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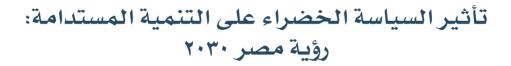
The Impact of Green Politics on Sustainable Development: Egypt's Vision 2030

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تأثير السياسة الخضراء على التنمية المستدامة:
رؤية مصر ٢٠٣٠

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Abstract

The green policy is one of the topics that have emerged in light of the global environmental changes, and the global trend towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), based on the role that the state's political institutions can play in this framework. The main objective of green politics is to reorient civilization to a more sustainable path. Achieving this objective stands on four main pillars: ecological sustainability, democracy, social justice, and peace (non-violence). The sustainable development goals rely on global cooperation to achieve its green policy at all levels of government and in all aspects of life. In this context, this paper seeks to clarify green politics, and the potentials that would be turned into practice, consistent with Egypt Vision 2030. David Easton's system approach proposed analyzing the effects of the interactions between social and political behavior on the ecosystem, and how international political systems are connected. The study depends on the theoretical framework of the hypotheses introduced by several scholars on the forms of potential relations between politics and sustainable development, and the impact of these relations on advancing the process of achieving the United Nations (SDGs). This study can be regarded as a reinforcement for the green transition, presenting its vision, and evolution, and clarifying its importance to face the world's challenges to be linked with sustainable development goals by reviving the definition of "collective actions" and "global policy". The results of this study proved that despite the ongoing environmental crises, green politics would be the hope for saving the earth and ecosystem, encouraging the principles of peace, democracy, and justice, harmonizing nationwide actions, and creating a policy that fosters international cooperation under the umbrella of sustainability.

Keywords: Green movement, green politics, green political theory, ecologism, sustainable development, Egypt vision 2030

المستخلص

تعتبر السـياسـة الخضـراء أحد الموضـوعات التي برزت في ظل التحولات البيئية التي يشـهدها العالم، والاتجاه العالمي نحو تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة، مرتكزة على الدور الذي يمكن أن تلعبه المؤسسات السياسية للدولة في هذا الإطار. ويعد الهدف الرئيسـي للسياسـة الخضـراء هو إعادة توجيه الحضـارة إلى مسـار أكثر اسـتدامة، ولتحقيق ذلك فإنها تسـتند إلى أربع ركائز رئيسـية، هي: الاسـتدامة البيئية، والديمقراطية، والعدالة الاجتماعية، والسـلام ووقف العنف. وتأتي أهداف التنمية المسـتدامة لتعزز التعاون العالمي لتحقيق السـياسـة الخضـراء من خلال مختلف المسـتويات الحكومية، وفي جميع جوانب الحياة. وفي هذا الإطار، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعريف بالسياسة الخضراء وإمكانية تنفيذها على أرض الواقع، مع تقديم مصر وفقًا لرؤية 2030 كنموذج تطبيقي. وقد تم اتباع منهج نظام "دايفيد ايستون" لتحليل آثار التفاعلات بين السـلوك الاجتماعي والسياسي على النظام البيئي، وكيفية ربط الأنظمة السياسية الدولية. وتعتمد الدراسـة أيضًـا على الإطار النظري للفرضيات التي قدمها عدد من العلماء حول أشكال العلاقات المحتملة بين السـياسـة والتنمية المسـتدامة، وتأثير هذه العلاقات على دفع عملية تحقيق أهداف الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المسـتدامة. ويمكن اعتبار هذه الدراسـة بمثابة تعزيز لعملية الانتقال الأخضـر، حيث تعرض رؤيتها ومدى تطورها، وتوضـح أهميتها؛ لمواجهة تحديات العالم، وربطها بأهداف التنمية المستدامة من خلال إحياء تعريف "العمل الجماعي والمشترك" و"السياسة العالمية". وقد خلصت الدراسة إلى أنه على الرغم من الأزمات المستمرة، فإن السياسة الخضراء تُعدُّ من أبرز سبل إنقاذ الأرض والنظام البيئي، وتشجيع مبادئ السلام والديمقراطية والعدالة، وتنسيق الإجراءات بين الدول، وإنشاء سياسة تعزز التعاون الدولي تحت مظلة الاستدامة.

الكلمات الدالة: الحركة الخضراء، السياسة الخضراء، النظرية السياسية الخضراء، التنمية المستدامة، حماية البيئة، رؤية مصر 2030

Introduction

Green politics is a political ideology or set of ideologies and movements which build an environmentally sustainable culture in the framework of environmentalism, equality, non-violence, justice, and democracy. It expands the view of politics to cover not only relationships between people, but also relation between humanity and the environment (Newell, 2019).

Green political goals are achievable through participatory democracy on a global level to a local level. That is why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global goals and actions. They cannot be achieved by a single country or a single action, but they are achievable by harmony between nations and balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The study tackles various topics covering the green political theory perspectives and purports to reshape global policy, allowing the world to see sustainability as a fuel for development rather than an impediment. The democratic systems around the world are backsliding and, on the decline, or facing "democratic recession" (Diamond, 2015). In addition to the degradation in the ecosystem, as a result of human activities, which all have negative impacts on standard of living and economic conditions. Greens have to adopt a sustainable policy to shape global public policy and preserve democracy. It was an advantage for the green to emerge and develop in the world's most influential economy and system, as Germany then grew to reach Europe and most of the world's political systems (Radcliffe, 2000).

The main problem that faces green politics, which this study seeks to raise, focuses on reducing the concept to the issue of protecting the environment while ignoring other issues that fall within the scope of the interest of green politics. This reduction ultimately leads to the inability to achieve and reach the desired goal. Herein lies the importance and purpose of this study, which aims to highlight the various aspects of green politics and the extent to which it is intertwined with the various development policies, which is ultimately in the interest of achieving sustainable development for the welfare of people.

The study embodies Egypt as an application model for shifting to green policies by studying Egypt's vision 2030 and its subsidiary initiatives. Egypt Vision 2030 marks the start of thinking sustainably in all specialties to pave the way to a new Egypt, following a sustainable agenda in all aspects of the development sector.

In this regard, this paper will cover the following:

- An introduction to the Green Political Theory.

- Discussion on the differences between Ecologism and Environmentalism. Although the two terms share a lot together that makes them sometimes overlap, yet, they still represent different connotations.

- Depiction of the new economic structure, social structure and value system that green politics represent in reshaping the global policy.

- Formulating the SDGs, as an extension to the green politics, in clear and general goals that would make it easier to go globally.

- Egypt's vision 2030 is given as an on-ground model to show how to turn the green political theory into practice and determine the challenges of the green transition.

- Finally, conclusion and recommendation to the decision maker in order to maximize the benefits of implementing this policy.

Literature Review

Although the study of green politics is not a new topic, the concept has evolved from a mere concern for the environment to various areas of life that ultimately seek to improve the living standards of people. It is notable, now, that the green politics topic is being addressed as a theory linked to public policies, which is adopted within the framework of achieving the SDGs. Therefore, this section reviews the findings of different studies related to the green politics theoretically and practically.

Barry (1998) in his "Rethinking Green Politics" engaged those who are enthusiastic and eager to be active citizens with decision makers responsible for public policy. His study opens new grounds in green political theory by identifying the challenges facing the global community and emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility.

Barry (2014) developed his thoughts about green politics, when he put green theory in "Political Ideologies" to indicate that green politics is a much broader range of issues than just narrow environmental concerns. He made a complete introduction to green politics as a modern school of political thinking that focuses on very old issues in philosophy and political thinking such as "the relationship between the human and non-human worlds, the moral status of animals, what is the 'good life', and the political regulation of technological innovation." He, then, delves into a deep discussion of the roots of green politics from being a social movement and evolution to becoming an influential political party in all European countries. Emphasizing the concepts, it stands for beyond the environmental issues. Barry (2014) identified people's awareness and how it does not correspond to the reality of the climate change emergency.

According to the AUC study (2018), Egypt's National Development Goals (SDS, Egypt Vision 2030) are linked to the Global Sustainable Goals (SDGs). It represents the experience of South Korea and Malaysia as a practical model for reviewing progress in Egypt. The two experiences serve as a guide for Egypt and a comparison to evaluate the vision. They have succeeded in showing that Egypt's investment in infrastructure development is a long-term

strategy, and its results will be tangible in the future. Korea and Malaysia represent the "bigger picture".

In his book "Global Green Politics", Newell (2019) introduces a comprehensive and practical overview of the green perspective on a range of global political topics. He showed that the green movement is not just about the environment, but has always had to deal with a range of issues around the economy and how it is organized in the matters of security, democracy, and peace.

Abou El-gheit (2022) analyzed Egypt's long-term strategic plan to achieve the principles of sustainable development in all fields. The study highlighted and analyzed the progress of Egypt's ranking in the sustainable development indicators (2020), which showed that Egypt has achieved remarkable positive results at the global level in these indicators, as it ranked 83rd compared to 92nd in 2019. The efficiency of formulating Egypt's 2030 vision for sustainable development was concluded. Egypt's vision has been developed in a way that helps implement it successfully and effectively on the ground.

Then, Cornelia Helmcke (2022) represents the developments made and reviews of scholars. "Ten Recommendations for Political Ecology", namely: (1) Reflect on the scale/temporality of case delineation; (2) consider the broader historical/political economy context; (3) pursue networks of relationships across scales; (4) work across disciplines; (5) explore dissonant knowledge; (6) acknowledge intersectional and more-than-human perspectives; (7) reflect on your own situatedness and positionality; (8) engage in research ethics and participatory methodologies; (9) adopt a critical-normative stance; and (10) be constructive. To justify her point and tackle how scholars often miss reflection on their chosen cases; the purpose of the recommendations is to examine the continuing relevance of the case study research and how the political environment case study could overcome identified weaknesses.

In light of the review of those studies, it can be said that part of them focused on green politics theoretically and conceptually, and highlighted the development of the term within its scope. As for the other studies that dealt with the practical side, they focused mainly on the environmental dimension at the expense of other areas of interest in green politics, especially with regard to social justice, democracy, and peace. Accordingly, this study seeks to highlight the relations between green politics and the various fields of sustainable development, with a focus on the Egyptian experience within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030. It also presents a set of recommendations as a guiding framework for the decision maker in order to ensure the sustainability of the transition process.

Green Political Theory

Green political theory or Ecologism is unique in terms of its concerns with relationships between people and the environment. It views humanity, with all its past, present, and future civilizations, as "a part of the whole" larger ecosystem (Dyer, 2018).

Green political theory developed in three waves**; the first wave** was primarily concerned with distinguishing between the term "ecologism" as an ideology and "green political theory" as a political approach. **The second wave**, the ecologism ideology was concerned with the cross debates between green political theory and other ideologies; such as liberalism, feminism and socialism. It also began to focus on some of its core concepts now; such as democracy, justice, the state, and citizenship. **The third recent wave,** it became clear that it is interdisciplinary and application-focused. Green political theory now includes a wide range of disciplines integrated with practical and empirical research (Barry, 2014).

However, the relationship between humans and their surroundings is an old topic that has been debated by various political and philosophical schools of thought, and a plethora of ideologies have emerged to explain it. It is a broad school covering a wide range of concerns related to political, economic, and social structure, from the old political thoughts of what is ethical and human relations with the environment, to contemporary issues; such as the implications of climate change, oil production, waste resources, inequalities, and development impacts, among others. (Barry, 2007)

Ecologism and Environmentalism

Ecologism is considered an ideology for transformation in human–nature relationships, and calls for radical social and economic change. Ecologism is usually confused with environmentalism. Although they have so much in common, both refer to definitions of environmentalism, they are not primarily considered ideological. Environmentalism doesn't have a vision for what the community should look like or suggest how to get there. Ecologism is broader and includes environmental and other political thoughts (Baxter, 1999).

They are used interchangeably in the "**minimalist approach**", which focuses on the environmental effects of industrial civilization. It is a broad approach used to trace the roots of ecologism back to the 19th century. On the other hand, "**the maximalist approach**" defines ecologism in a more stringent way. It is clearly differentiated from environmentalism. Maximalist Environmentalism assumes that problems can be solved without fundamental changes in values. **In contrast**, Ecologism argues that a radical change in values, social and political policies are required to reach a sustainable society (Hards, 2011).

Ecologism requires a strategy to achieve its goals. It is a political direction that affects systems at all levels and must be worked on in collaboration locally, regionally and globally. In some studies, Ecologism is called "**political Ecology**" and its advocates are called "political ecologists".

Ecocentrism and Techno-centrism

Ecocentrism is the core value and philosophical aspect of ecologism, which revolves around and links human well-being and the ecosystem in a broader context. Ecocentrism puts value on ecology. They are two different perspectives on prioritising technology and the environment. In contrast, the core of **techno-centrism** is technology. It considers humans to be part of nature, and not in control of it. That is why green politics encourages respect and puts nature into consideration, because human actions that affect nature, directly and indirectly, affect the whole ecosystem, including humans themselves. Techno-centrists believe that technological developments and modern industrialization have control over nature. They do not neglect the environmental crisis, but they do not see technology and science as the cause of the crisis, but the solution. Techno-centrism is more related to shallow ecology, which sees nature as a tool or instrument for people (Benton,1999).

Shallow ecology as a term first mentioned in 1972 by Arne Naess, a Norwegian philosopher. It argues that nature should adapt to humans, and humans are the most significant organism in the ecosystem. So, environmental degradation is nothing but an issue that affects human life in any way (Naess, 2005).

Shallow environmentalist is used to describe people who lack awareness of environmental issues, whether by not recognizing the importance, effects, overlapping, and interactions within the ecosystem, or by ignoring them and underestimating the environmental deterioration (Xiong, 2014). It is a social value, and unfortunately is dominant in many places worldwide, based on exploiting nature and seeing it only as a tool to satisfy human needs. Some schoolers consider that as a result of materialism or capitalism thoughts (Stibbe, 2009).

Ecology is a transition towards a nature-centered society, which believes in development and technology, but not on the expense of the environment. Ecology states the importance of a "long-term" policy that sees the bigger picture rather than making progress on a short scale, and the price will be the future and the environment.

To sum up, the main feature of ecologism is its concern for change. "A transformation in social, cultural, political, and economic systems to create a more sustainable way of life".

New Economic Structure, Social Structure and Value System

The road to an ecological community is a long one. It will require great social changes to build a sustainable culture and practices. Democracy, equality and human rights are the core values and pillars of the new structure system (Philosophical Basis of the Green Party, PB 302,303,304).

Democracy

A democratic society with equal individual rights and no one feels marginalized or discriminated, the absence of "few control over many" and elite corruption, is the basis for a healthy society based on cooperation and interdependency. In an ecosystem, political, social and economic activities are regulated within the societies, as self-governing communities are as important as the international, regional and national level of government.

Equality

Discrimination on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religion, or color has created societies that are "powerful against powerless". A green social system builds a society in which everyone is equal, and everyone's action is powerful.

Human Rights

The fundamental rights of everyone must be stipulated in a written constitution. The Green Policies together with civil society play a vigilant role to implement policies that protect human rights. Human rights are not only the right to life, liberty, equality, and freedom but also includes the right to work, education, social services, security, and other basic human rights.

In this context, any change in the new system falls under the umbrella of "green sustainability". It is the base that reshapes the whole system, which is adopted by the "Greens".

Green Sustainability

Development and economic growth are always linked with the environment, however, the effect of development on the environment depends on how growth is achieved. The major concern is energy production, whether it is the continued expansion of environment destruction or the true transformation to clean energy. Sustainability is balancing the environment, economic growth and development, and the future. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development as follows: "Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet its own needs".

Therefore, the correct relationship between humanity and the environment should be an interdependent relation, not control over one another. "We should ensure that human activities contribute to, rather than destroy, the richness of life" (Begum, 2019).

The core around which all green policies revolve is that all human activities must be sustainable. The long-term results of any political practices are just as important as the short-term. Development is not development if its cost is the violation of the ecosystem or deprivation of future generations of their rights to access it (Thangavel, and Sridevi, 2015).

Green movements reshaping global politics

Since the industrial revolution, the goal of political systems has been economic growth, regardless of any consequences. Some nations are becoming very rich, and others are getting poorer, as wealth continues to be transferred from the poor nations to the rich ones. A system based on inequality and exploitation is dramatically damaging the environment. The recent environmental destruction has shown that if we continue promoting the policy of unsustainable consumption of raw materials, it will lead to poverty for all. Green political parties aim to transfer the world politics that separate nature from an individual and from society, and promote the policy of "one at the expense of all" to politics based on interdependence between them (Lok Wu, 2022).

Evolution of Green Parties (McBride, 2022)

- Green parties' roots go back to the social movements against the industrial societies in the 1960s.

- The early 1970s was the beginning of the green parties entering electoral politics. The first green parties were formed in Australia and the United Kingdom in 1972.

- In west Germany, the first green party was formed in the 1980s and became a political force by entering the parliament with around 27 seats.

- In countries such as the USA, the parliamentary and electoral systems do not give the smaller parties a chance to win elections at the national level, which is dominated by the democratic and republicans, yet the green parties are gaining popularity on states level elections

The Rise of The Greens

Green parties are now mainstream in political life, especially in Europe. The Greens - the supporters of the green movement- have evolved from single-issue into broad-based political thought capable of spreading and reaching the highest levels of government and positions in many countries such as Germany, the world's fourth-largest economy, the United Kingdom, and Austria (Nevett, 2021).

Green political parties are essentially social movements seeking to "reorient civilization" to what is sustainable. They started with environmental concerns and expanded to

include climate change, pollution, industry, agriculture, politics, and economic and social activities.

The Future of Green Politics

Ultimately, the numbers of the green parties have boosted, and their power is considerably growing in Europe. Their features became remarkable on the political scene, thanks to their capability to adapt politics to their sustainable environmental orientation, while being flexible on other politics. They now are a political force and game changers in politics at local, state, and national levels across Europe (Holder, 2022).

Being the decision makers or influencers of some of the world's most influential economists, the Greens mean that their policy would reshape the future of democracy and development worldwide. Fortunately, green values are universal and flexible, so they can suit different societies and different political systems. Green parties are mostly the only international parties fighting over critical issues change, such as oil production, net zero and CO_2 emission. Though the green movement is farther and broader than the environmental concerns, economy, democracy, security, and peace are all a set of issues that they have had to deal with (Roberts, 2020).

Now people are more aware of climate change, and its connection with other issues and notice its major threat not only at the international level, but also to their nations and daily lives. This gives an opportunity for the Greens to be positioned to develop their influence at the international level (Newell, 2019).

The main challenge for the Greens is governments to declare their sustainable and environment-friendly policies, and then increase their investment in CO_2 emerging productions, cutting trees, pursue a policy that violates human rights and deeply aggravates humanitarian issues. While governments cannot do both, they have to show transparency and how they intend to reach "sustainability" and redirect money from polluting industries towards infrastructure (Atalla, et al., 2022). All levels of governments, from local to the international, have to shift their agenda and get involved. As it relies on activists and policy makers, it sometimes needs the efforts of consumers to include big and small businesses in the "green transformation", if a business wants to operate in the future. For this policy to be practical and not utopian, it needs to be applied carefully and flexibly (Roberts, 2020).

The United Nations SDGs

Goal 17 outlined in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development is based on global cooperation, as the world faces an interlinked global crisis. Three years of COVID-19, the Russo-Ukrainian war, and its repercussions on food, energy, economic, and humanitarian

crises, all added to the ongoing climate emergency which acts as a "crisis multiplier" (UN SDGs report, 2022).

"We must rise higher to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and stay true to our promise of a world of peace, dignity, and prosperity on a healthy planet." -António Guterres, the Secretary general of the United Nations used those words after publishing the UN 2022 report for the SDGs, describing the concerns towards the future of the SDGs. According to the Report, the interlinked crises are putting the SDGs in real danger. The Report did not bode well, it highlighted the challenges and their reflection on the food, health, education, environment, peace, and security, creating dilemmas of problems that affect each other.

COVID-19 forced the SDGs to take steps back, also made it clear that a strong statistical foundation is needed, and new ways of thinking are inevitable. The global world got to seize the opportunity from that challenge in collecting data and speed the transition to digitalizing policy. A transition to green economies could be the closest way to rescue the SDGs and recover from the ongoing crises through global bold actions and policies that works for all (UN SDGs report, 2022).

Egypt Vision 2030: As A Model for Comprehensive Transition to Green Politics

Out of studying the 2030 Egyptian vision, four questions have emerged:

Q1: What is the vision?

Q2: What are the outcomes of the sustainable development strategy?

Q3: How COP27 in Egypt is an extension of green policy?

Q4: From a green policy perspective, what is the effectiveness of the vision?

The Vision (Egypt 2030 vision, SDS Egypt)

Egypt Vision 2030 is based on the principles of comprehensive sustainable development. It reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development: The economic, the social and the environmental dimensions, aiming to keep pace with the changes that occurred locally, regionally and globally.

Egypt Vision 2030 focuses on improving the quality of life and the standard of living in all aspects of life, by highlighting the principles of justice and social integration. Sustainable economic growth, investment in people, and tackling the effects of climate change are also at the top of the list in Egypt's vision. All these aspired goals come within the framework of ensuring Egyptian peace and security and strengthening Egyptian leadership regionally and internationally.

Egypt 2030 vision sets out its sustainable development agenda goals as follows:

The First Goal: Quality of Life. Improving the Egyptian citizens' quality of life and standard of living, which is achievable by reducing poverty, eliminating hunger, providing an integrated system for social protection, ensuring the quality of education and health services, providing basic services, improving infrastructure, and controlling population growth.

The Second Goal: Justice and Inclusion. The national agenda seeks to achieve justice by achieving equal rights and opportunities, providing resources in all geographical areas, both rural and urban, promoting financial inclusion, empowering women, youth, and the neediest groups, and supporting the participation of all groups in development.

The Third Goal: A Strong Economy. A competitive and diversified economy, which is achievable by knowledge-based economic growth, digital transformation, increasing job opportunities, improving the business environment, and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship. It also seeks to achieve financial, environmental and social inclusion in economic development.

The Fourth Goal: Knowledge and Innovation and Scientific Research. They are pillars for development, by investing in people, building up their creative capabilities, stimulating innovation, supporting scientific research, and linking it to education and development.

The Fifth Goal: Environmental Sustainability. Achieving an integrated and sustainable ecosystem by ensuring development and the environment protection together through the rational use of resources in a manner that maintains the rights of future generations. This is achievable by confronting the effects of climate changes, enhancing the ability of environmental systems to adapt and to face risks and natural disasters, increasing reliance on renewable energy and sustainable production

The Sixth Goal: Governance of State Institutions and Society. Aiming to achieve the efficiency and effectiveness of official agencies, private sector institutions, and civil society by the rule of law, achieving transparency and accountability, and resisting corruption.

The Seventh Goal: Egyptian Peace and Security. National and regional security are a priority on the national agenda as a base to achieve and maintain sustainable development. This includes ensuring food and water security, sustainable energy, political, economic, social, and environmental stability, information and cyber security, securing Egyptian borders, and fighting terrorism and organized crime.

The Eighth Goal: A Pioneer Position and Strengthening the Egyptian Leadership. By linking development goals with the international and the regional agenda, especially the

African Agenda 2063. This is achievable by strengthening partnerships regionally and internationally.

The vision preparation started in 2014 to be launched in February 2016 to set the main goals and strategic plans to reach sustainability in all aspects, targeting that by 2030, the **new Egypt** will achieve economic and energy development, knowledge, innovations and scientific research power, transparency, and efficiency of governmental institutions to reach:

The Economic Dimension

First pillar: Economic development. By 2030, the Egyptian economy can achieve sustainable inclusive growth. Create productive jobs and raise GDP per capita reaching high-middle income countries level. The Egyptian market is competitive, based on knowledge and research, and diversified and Egypt be an active player in the world economy.

Second pillar: Energy. An energy sector meets national sustainable development requirements and global SDGs, uses renewable resources and preserves the environment.

Third Pillar: Knowledge, Innovation, and Scientific Research. A society that creates and innovates, which can produce science and knowledge not only consumes.

Fourth pillar: Transparency and Efficient Government Institutions. Build an efficient and effective public administration sector characterized by transparency, fairness and flexibility.

The Social Dimension

Fifth Pillar: Social Justice. By 2030, Egyptian society is characterized by equal economic, social, political rights and opportunities. A society based on interdependence between citizens, encourages participation and supports vulnerable groups.

Sixth pillar: Health. Egypt represents a universal health care system, where all Egyptians enjoy an equal access to healthy, safe, and secure life. This will lead to welfare, happiness, social and economic development, which will qualify Egypt to become a leader in the field of healthcare services and research in the Arab world and Africa.

Seventh Pillar: Education and Training. A high-quality education and training system are available to all, without discrimination. The necessary, updated, and practical skills for students and trainees to empower them technically and technologically, to be able to contribute to the development of healthcare, knowledge, and scientific research goals, which were previously mentioned.

Eighth Pillar: Culture. A system of positive cultural values respecting diversity and reinforcing freedom of speech and human rights. Enabling citizens to interact with modern

developments, while recognizing their own culture and history, to be able to add value. while preserving the heritage and represent Egypt's soft power at regional and international levels.

The Environment Dimension

Ninth Pilar: Environment. The environment is integrated in all sectors to preserve natural resources and their efficiency, use them to invest in development, and ensure future generations' right, A clean, safe and healthy environment leads to diversified production resources and economic activities, thus achieving social justice and helping in climate action.

Tenth Pillar: Urban Development. Balanced spatial development management of land guarantees for population an improvement in the quality of their lives and enhances social justice.

Outcomes and Challenges

COVID-19 pandemic and the Russo-Ukrainian crises are the main challenges that faced the world and affected most aspects of life, which disturbed some plans and created new challenges to the global SDGs and the Egyptian SDS.

Egypt is a compact county in shape but, the distribution of population makes it elongated. About 99% of the population lives on around 3% to 5.5% of its land. This means that nearly 96% of Egypt's size is not habitable. Some 106 million Egyptians are living all around the Nile and the Delta, with a growing population at approximately 2 million every year, and an expected population increase to 160 million in 2050 (World Population Review, 2022).

Consumption is growing faster than economic growth. This made it inevitable for the state to reshape its development policy to a green one, to make the development cope with population growth and reduce the gap between the demands of a dramatically increasing population and the economic growth projects. Trying to save the resources from devastating and ease pressure on developed areas, redistribution of population and making the desert livable is the main concern of the government, by building up new cities, arable lands and investing in infrastructure, and to achieve food security, increase exports and reduce imports, which have reached US$15 billion annually (Egypt exports and imports, 2021).

Within the framework of green politics transformation, Egypt has launched a massive number of national initiatives (according to Egypt's presidency) based on the four main pillars of the Green political theory (Presidency of ARE):

Justice

- **100 Million Healthy Lives: (100 Million Seha).** The initiative was launched in 2018 to eradicate Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The Egyptian Ministry of Health (MoH) participated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and started the campaign aiming to reach 84% of the population from 18 years and above. The campaign later extended to include non-Egyptian citizens, as well.

In April 2022, the (MoH) affirmed the campaign has successfully treated and supported 86 million people, which makes it one of the most effective initiatives of the Egyptian green policy transformation that dealt with public health enhancement.

The initiative is also a comprehensive public health enhancement initiative that includes many sub-initiatives, such as initiative of eliminating Virus C, women's and elderly people health initiatives, treatment of hearing loss in newborns, and early detection of breast cancer for women.

- **Decent Life (Haya Karima).** This initiative is based on the human rights aspect. It aims to raise the standard of living and improve the living conditions of the Egyptian citizens. It is broad to include all the social services. One of the main targets of that initiative is to reduce the gap of development between cities and villages in Egypt by consolidating the state's efforts and private and public sectors. Some programs came out of this initiative such as (Sakan Kareem) program, which helps improve infrastructure and access to basic housing needs; such as sanitation and clean water.

- **Solidarity and Dignity (Takaful W Karama).** It is a cash transfer program targeting social safety in all Egypt's governorates. It was launched in 2015 to be one of the first initiatives to come to life in the framework of the green policy and sustainable development agenda. The economic reform and reshaping the state policy have imposed a kind of struggle added to the global economic situation. Therefore, the initiative was formed parallel to the reform in an attempt to recover any harm that may face citizens, as layoffs to workers during the pandemic, and support needy people.

Social safety is based on a huge database including "poor women and children, poor people with disabilities, poor orphans and poor widows." That is to say that keeping the dignity of people is a main concern in the green reform (World Bank: Takaful and Karama project, 2020).

- **We Are All One (Kolona Wahed).** The initiative aims to ease the burdens on citizens and provide basic needs and food commodities at reasonable prices, achieve a balance in the

local market and control markets, in order to confront high prices and eliminate monopoly. The initiative was launched in June 2018, in cooperation with several major commercial chains to offer basic commodities of high quality at discounted rates ranging between 20-30%, compared to their counterparts in the market.

Democracy

- **Presidential Leadership Program (PLP).** The program started in 2015. It gives practical training for youth to prepare them to be qualified for leadership, policy and decision making, political life, administrators and be able to address Egypt's problem, through practical training using theories and scientific methods.

- **National Dialogue.** The "New Republic" was an opportunity to launch the Egyptian national dialogue, which emerged to include all political groups at one table, and to open a dialogue to discuss any topic related to Egypt's future, with the aim of reaching a common ground and paving the way to practice democracy and freedom of expression at the national level (Hendawi, 2022).

- **World Youth Forum (WYF).** The first session of the forum took place in Sharm Al-Sheikh in 2017, as an initiative presented by Egyptian youth at the National youth Conference. The Forum is held annually as a global event, aiming to provide an interactive platform for youth to freely present their thoughts, fear, dreams, and talents. It demonstrates a message of peace and harmony and most importantly allows youth to engage, participate and be aware of their role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the green agenda.

Ecological Wisdom and Justice

- **New Administrative Capital.** Located east Cairo to be the first smart and sustainable city in Egypt. Within the sustainability context, the city will only use clean energy and water management strategies (Gaveriaux, 2022, & Al-Aees, 2022).

- **Toshka/New Valley Project.** First started in 1997, the plan was to dig a 250 kilometers long canal from Lake Nasser, but the project was put on hold due to lack of funding, and it was forgotten over time until it was revived again out of Egypt 2030 SDS vision. The project is one among many that aim to transform deserts into farmland and agricultural fields. Thus, it will pave the way for people to move from the overcrowded areas and provide new job opportunities and more green and environmentally friendly areas. The state declared that US$ 400 million had been allocated to re-initiate the project.

- **New Delta.** The project is located in the northwest along El-Dabaa axis, and covers around 4,100 kilometers to be an industrial zone focusing on agriculture. The plan is to focus

on the cultivation of strategic crops; such as wheat, corn and cotton. Its location is designed to allow for fast trade and transportation outside and inside Egypt. The project targets creating 5 million job opportunities, achieve self-sufficiency, ensure food security and increase food exports (Sabry, 2021).

- **Untraditional Sources of Water.** The availability of water, especially after the Ethiopian renaissance dam is officially constructed, is one of the main obstacles for Egypt. The Nile was and will always remain Egypt's blessing, core, and cradle of its civilization, yet, with all the development plans following the sustainable ethics to consider nature and future generations, it is now the time to look for untraditional sources of water and start reusing wasted water.

    Egypt has already started to treat agriculture wastewater projects, by building two wastewater treatment plants; one in Al Hamam area, and the other in Bahr Al-Baqar to make Egypt have the largest water treatment and recycling projects in the world. The project aims to ease pressure on the Nile, ensure the right of the future generations to access water, rationalize the use and treatment of wastewater, and provide water for population and new agricultural lands.

- **Be Civilized to The Green (Ethadar Lel Akhdar).** The initiative comes within the core of the UN SDGs and National Strategy for Sustainable Development SDS. It aims to create a sustainable culture among people, and spread awareness about the environment and ecosystem. In line with the green policy agenda, the initiative targets protecting nature, reducing air pollution to enhance people's lives, rationalizing consumption, replacing activities that harm the environment with eco-friendly and green alternatives.

- **The Development of Egyptian Villages Project.** It is part of the "Decent Life Initiative", which was launched in January 2019, to improve the standard of life for the most needy segments of society and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Egyptian countryside. The project seeks to provide all kind of services, including infrastructure services, in addition to economic and social development, job creation, and providing decent housing.

- **Additional Initiatives**. In addition to the previous initiatives, there are many others that have been adopted, such as: 100.000 greenhouse projects to be the largest in the Middle East, nuclear power plant, the largest wind and solar farms in the world, the largest medical city, El-Alamein smart city, Al- Galala city, Bashayer Al-Kheer city to develop slums, Egypt future work is digital FWD (Mostakblna Rakmy), a fully funded scholarship aimed at nation building of digitization policy, many initiatives to support women and the disabled, and the list goes on.

Peace and Non-Violence

In the context of advocating sustainable international cooperation and action, Egypt has begun to share its experience in the green politics path to support and help other nations follow track. The Egyptian health initiative to treat million Africans, comes to deliver Egypt's successful 100 million Seha program to Africa; one million Africans in around 14 countries treated from HCV.

"Egypt has pledged to provide technical support, expertise, and screening programs, as well as free treatment for one million of our African sisters and brothers with hepatitis C for three months as part of our role on the continent. We are following the WHO screening and treatment guidelines".

COP27

The annual UN Climate Change Conference, COP-27 will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt this year from 6 to 18 November 2022, to advance the global climate talks and mobilize action. The vision of the conference is to reduce global warming and maintain the 1.5 goals, to ensure that nations are making progress on the crucial issue of climate change and reduce the most devastating effects of climate change on people and nature.

***Presidency Action Agenda*: (COP 27 Egypt, 2022). Parallel to the tracks of** negotiation, the COP27 Egyptian Presidency has identified several key thematic days to address:

1. "The promise of innovation and clean technologies as well as the centralization of water and agriculture in the climate crisis."

2. "The role of science will also be highlighted in addition to biodiversity loss, energy transition, decarbonization efforts, and finance."

The truth is that climate change is moving faster than all of the world's policies and goals. That is why it urgently needed to intensify global efforts and confront the climate crisis.

The Effectiveness of Egypt 2030 Vision

The formulation and preparation of the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030 was based on several reasons, such as:

- Establishing a long-term political, economic, and social vision for the Egyptian as a frame of reference for medium and short-term development plans.

- Planning for the future and dealing with various challenges based on knowledge and creativity.

- Enabling civil society and parliament to follow up and monitor the implementation of the strategy.

- Determining the real potential of Egypt and focusing on the competitive advantages.

- Alignment with the post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- Alignment with the Sustainable Development Strategy for Africa 2063.

The goal is a New Egypt by 2030, with a competitive, balanced, and diversified economy based on innovation and knowledge, justice, social integration, and participation, with a balanced and diversified ecosystem, investing the genius of place and people to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life of Egyptians.

Assessment for The Vision Implementation

All the initiatives presented were based on the Egyptian conditions and current situation, which made them effective. For example, development programs were mostly agricultural as agriculture contributes to Egypt's GDP by 14%, and accounts for 28% of job opportunities. According to the Central Administration of Agriculture, 5 million tons of agriculture products were exported last year, which shows that the policies, so far, are achieving their aspired goals (World Bank Data, 2021).

In 2020 during the outbreak of the pandemic, Egypt was the only county in the region that achieved economic growth of 2.2%, as a result of Vision 2030 that was launched and being worked on since 2016. Investments in energy and infrastructure have allowed Egypt to achieve its highest GDP growth rates. The GDP growth rate in the Middle East is 5% according to the World Bank. Egypt ranked the 87th globally according to the Sustainable Development Report 2022 and the 7th in the Arab World.

Egypt's vision has shown progress in all recent indicators. In this context, the State has referred to its policy of implementing legislative and institutional reforms to adapt to the situation, which contributed to achieving stability. The growth rate of the Egyptian economy in the first half of 2020 reached about 5.6%, the unemployment rate fell to less than 8%, the average inflation rate fell to about 5%, and the foreign exchange recovered to cover more than 8.5 months of imports. The State has put in place proactive policies to contain the crisis, such as supporting the most affected sectors by easing the financial burden and providing liquidity credit (CAPMAS).

The main pro points are the participatory part, where participation of all sectors of society is essential, thus not making the burden of the crises fall on the shoulders of only one sector. Furthermore, the vision put into consideration the internal regional dimension within

Egypt, where the development was at the level of all governorates, not only Cairo and major cities, and finally there are quantitative goals with clear numbers that must be pursued.

1. Egypt 2030 vision is an effective approach to turning the UN broad and general SDGs into specific SDS appropriate to the case of Egypt. This makes it a successful policy to match the international green transformation strategy, while considering the national and social differences.

2. Vision 2030 was created with a built-in assessment approach. It put different "follow-up" dates, which subdivided the goals through the period of the vision to monitor the progress and deal with any unexpected outcomes or events. The latest target date was in 2020.

3. The monitoring and evaluation mechanism entity was formed in parallel with the vision, it provided two arms: monitoring mechanism and monitoring results. The monitoring body consists of two sectors: the executive authority (the president), and the monitoring authority (the parliament), to ensure the implementation of the SDS and be responsible for projects monitoring, feedback, and updates. The monitoring and evaluation mechanism is committed to some tasks such as:

   - Ensuring that the implementation process is applied and consistent with the SDS vision.
   - Preparing an integrated electronic database.
   - Training units in various ministries and governorates.
   - Collecting data to measure key performance indicators, KPIs.
   - Reviewing and analyzing KPIs.
   - Creating the evaluation reports.

4. Parallel progress targeting all aspects of transformation to green politics has been impressive. Egypt's Vision 2030 efficiently achieve its sustainable social, economic, and political goals along with making the development inclusive, rational and compatible.

5. When developing performance indicators, all segments of society have been considered to ensure that they enjoy equal rights and opportunities, and therefore gender aspects have been studied—several workshops held with partners from entities interested in women's issues, including the National Council for Women, the United Nations Women's Program, and many other organizations interested in women's issues. For example, indicators have been developed to measure the reduction in maternal mortality rate, the reduction in the percentage of female breadwinners below the poverty line, and the increase in the percentage of women's political and civic participation.

Overpopulation is a threat to the entire world, but it is also a reminder that the world should rethink the use of natural resources and that shifting to green policy is no longer considered a luxury of choice, it is now a must.

Egypt, through its SDS, is not only reshaping its policy into a green one, but is pursuing an overall inclusive reform policy, as well. It gives an example and a proof of how the transformation to green policy can be achieved and not utopian or unrealistic, but consistent and determined, well-planned policies could be true sooner than it seems, but the international system must act now because the climate change will not wait.

Expanding horizontally, greening the desert and investing in people and the infrastructure are the possible strategies for Egypt to move on a sustainable path and reshape society. Moreover, much remains to be done to raise awareness of environmental issues, encourage active participation, and take genuine bold action to transform and modify the practice of societies.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Green politics regulate sustainable development strategy to suit all aspects of life and policies, whether social, economic, political, or environmental. If sustainable development is the goal, then green politics will be the tool. Within this frame of reference, there could be some general and essential prescription for policymakers to consider

– Re-arranging spending priorities, especially in the field of development, which could increase private sector's participation, lead to provision of funds and a comprehensive green transformation in both public and private sectors.

– International collaboration brings knowledge, skills, creativity, and funds together to achieve the common goal of the green transformation. As green politics is hard to implement at the individual level, it needs global cooperation and the involvement of all nations.

– Monitoring and assessment: Egypt's Vision 2030 have proven that following up on policies is no less important than formulating and implementing them. Evaluation is a guarantee of discovering whether or not the policy is achieving its objective, and to ascertain early whether the policy is appropriate for the situation or needs to be modified.

– The Green Parties in Europe: The Greens started as a social movement in several countries in Europe, and they are now reshaping the world politics, they represent politics coming from the society and within its active problems. The four pillars that the Greens are addressing are what is needed for a sustainable future and economic and social development.

- Participatory Transition: Similar to citizen gatherings in Europe, the creation of a channel to connect decision makers with people would open up space for an infinite number of ideas and initiatives, as well as raise awareness of the situation and politics, which would make people more responsible, accountable, and part of the green politics transition.

- Transparency: The transparency of public administration is in the interest of both governments and nations alike, as it builds trust and confidence between people and the decisions makers.

- Research Sponsoring: Investing in data and developing scientific research is a booster for sustainability and enhances efficiency to reach development.

- Consistency: One of the most frequent issues during sustainable policy implementation is that all governments set and agree on the SDGs, but then follow them with inconsistent actions. So, tracking the goals with consistency is essential to successfully achieving the green transition policy.

Sounds smart but without practice, it is an empty loop of ideas. That is why the world needs urgent collaboration to reach the SDGs and work on reshaping world politics into green politics. However, the path to success will not always be straightforward. Innovations and new approaches without careful attention to plans, assessments, and evaluations to make them suitable for each society can exacerbate the situation and deepen inequality and environmental issues.

The world needs to develop effective communication strategies to be able to address any emerging crisis and take collective action. We are all in the same boat, as such it needs the contribution of all, individual action will no longer be enough. At the same time, individual negative actions are sufficient enough to harm all.

Green action is not a cost, and it is not as difficult as people tend to believe. The green transition represents a great opportunity for win-win policies. The UN believed in this equation while formulating the SDGs, that people need politics that highlight win-win solutions, not only at the societal level, but also for communities and individuals. Green politics has become one of the new trends in world politics. Therefore, the future of inclusive green politics needs more attention by researchers in order to provide more diverse and effective visions to decision makers. It is also necessary to highlight the various dimensions of green politics in order to maximize the positive returns from sustainable development policies.

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