tobacco products, or by quitting the habit.

WHO is calling on all countries to prioritize and accelerate tobacco control efforts as part of their responses to the 2030 Agenda for SD. All countries benefit from successfully controlling the tobacco epidemic, above all by protecting their citizens from the harms of tobacco use and reducing its economic toll on national economies.

It is noteworthy mentioning that tobacco control has been enshrined in the Sustainable Development Agenda. It is seen as one of the most effective means to help achieve SDG target 3.4 of a one-third reduction globally, by 2030, of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) caused by tobacco.

## «FAO» Launches SD Initiative for Livestock in Africa 2050

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations “FAO” has launched the SD Initiative for Livestock in Africa “ASL 2050”. The initiative aims to involve relevant bodies in Egypt to renew and support the ongoing efforts to develop livestock to ensure that the sector’s SD path is maintained and aligned with the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030 in Egypt. The program focuses on selected livestock products, elaborates the current and expected livestock systems in 2050 and identifies the challenges it will face. The initiative will also develop policies and actions options that will ensure sustainable livestock

development over the coming four decades.

The initiative provides an opportunity to further focus on the livestock sector in Egypt through facilitating dialogue and consultation among stakeholders to identify key challenges associated with rapid population growth to meet food security needs. Animal-derived food requests will grow rapidly over the coming decades in Egypt and other African countries due to population growth, increased consumers’ purchasing power and increased urbanization.

The initiative is being implemented in 6 African countries i.e. Egypt, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya,

Nigeria and Uganda under the umbrella of FAO and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since about 75% of

the new infectious diseases are caused by animals, this initiative aims at understanding the long-term impact of livestock sector on public health, environment and livelihoods and promoting improvements in national policies of livestock-related bodies including national governments to be ready to deal with the emerging challenges associated with the rapidly growing livestock sector.

