

## EGYPTIAN POLICY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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It gives me great pleasure to participate in such an important conference dealing with the idea of bios and its relation to every aspect of our daily life. I think that the goal of our conference, bridging the gap between technology and social values and establishing a new order of bio-education, is an idea of great significance especially in an era so full of threats to humanity.

I am fully convinced that the future of the human race and its pathway is technology, but to be realized in a way without jeopardizing and violating the physio-structure of earth, space and the harmony of its entities.

I have the honor to present herein the Egyptian policy regarding environmental protection and its relation to the question raised by the conference. Hence, the most significant element distinguishing our experience in this regard is the special emphasis given by the Egyptian Government on technology's influence on Egyptian values and its socioeconomic development, along with socially and physically maintaining the local heritage.

While introducing the conquest of environmental protection, the Egyptian government has so far adopted a scientific curriculum, in order to be implemented within our capabilities in all aspects of development. Thus we had sponsored the following measures in all projects and programs of development in Egypt:

1. Establishing an Egyptian environmental strategy linked to our quintuple plan.
2. Preserving and developing all elements of natural resources.
3. Passing special legislation and laws dealing with environmental protection, in particular those concerning reducing rates of pollution in the air and sea.
4. Application of environmental evaluation before starting any project in all fields.
5. Adopting an extensive program so as to create environmental illumination and understanding through all means of information, education, and culture in order to form a public awareness to the concept of environmental protection.
6. The permanent linkage between the process of development and environmental protection with special emphasis on the projects of re-utilizing and recycling industrial and chemical wastes.

During the last few years, the international community has concerned itself with the idea of environmental protection and has recognized the threat of pollution and its effect not only on the earth and space environment, but on the health of humankind as well. In the field of environmental protection, individuals and nations should therefore come to an understanding regarding the magnitude the problem and adopt a new behavior for preserving the natural resources and environment.

In spite of the numerous laws and legislations passed and put into force by each country, the target will not be reached unless cooperation among all nations is achieved to divert each country's policy and the behavior of individuals in order to act in a way that preserves the environment. However, the development within the industrial and technological field has created a vast problem, briefed in industrial wastes and its drastic repercussion on public health. Development in nuclear technology has given rise to a severe threat due to its trans-boundaries effect, either through nuclear reactor accidents such as Three Mile Island and Chernobyl or through problems created by the dumping of radioactive wastes. Because of the significance of the problem of pollution, numerous conferences have been convened in this regard, among which the United Nations Conference on Human Environment which took place in Stockholm in June 1972, where all participant countries emphasized the importance of environmental protection and the need for international cooperation to preserve earth and humanity from this threat, especially in the domain of the transboundaries effect of pollution and the maintenance of maritime avenues.

It is obvious that humanity is facing a real threat, and each state should therefore act individually and collectively through international organizations in order to preserve the natural resources and the environment which have been granted us. I am fully convinced that Biopolitics could reach its targets through establishing a worldwide political platform that may realize the ideas and targets of this new science.

Ambassador **Ahmed El-Zant** received his B.A. and M.A. from Cairo University and took a Diploma in International Relations from the Institute of Social Studies of the Hague. He participated in many rounds of negotiations between Egypt and the Soviet Union from 1968 to 1976, served as member of the peace committee between Egypt and Israel, on the Egyptian delegation in United Nations sessions and to the Organisation of African Unity and a member of the American Academy of Political Sciences. He has served as DCM in Sudan, Italy , Lebanon, the Soviet Union and the United States, and as Ambassador in Ethiopia and Greece.