



# Guidance Strategy:

## Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags (SUPB) Consumption in Egypt (2021-2030)

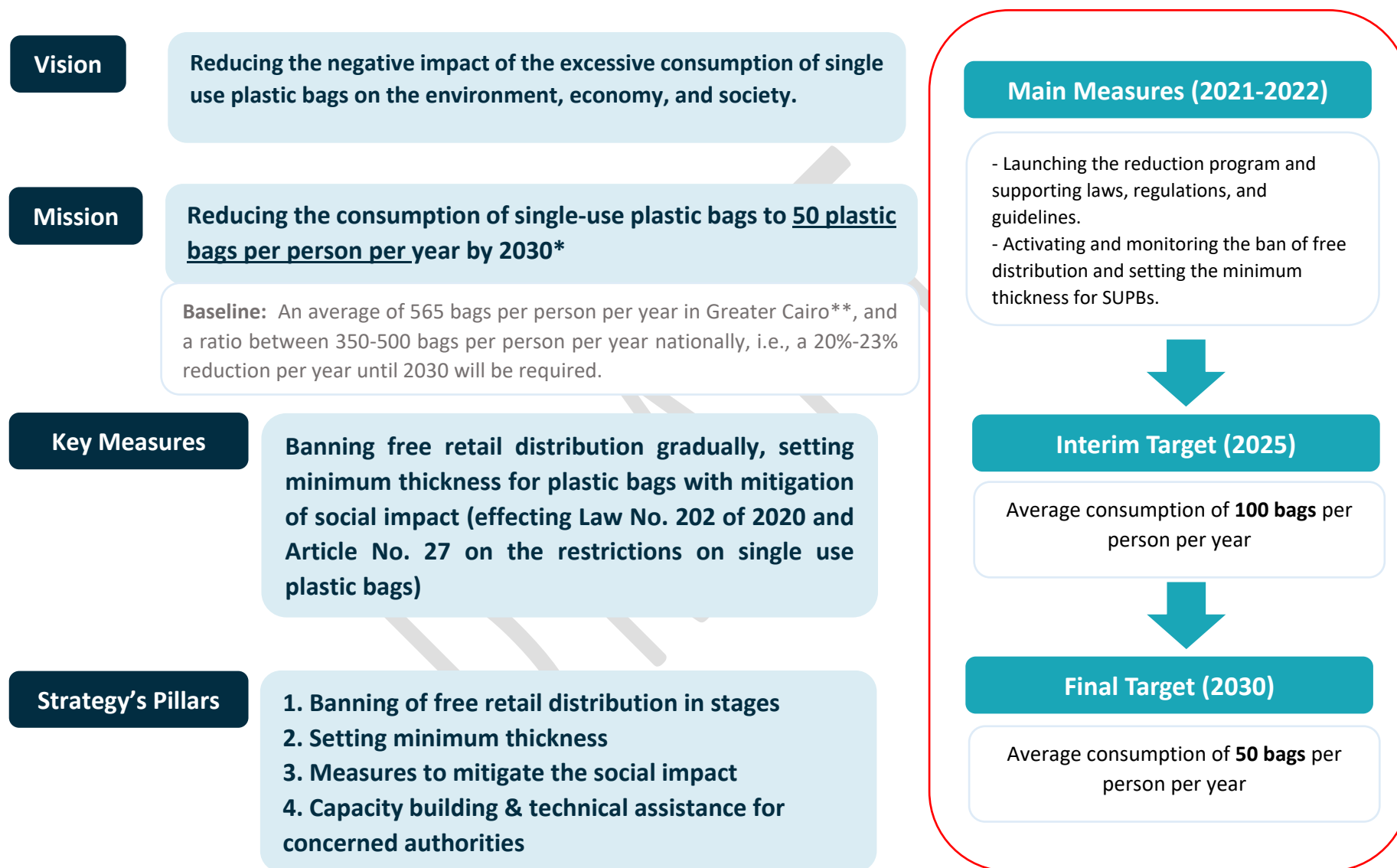
July 2020



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\*(a) For comparison purposes, the 2015 EU directive target was 90 bags per capita per year by the end of 2019 followed by the target of 40 bags per capita per year by the end of 2025 (EU Directive 2015/720), followed by targets for other single-use plastics products in the subsequent Directive No. 904/2019 while other countries have sought to ban the product itself such as Kenya, Rwanda, and Mexico. (b) The definition used for the target SUPBs herein are referring to the plastic carrier shopping bags, while further definition and specification shall be carried out by the concerned national committee and the executive regulations.

\*\* Data from CEDARE/JICA/ Ministry of Environment study survey, 2021.

## Introduction

Following the issuance of the Waste Management Law No. 202 of 2020, the National Committee for Reducing Single Use Plastic Bags, led by the Egyptian Ministry of Environment (MoE), is undertaking the preparation of a national strategy to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. This is in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implementation by the Center for Environment and Development Center for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). It is a follow up to the series of measures and awareness programs that took place over the past years. These preceding activities led to the milestones of banning single-use plastic bags in certain coastal cities and the steps that followed to prepare a more sustainable legal framework represented in the law and Article 27 thereof regarding the restrictions for the manufacturing, sale, or circulation of single-use plastic bags.



Image credit: Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA)

**Overview of the global status:** The world annually produces nearly 300 million tons of plastic waste, which is equivalent to the weight of the entire world's population. The life cycle of single-use plastic products usually ends up in

waterways and rivers, which in turn carry them to seas and oceans. For example, studies have shown, according to the references of the United Nations Environment Program, that 10 of the world's largest rivers cause 90% of the plastic garbage that reaches the seas. Among those

great rivers that face this common challenge are the Mekong River in China, the Niger River, and the Indus River in Pakistan, as well as the Nile River and other great rivers, which constitutes an important motivation for the efforts made in those countries.

### The economic damages of pollution of water bodies with garbage in the countries of the world that limit the costs of damage:

In addition to the environmental and social damages of the spread of plastic materials, the economic damages are among the most important factors that are considered when planning policies to reduce the use of single use plastics<sup>1,2</sup>. This is due to its direct impact on the expenditures and revenues of countries, which greatly affects the determination of the directions of those policies.

**Among the most prominent economic damages from international studies are the following:**

1. Increasing the costs of cleaning marine litter (cleaning beaches, waterways, and coastal cities). The cost of cleaning coastal cities in **Belgium and the Netherlands in 2010** was estimated at **approximately €10.4 million per year**. The rate varies by city and is between **€600-€97300** per kilometer per year<sup>1</sup>.
2. Decreased rates of providing marine services (such as: maritime transport, food supply, and tourism). In one study, the resulting losses were estimated in 2011 as a decrease from **1% to 5%** in the proportion of marine services worldwide, which is equivalent to **\$500-2500 billion dollars** annually<sup>2</sup>.
3. Ships face navigational hazards that require periodic rescue services and thorough port cleanliness, thus significantly increasing costs. In the UK in 2010, these costs were estimated at **€2.4 million per year**, which could reach **€73,000 per port per year**<sup>1</sup>.
4. The occurrence of entanglement in fishing equipment, changes in biodiversity and disruptions in fish farms, which affect fisheries and constitute a food threat and disrupt commercial traffic. The average cost of exposure to marine litter per Scottish fishing vessel in 2010 ranged from **€17,000 to €19,000 per year**<sup>1</sup>.
5. Other negative effects on agriculture, natural areas, birds, and animals. All this leads to an increase in health problems and a decrease in the standard of living, which indirectly affects expenditures and revenues.

Based on the available research, it is not yet possible to accurately quantify the economic damages of pollution of water bodies from single-use plastics because it is associated with several causes and is highly dependent on the context of each city. The examples given are some of the indicators based on case studies in specific cities<sup>1,2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Newman, S., Watkins, E., Farmer, A., Ten Brink, P., & Schweitzer, J. P. (2015). The economics of marine litter. In Marine anthropogenic litter (pp. 367-394). Spr, Cham.

<sup>2</sup> Beaumont, N. J., Aanesen, M., Austen, M. C., Börger, T., Clark, J. R., Cole, M., ... & Wyles, K. J. (2019). Global ecological, social, and economic impacts of marine plastic. Marine pollution bulletin, 142, 189-195.



## Background

Due to the continuous increase in plastic bags in recent time, the nation is striving to face this challenge to protect the environment and public health and the economy. Egypt consumed 12 billion plastic bags in 2015 and consumption continued increasing to reach 14 billion in 2019. This poses substantial risks to the environment, health, and economy as follows:

- Pollution of waterways and drainage systems and impact on agriculture,
- Impact on the marine environment and tourism and associated socio-economic impacts as a result.

- Contribution to 'transboundary' pollution across the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, and the associated impact on Egypt's responsibilities towards relevant international environmental treaties.
- Increased import-dependence due to partial import of Polyethylene, the main material for common carrier bags.

Studies have asserted the importance of following the international trend in responding to such threats; most countries have started imposing various laws and regulation to reduce consumption of

SUPBs as part of the larger Circular Economy agenda.

### Will plastic bags be “banned” now or in the future in Egypt?

No...

A minimum thickness will be determined, and the practice of free distribution will be prohibited (gradually) to curb the increase in uncontrolled consumption and the resulting environmental impacts.



Image: seekone.com

The global status can be summarized as follows<sup>3</sup>:

- More than 127 countries have introduced some form of laws and regulations to reduce single-use plastic bags.
- More than 83 countries forced the ban of free retail distribution for the consumer, accompanied with provisions for exemptions as well as different incentives and support programs tailored to each country's needs, while other key measures include setting thickness limits to ensure a higher likelihood of re-use and easier collectability for recycling.
- Many of these countries are notably of low and middle-income statuses, such as Rwanda, Kenya, Bangladesh,

and others, that confirmed the possibility of activating these measures (and even more stringent ones) successfully.

In this respect, and in parallel with ongoing efforts to improve solid waste management, Egypt is striving to rationalize consumption from the source, including awareness activity over the past years, as well as evaluation of the experience in the Red Sea and South Sinai governorates after the respective governor decrees that were issued there. The most prominent experience is the decree of the governor of the Red Sea governorate, issued in March and enforced in June 2019, limiting the use of SUPBs (as well as other single-use plastic items), which was later

followed by a similar decree in South Sinai.

**The experience provided the following insights and evaluation results:**

- The Red Sea governor decree has indeed impacted the reduction of SUPB consumption and stimulated awareness activities; however, this was without long-term sustainability since the tool of a *governor decree* is legally weak in that it can only enforce administrative penalties (such as shutting down an activity/shop, etc.), and no other criminal/financial penalties.
- To enable enforcing fines, the Law of Cleanliness was invoked, thereby imposing

<sup>3</sup>UN Environment (2018). Legal limits on plastics and microplastics: A global review of national laws and regulations.

finer that can reach up to 10,000 EGP.

- Throughout the experience of enforcement, 63 cases were implicated as violators, however, only 13 establishments paid the fines due

to the lack of a solid legal framework (weak legality of the process). This highlighted the importance of a strong and clear legal framework to ensure effective and long-term enforcement of necessary measures for SUPB

restriction. This is despite the positive impact that was indeed still observed anyway due to the efforts done. The positive impact can be seen as illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: SUPBs collected by HEPKA NGO before and after the governor decree for restricting SUPBs.



## Measures taken to date (2000 – 2020)

2000-2016

- The beginnings of addressing marine pollution through the **governor decrees** of the Red Sea (in 2000 for boats and 2008 for shops, restaurants, and other stores) as well as South Sinai (in 2008), which highlights the general interest and trend despite the weak implementation at that time.
- Continuous participation in **awareness** from civil society, the Chamber of Diving Tourism, marine activities and many other concerned parties and the continuous support and endorsement by the Ministry of Environment.

2016-2018

- Preparing a **national action plan for sustainable consumption and production** by CEDARE in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Environment Program, and it includes the first proposal for a program to reduce the consumption of plastic bags within 32 proposed programs.
- Preparing supporting studies and a preliminary policy paper to reduce the consumption of plastic bags and promote alternatives.
- Launching the "**National Initiative to Reduce the Consumption of Plastic Bags**" in cooperation with major supermarket chains.
- Announcing the issue of "Plastic" as the theme of World Environment Day 2018, and the world is witnessing changes in the relevant policies in many countries and an unprecedented movement of governments and civil society.
- Highlighting the plastic issue and Egypt's approach in the activities of the Fourteenth Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh – COP14, November 2018

2019-2020

- March 2019: The decree of the Red Sea Governor to limit single-use plastic products (based on a proposal from the HEPCA Association) and to determine the minimum thickness of 25 microns for the bag starting June 2019. **Partial success** has been noted, but the weakness of this legal tool and the integration of legislation supporting its sustainability remains challenging.
- November 2019: **The decree of the Governor of South Sinai** (to start in March 2020) and setting a minimum thickness of 50 microns.
- **Waste Management Law 202/2020: Introduction of an article addressing SUPBs** (based on recommendations for scenarios for the necessary legal and legislative channels at the state level through the study of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and CEDARE and the policy brief that was produced).
- The issuance of a ministerial decision **to form a national committee to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags** headed by H.E. Minister of Environment and relevant ministries (Finance - Tourism - Local Development - Trade and Industry - Supply and Internal Trade - Investment and International Cooperation) to coordinate and **initiate the preparation of the necessary strategies and plans**, and other ongoing achievements by the MoE and its partnerships (*Live Green* campaign, etc).

## Strategy's Pillars

The strategy consists of the following 4 pillars:

- 1 Banning of free distribution in stages
- 2 Setting minimum thickness
- 3 Measures to mitigate the social impact
- 4 Capacity building for relevant stakeholders

The stages are defined in detail in the detailed work plans with the aim of gradually activating and according to more community consultation, related studies, and the supportive legal framework, in addition to in-depth studies of the experiences of similar countries.

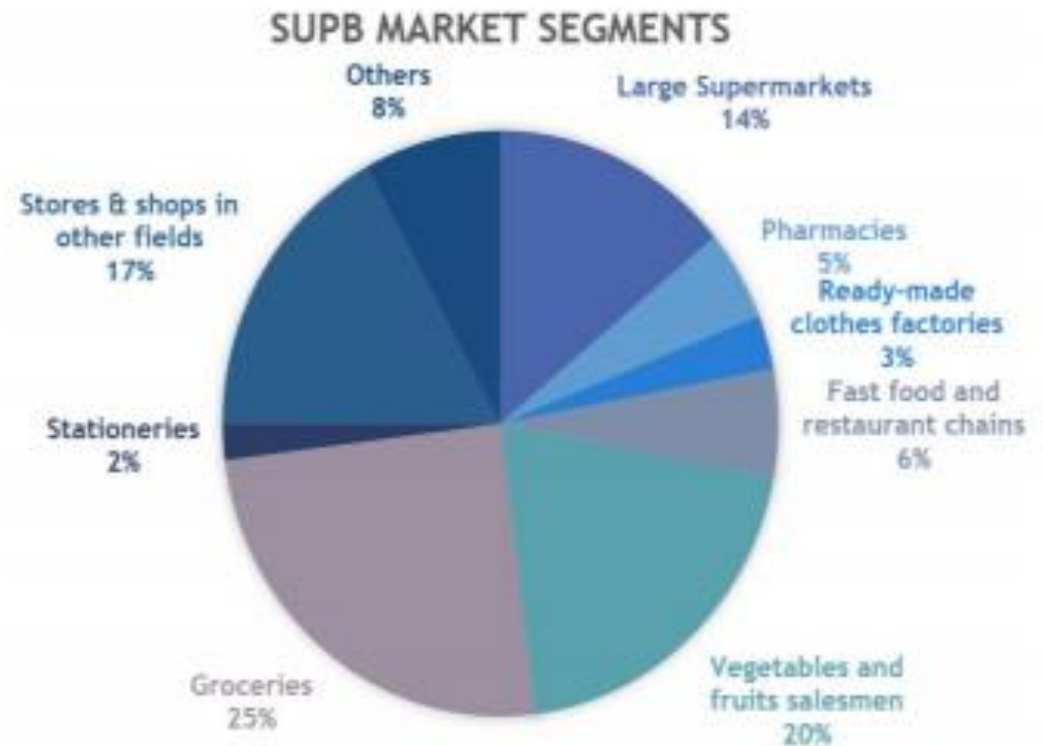
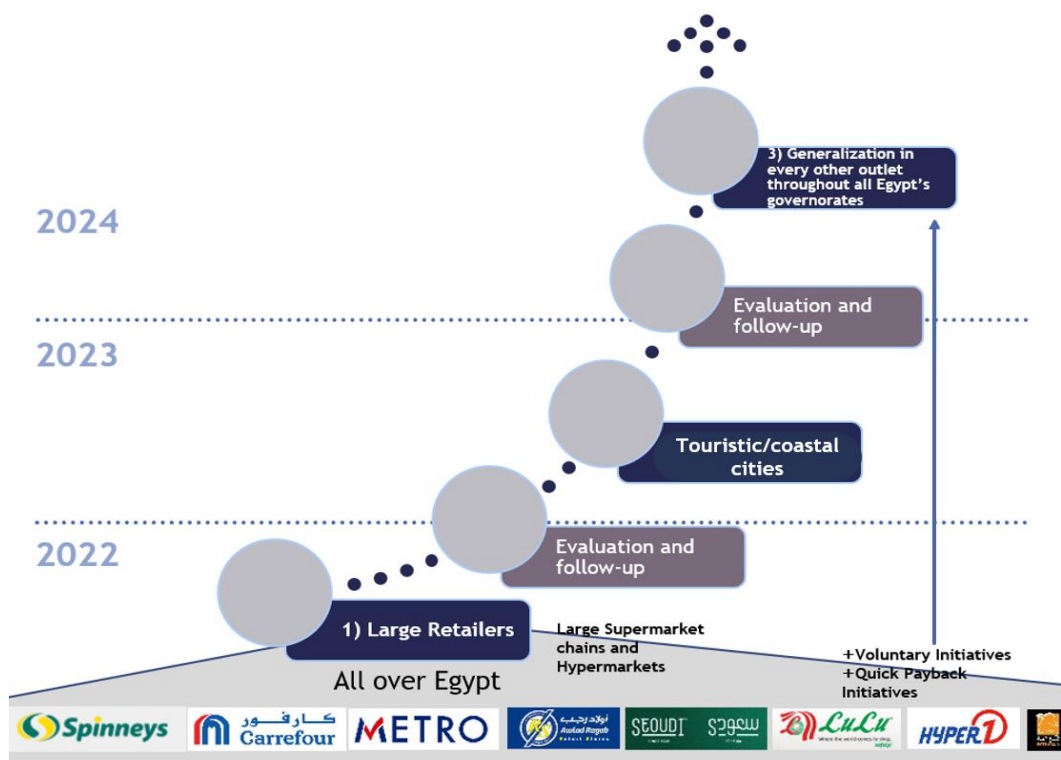


Figure: Uses of plastic bags according to the different sectors.  
Estimated figure according to IDA, CAPMAS, field visits and questionnaires, 2016.

## 1. Banning of free distribution in stages



**Figure 3: Clarification of the plan of the prohibition of free distribution in stages all over Egypt**

The implementation phases will be designed in the action plan to start with the most prepared retailers (major supermarket chains and hypermarkets) and additionally the governorates with the priority and urgent possibility for implementation. The scope of such activation will then be expanded to reach generalization throughout the country and the different sizes and types of related commercial activities. The illustration in Figure 3 illustrates the preliminary concept.

**Doesn't the reduction of the free distribution of the bags constitute an additional burden that the consumer/citizen cannot bear?**

Yes, at the first glance but, 1. There will be greater negative impacts in the case of not taking actions to decrease consumption. The global experiences have shown that the burden on the citizens in the worst scenario (failure to stop the exponential increase in pollution) is represented in the loss of income, productivity and jobs in agriculture and tourism and will also impact the citizens' health. Such a scenario will be of a greater burden than the simple one of a change in plastic bags pricing or a needed change in behavior. Nevertheless, the country is striving to distribute shopping bags with an appropriate design to facilitate the transition period for the consumer to gradually adapt and seeks to ensure that the plans are implemented gradually and provides the necessary facilities.

2. Upgrading the bags (quality and thickness) will allow them to be multi-use and this is for the benefit of the consumer and the retailer.

**Table 1 Different bag thicknesses options - one of the many process models to counteract single-use thin plastic bags**

15 microns	25-20 microns	30 microns	40-35 microns	50 microns	60 microns
Uzbekistan	Bangladesh	Albania	Tunisia	France	Cameron
Republic of Moldova*	Botswana	Cambodia	(40m)	India	Yemen
*Exempted from ban.	China	Ethiopia	Vanuatu	Italy	Malawi
	Mongolia	Mozambique	(35m)	Madagascar	
	South Africa	Nepal		Pakistan	
	Sri Lanka	Senegal		Romania	
	(20m)	Uganda		Monaco	
		Zimbabwe		Poland	
		Vietnam		UK	
		United Republic of Tanzania		Andorra	
				Portugal	
				Cyprus	

Source: UNEP, 2018, edited

## 2. Setting Minimum Thickness

Determining the minimum thickness shall be within the standards and specifications that are prepared by the Egyptian Organization for Standardization during the year 2021, and this is included in the schedule of work plans, noting that international trends varied as shown in Table 1.

### Why do many countries care to set “minimum thickness”?

1. Decrease the probability of bags being blown by the wind
2. Facilitate the collection and increase its value.
3. Facilitate recycling and move towards a “Circular Economy”
4. Improve its multiple use function.

### 3. Measures to mitigate the social impact

The expected social impact and proposed mitigation measures are as follows:

#### Possible Impact on Citizen:

Feeling an additional cost burden for the low-income citizen

#### Mitigation Measures:

- 1- Giving multi-use bags through the Ministry of Supply - with awareness messages - to give a positive light to the reduction program before activating the ban on free distribution.
- 2- Ensuring the gradual activation of the procedures (in stages) and the intensification of awareness campaigns and marketing the necessary instructions to help adapt in the transitional phase.
- 3- Applying the proposal of marketing reduction measures in poor villages in differently in a positive light, and this is through the possibility of synchronizing with the village development program - a decent life - and what it includes of cleaning canals (and thus the message is in the form of granting "rights" of cleansing and cleaning to citizens. After that, asking for "duties" to preserve this by adhering to environmental preservation measures, such as accepting measures to reduce the

consumption of bags. Thus, this measure is a partial contribution to reducing the sense of the burden of additional cost and aiding acceptance.

#### Possible Impact of the manufacturer:

Concern of small manufacturers and recyclers about the impact of these measures, as well as businesses that have stockpiled non-conforming bags.

#### Mitigation Measures:

- 1- Intensifying awareness campaigns directed at the manufacturers to clarify the nature of the ban and correct misconceptions. It is not a "product" ban, but rather a "practice" ban, which is the practice of free distribution. Thus, and with the establishment of a minimum level of thickness, the state's direction is to add value to this product and industry and to develop workers in the value chain.
- 2- Providing a sufficient grace period for all parties to complete the stockpile and reconcile the situation.

**What are the more stringent and comprehensive measures in other countries that have been excluded from Egypt's current strategy?**

- Some countries (such as Kenya, Rwanda, Gambia,..) ban polyethylene plastic bags regardless of the thickness. For example, in Kenya, the punishment taken can be imprisonment. In addition, the tourists and visitors are asked to get rid of the plastic bags upon arrival at the airport.
- 51 countries set goals for the recycling percentage (such as Brazil, Spain, India,...)
- 27 countries imposed additional taxes in various forms on the plastics' manufacturers.
- 27 countries have imposed laws and procedures to prohibit other plastic products (such as cups, plates, etc.) or certain materials (such as Polystyrene) or set limits on production percentages.
- Several countries have also started banning the "microbeads" used in many products (such as Canada, France, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

#### 4. Capacity building for concerned authorities

The capacity-building pillar represents the most important part of the strategy due to the future challenges' requirements, as the scope of reduction of consumption will expand to include other products in the future, and this requires continuous development for the cadres and capabilities... The necessary programs are summarized as follows:

- Development of standards and specifications.
- Supporting the regulatory authorities (Laboratory development, Training, Exchange of experience, etc...)
- Developing reduction programs to expand their scope (Other products, Materials, or new innovations, etc.

5 strategic components illustrated in the following table, and the details of its programs, timetable and performance indicators are explained in the detailed action plan.

**Hence, table 3 shows the main components needed to prepare the business plan and it includes the following components.**

**Aren't these measures weak and not enough? Why don't we address the remaining issues of other single-use plastic "items" like many other countries?**

This is indeed among the demands of the authorities concerned with the environment, health, NGOs and youth, but after further consultation with all concerned authorities, it becomes clear that the current socio-economic circumstances may not allow for strict measures such as what happened in countries such as Kenya and Rwanda or the directions of the European Union, many countries in Asia and others.

Accordingly, the current (proposed) stage in Egypt is limited to the necessary and obvious measures as a first step at least.



Image: undp.org



## Activities suggested for the program of SUPB reduction (2021-2030)

**Table 3: Table shows the main axes needed to prepare the business plan.**

Component	Activities and Policies	Responsible actors	Contributing actors
<b>1) Laws and Regulations</b>	<p>- The steps required according to the Waste Management Law to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags (commonly known as "light bags") (2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of standards and specifications for plastic bags considering international trends and references (As a first step, the minimum permissible thickness of the target bags is determined. Moreover, the plastic bags and <u>the exempt uses</u> are determined and also the prohibited materials) (Relevant instructions are attached)</li> <li>• Preparation (and explanation through awareness) the section of the manufacture and circulation of plastic bags in the <u>Executive Regulations</u> of the Waste Management Law.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Trade &amp; Industry Ministry of Environment Ministry of Tourism Cabinet of Ministers Parliament</p>	<p>Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Local Development Ministry of Interior Ministry of Finance</p>
<b>2) Awareness and Capacity Building</b>	<p>- Establishing/using a guiding website (Web Portal) to outreach to companies, citizens, and the relevant stakeholders, and providing information on the SUPB reduction program.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Ministry of Information Ministry of Tourism</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of <b>handbook</b>, training programs and experience-exchange activity for specifications and designs of multi-use bags.</li> <li>- Preparation of a practical guide for citizens to adapt to lifestyle changes as part of integrated awareness campaigns.</li> <li>- Preparation and implementation of capacity building and awareness program for shops, restaurants, and other target establishments among both the public sector and the private sector.</li> <li>- Integrating the subject of SUPB reduction and behavioral/lifestyle change into <b>existing curricula</b> and awareness programs in schools and universities and NGO activity. (Inclusion in existing programs)</li> </ul>		Ministry of Trade and Industry Ministry of Local Development Ministry of Interior Ministry of Education Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Supply and Internal Trading
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3) Technical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Training labs and supervisory authorities in implementing necessary investigations and testing for relevant products to ensure compliance with standards.</li> <li>- Preparation of capacity building program for MSMEs operating in recycling activity.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Industry Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Communications Ministry of International Cooperation Ministry of Local Development Ministry of Interior
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			Ministry of Education Ministry of Youth and Sports
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<b>4) Supporting the private sector and entrepreneurship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development/upgrading of MSME manufacturers operating in plastic bags production of different materials and designs (e.g. HDPE, LDPE, Non-woven PP, Woven PP, Non-woven PP, etc) and in recycling (including scaling-up of successful entrepreneurial activity)</li> <li>- Program for <u>formalizing the informal sector</u> and upgrading to comply with laws and regulations.</li> <li>- Coordination with international bodies supporting technological development and environmental compatibility to support MSMEs operating in manufacturing and recycling through schemes that may provide partial grants and soft loans for projects to advance recycling technologies and high-quality multi-use bags and improve local manufacturing.</li> <li>- Supporting the scientific research in cooperation with the private sector.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Industry	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Social Solidarity Ministry of Investment Ministry of International Cooperation Ministry of Finance Ministry of Supply and Internal Trading
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			Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
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<b>5) Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a system for monitoring, follow-up, performance evaluation.</li> <li>- Preparing performance indicators and including their results in the annual status report of the Environmental Affairs Agency with the activities related to “marine litter” within the framework of relevant international agreements and obligations.</li> <li>- Preparation of a feedback and complaint system through the program’s web portal.</li> <li>- Preparing a road map for the next steps to integrate the components of the “Circular Economy”, including other priority single-use plastic products and this is according to the monitoring and follow-up with the authorities concerned with hygiene and beauty.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Local Development Ministry of Interior Ministry of Planning Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Supply and Internal Trading
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## Indicative Action Plan

The indicative action plan is illustrated in the detailed table below, includes the following dimensions: Objectives, planned actions, suggested indicators, time frame, responsible and supporting actors. The proposed plan was prepared based on consultation with the concerned authorities, a review of international experiences, studies of the current situation and compliance with the state's directions (such as the formalization of the informal sector and the pursuit of financial inclusion) and developments in the legislative environment. Thus, the premise of the plan includes the following:

- Sustainable Development Strategy - Egypt Vision 2030.
- Recommendations of the National Committee for the reduction of single-use plastic bags.
- Law regulating waste management 202/2020.
- International environmental obligations.
- Results of local studies, reports, guidelines, and international experiences.

### 1 Law and Regulations (Main Component)

**Specific objective:** This content is intended to provide the legal framework to enable the phased ban of the free distribution of single-use plastic bags, to establish minimum thickness standards, as well as to arrange the necessary extension activities to be carried out during the period from 2021-2030 onwards.

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsible Actors
<b>Presenting a legal article to enable the reduction of the consumption of single-use plastic bags in the Egyptian law.</b>	Scenario analysis, stakeholder consultation and inclusion of the article in Law 202/2020	The law was published with an article targeting single-use plastic bags.	<b>Successfully completed</b> in October 2020	Ministries of Environment, Trade and Industry, Local Development and Housing and Cabinet of Ministers.

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsible Actors
<b>Preparing the article banning single-use plastic bags in the executive regulations and issuing the regulations.</b>	Drafting the executive regulations, reviewing them in a national stakeholder committee and approving them by the Cabinet of Ministers.	The executive regulations will be issued.	<b>10/2020 - 08/2021</b>	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating Parties: Ministries of Trade and Industry, Local Development, Housing, and Finance</li> </ul>
<b>Develop and implement single-use plastic bag standards to set specifications including minimum thickness.</b>	-The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) and the relevant national committee are developing standards for all types of plastic shopping bags. -The Ministry of Trade and Industry issues a decision banning the manufacture and import of single-use plastic bags that do not conform to specifications.	- Issuance of standard specifications for plastic shopping bags.  - Decision Issuance	<b>01/07/2021 - 30/12/2021</b> (6 months)  <b>01/01/2022 - 30/01/2022</b>	<b>Ministry of Trade and Industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating Parties: Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>



**Gradual activation (in stages) of the implementation of the ban of free distribution of plastic bags to reduce consumption.**

Phase one: Rapid gain for highly prepared stakeholders:

- Issuing a decision for major retail chains (hypermarkets and supermarket chains) with a grace period of 6 months.

- Issuing governors' decisions for coastal/touristic cities that are highly prepared (South Sinai and Red Sea governorates) within a period of 6 months.

- Issuance of a decision by the Ministry of Tourism to target its areas of jurisdiction with a grace period of 6 months.

- Issuance of the Ministry of Supply's decision to target retail distribution outlets with a deadline of 6 months.

Preparing and publishing the instruction manual and distributing it to 100% of the targeted retail chain stores.

- Early (rapid-gain) ministerial and provincial decisions regarding free distribution:

1. The revision of past decrees of the Governorates of the Red Sea and South Sinai.
3. The issuance of the decree of the Ministry of Tourism
4. The issuance of the decree of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade

- Conducting an evaluation to learn what has been implemented (6 months after implementation).

Phase one: Rapid gain for highly prepared stakeholders:

**01/08/2021 - 30/01/2022**  
(Starts after the executive regulations and extends for two months after the issuance of the specifications)

**01/08/2021 - 30/05/ 2022**  
(Development of decisions and a grace period of 6 months that begins after the executive regulations and extends to a maximum of two months after the publication of the guidelines, but decisions can be issued earlier in any case within 08/2022, which means the end of the earliest grace period and these early decisions will be in January 2023, i.e., for decisions issued immediately after the executive regulations and before the guideline)

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**

- Participating Parties:  
Ministry of Environment/  
Ministry of Local Development/  
Ministry of Housing/  
Ministry of Tourism/  
Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade/  
Ministry of Finance

	<p>-Issuance of a decision by the Ministry of Local Development for hypermarket chains and retailers with a period of 6 months.</p> <p><u>Phase 2: implementation at the national level.</u></p> <p>- Circular to all parts of the Republic and all sizes of activities.</p>	<p>- Mid-term and final evaluation of the reduction program until 2030:</p> <p>&gt; <i>The number of financial and administrative penalties has been reduced by 50% for both mid-term and final evaluations.</i></p> <p>&gt; <i>Reaching the target percentage of single-use plastic bags per capita (based on a free third-party evaluation).</i></p>	<p><u>Phase 2:</u> <b>01/06/2022 - 01/01/2023</b> (The full implementation of the executive regulations within 6 months after the issuance of the guidelines)</p> <p><b>01/01/2023 - 30/12/2030</b></p>	
<p><b>Ensuring a sustainable institutional entity to monitor, follow up and develop the plastic bag consumption reduction program and expand its scopes.</b></p>	<p>Creating a unit to track the evolution of marine litter and consumption of single-use plastics and to prepare task and job descriptions and the authorities and funding needed.</p>	<p>- The issued decision for the establishment.</p> <p>- Unit's annual report</p>	<p>Institutional setup and training. <b>01/08/2021 - 30/05/2022</b></p> <p>Start monitoring the provinces <b>- 01/06/2023</b></p> <p>Periodic annual evaluation until <b>December 30, 2030</b> (Program review)</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Participating Parties:</u> Ministry of Trade and Industry/ Ministry of Local Development/ Ministry of Housing/ Ministry of Tourism</li> </ul>

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame (starting with the executive regulations issuance)	Responsible Actors
<p><b>Providing instructions to the public, ensuring transparency in electronic communication, marketing unified messages, and providing information, support, and guidance services to all relevant authorities (citizens - NGOs - the public and private sectors) so that they can adhere to the national strategy to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launching and managing the electronic portal of the Conservation Program: Establishing/using an indicative website (electronic portal) to reach companies, citizens and concerned parties and provide information about the program to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags.</li> <li>- Supportive social media campaign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starting of the operation of the portal (the main language is Arabic, and the secondary language is English).</li> <li>- Number of visitors per month (5 million new visitors over the first 5 years and a total of 5 million new visitors annually thereafter)</li> </ul>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Month - 12<sup>th</sup>Month and continuity until 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Participating Parties:</u> Members of the National Committee for Single-use Plastic Bags in all its institutions.</li> </ul> <p>International Institutions of Development Partners (Annex-2)</p>

<p><b>Providing educational content for civil society, entrepreneurs, and trainers during the transition period.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a handbook of training program content including practical guidance for citizens, and inclusion of the topic of reducing consumption of single-use plastic bags and changing behaviors/ life practices in the current curricula and awareness programs for schools, universities, and civil society organizations (integration into existing programs).</li> <li>- Implementation of experience exchange activities regarding the specifications and design of multi-use bags (and other products) by holding a conference to exchange experiences on single-use plastic products to be carried out periodically every two years, to ensure the participation of the relevant authorities and the exchange of experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 50% of the governorates implement training activities in their universities and schools using the indicative training material or something similar.</li> <li>- Civil society organizations and/or incubators in at least 50% of the governorates apply or participate in national and/or international workshops/visits with the inclusion of topics in incubation cycles.</li> <li>-5 biennial forums/conferences involving multiple relevant bodies until 2030.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> year – 2<sup>nd</sup> year</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> year – 3<sup>rd</sup> year</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> year – 10<sup>th</sup> year</b></p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Participating Parties:</u> Ministry of Information/ Ministry of Tourism/ Ministry of Industry/ /Ministry of Local Development/Ministry of Interior/Ministry of Education/Ministry of Youth and Sports/ Ministry of Supply</li> </ul> <p>International Institutions of Development Partners (Annex-2)</p>
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	Preparing and implementing a capacity building and awareness program for shops, restaurants, and targeted establishments from both the public and private sectors.	Training workshops and exchange of experiences were conducted under the supervision of the regional branch office of the Environmental Affairs Agency, and the booklet was distributed to at least 50% of the targeted facilities.	1 <sup>st</sup> year – 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Participating Parties:</u> Ministry of Information/ Ministry of Tourism</li> </ul>
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### 3

## Technical Support

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame (starting with the executive regulations issuance)	Responsible Actors
<b>Local Capacity building for product conformity inspection and biodegradability testing.</b>	Qualifying laboratories and regulatory authorities to conduct the necessary examination and verification of related products to ensure compliance with standards, the nature of degradability, and examination of toxicity and transferability for household fertilizers or in industrial facilities and other long-term future.	Number of laboratories with capacity to perform product conformity testing and biodegradability testing (at least 2 in the country).	1 <sup>st</sup> year – 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	<b>Ministry of Trade and Industry</b>

Improving the competitiveness and education of recycling facilities and bag producers in the single-use plastic bag value chain.	Preparing a program to build the capacities of micro, small and medium enterprises working in the field of recycling in addition to the producers of shopping bags that conform to standards (it is possible to expand the scope of work to include single-use plastic products in general, to be included in future policies)	Number of small, medium, and micro enterprises in relevant value chains that receive capacity building services and exchange of experiences on the circular economy: 30% of enterprises.	1 <sup>st</sup> year – 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	<b>Ministry of Trade and Industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Participating Parties:</u> Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>
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4

## Supporting the private sector and entrepreneurship

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame (starting with the executive regulations issuance)	Responsible Actors
Improving the performance of industries related to the value chains of single-use plastic bags and alternative bags (such as traditional plastic bags, recycled cloth and recycled paper, and the example of innovative designs)	- A program at the <u>Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Development Agency</u> that aims to develop and rehabilitate the enterprises working in the production of multi-use bags whether they are plastic or not to meet the needs of the market in a more sustainable manner and	The number of specialized establishments that receive support services from the Enterprise Development Authority: doubles during the duration of the program, compared to 2021 as a baseline.	1 <sup>st</sup> year – 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	<b>MSMEDA and Ministry of Trade and Industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Participating Parties:</u> Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>



<p><b>for plastic bags, such as innovation in the manufacturing process or recycling and other means of promotion and innovation) through technical and financial support.</b></p>	<p>and at lower costs - through the beneficiaries of the services of the Enterprise Development Authority. It targets various bag materials and designs (such as high and low density polyethylene, woven and nonwoven polypropylene or paper, recycled textiles, etc.), as well as projects working in recycling (including the expansion of successful projects) in addition to any other innovations whether in the product or in the production or recycling process of plastic, or paper and textile products for the purposes of supporting the objectives of the reduction program (or any new products that biodegrade after preparing the supporting system for it, such as separation at the source and advanced compost systems, depending on the type of material and the target).</p>			
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	<p>- Coordination with relevant development partners that support technological development and environmental compatibility to support projects supporting the reduction program through programs that provide partial grants or soft loans for projects with the aim of developing recycling technologies, producing quality multi-use bags, and improving the local industry.</p>			
<p><b>Promote financial inclusion and formalization of the value chains of single-use plastic bags and alternative bags/bags (cloth, paper, reusable plastic, etc.).</b></p>	<p>A three-pronged program to integrate the informal sector into the formal system and update it to keep pace with laws and regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A specific educational campaign to introduce the current laws and regulations and the available or emerging opportunities and incentives.</li> </ol>	<p>Pilot results: 200 individuals from the informal sector cadres (in the plastics and recycling value chain) accept a job opportunity in the formal sector.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> year – 3<sup>rd</sup> year</b></p>	<p><b>Ministry of Trade and Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Participating Parties:</u> The bodies of the members of the committee formed by the decision of the Minister of Industry No. 252 of 2020.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. A pilot program for “formalization” to build confidence in formalization trends.</p> <p>3. Raising the efficiency of local evaluation and follow-up (through localities and civil society institutions).</p>			
	Supporting scientific research in cooperation with the private sector.	At least one funded project includes in its field of work the reduction of single-use plastic bags and the development of anti-marine litter measures.	1 <sup>st</sup> year – 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Science and Technology Development Fund at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

## 5

## Monitoring and Follow Up

Objectives	Planned Actions	Indicators	Time Frame (starting with the executive regulations issuance)	Responsible Actors
<b>Monitor, follow-up and evaluate the impact and performance of the rationalization program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a system for monitoring, follow-up, and performance evaluation.</li> <li>- Preparing performance indicators and including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining/establishing the unit.</li> <li>- Issuance of an annual report (total: 10) over the course of the program.</li> </ul>	<p>Preparation: <b>1<sup>st</sup> month – 6<sup>th</sup> month</b></p> <p>Execution: <b>1<sup>st</sup> year - 10<sup>th</sup> year</b></p>	<p><b>Waste Management Authority of the Ministry of Environment</b></p> <p>Ministry Trade and Industry/ Ministry of Local</p>

	<p>their results in the annual report of the state of the environment of the Environmental Affairs Agency and coordinating with activities related to marine litter within the framework of relevant international agreements and commitments.</p>	<p>- Issuance of an annual report (total: 10) over the course of the program.</p>		<p>Development/Ministry of Interior/Ministry of Planning/ Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of Supply</p>
<p><b>Opening channels of communication and communicating with all participating/ targeted groups in the rationalization system (citizens, manufacturers, retailers, etc.)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing a system for complaints and suggestions through the indicative website (and linking it to the “Live Green” initiative).</li> <li>- Preparing a roadmap for the next steps to integrate the components of the "circular economy", including other priority single-use plastic products, according to the results of monitoring and follow-up with the authorities concerned with hygiene, beautification, and disinfection of waterways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launching the interactive website.</li> <li>- Issuance of a roadmap/strategy (for the wider range of other single-use plastic products).</li> </ul>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> month – 6<sup>th</sup> month</b></p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> year – 6<sup>th</sup> year</b></p>	<p><b>Waste Management Authority of the Ministry of Environment</b></p> <p>Ministry of Local Development/Ministry of Interior/Ministry of Planning/ Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of Supply</p>

## Schedule of targeted activities

Activities	Timeline									
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<b>1) Laws and Regulations: Banning of free distribution in stages and setting minimum thickness</b>										
- Preparing and issuing the article on the banning of single-use plastic bags in the Regulations.										
- Develop and implement the standards of single-use plastic bags to develop specifications and issue a decision by the Ministry of Industry to prevent the manufacture and import of non-conforming bags.										
- Gradual activation (in stages) to implement the banning of free distribution of plastic bags.										
<i>Phase 1: Decision of ministers and governors and allowing 6 months of grace period for high readiness institutions (Major retailers of hypermarket and supermarket chains – High-readiness coastal touristic cities on South Sinai and the Red Sea – Touristic facilities – Outlets of Ministry of Supply)</i>										
<i>Phase 2: Implementation at a national level (all parts of the Republic and all activities)</i>										
- Ensuring a sustainable institutional entity to monitor, follow up and develop the plastic bag consumption and expansion program and periodic evaluation until the end of program.										
<b>2) Awareness, Capacity building and Communication</b>										
- Guidelines and portal: Provide guidance to the public, ensure transparency in electronic communication, market unified messages, and provide information support and guidance services to all relevant entities.										

Activities	Timeline									
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
- Providing educational content to civil society, entrepreneurs and trainers during the transition period and holding a regular forum/conference every <u>two years</u> .										
<b>3) Technical Support</b>										
- Local capacity building to examine product conformity, test biodegradability and plan the necessary controls.										
- Improving the competitiveness and education of recycling facilities and bag producers in the value chain for single-use plastic bags.										
<b>4) Supporting the private sector and entrepreneurship</b>										
- Improving the performance of industries associated with value chains for single-use plastic bags and alternative bags ( <u>SME and micro-development system program and coordination with development partner projects</u> )										
- Promoting financial inclusion and formalizing value chains for single-use plastic bags and alternative bags (cloth, paper, plastic with versatile designs or otherwise)										
<b>5) Monitoring and Follow Up</b>										
- Monitoring, following up and evaluation the impact of the reduction program (institutional preparation of system for 6 months, implementation until 2030)										
- Monitoring and announcing the results of reducing the annual per capita consumption of bags.										
- Phase 1 (100 bags)										
- Phase 2 (50 bags)										



Activities	Timeline									
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening channels of communication and communication with all participating/targeted groups in the reduction system (citizens, manufacturers, retailers, etc.)</li> <li>- Launch of interactive website (portal)</li> <li>- Issuing a road map/ strategy (for the wider range of single-use plastic products) to prepare for future stages.</li> </ul>										

## Annex 1 – Waste Management Law 2020/2020

### Article related to Single-use Plastic bags in Egypt

#### **Article 27**

- a) The manufacturing, import, and export of single-use plastic bags is to comply with the conditions and technical specifications set through a decree by the Minister of Trade and Industry in agreement with the competent Minister. The decree may include a decision for restricting manufacturing, import or export of the mentioned bags if it includes additives or substances that may substantially impact the environment.
- b) Selling, handling/trading, storing, or free distribution or disposal of SUPBs is not allowed unless in compliance with the conditions and technical specifications provided by the executive regulations of this law.
- c) The minister of finance, after consultation with the competent minister and the Minister of Trade and Industry, is to issue a scheme of financial and economic incentives and tax- and customs exemptions to encourage import and manufacturing of safe and environmentally friendly alternatives for single-use plastic bags, and the executive regulations of this Law shall specify the conditions and standards necessary for these incentives and the specifications for these safe alternatives while taking into account the benefits and conditions provided in existing active laws and decrees. and specifically, those related to investment, customs, industry, and cooperatives, among others.
- d) Establishments, individuals, and manufacturers of these bags are to be given a grace period for compliance to be set by the competent Minister through agreement with the Minister of Trade and Industry.

#### **Article 76**

Violators of provisions point (a) of article (27) of this law shall be subject to a fine that is no less than 1000 Egyptian pounds and not more than 500,000 Egyptian pounds, and in all cases, the court rules to confiscate the illegal products.

## Annex 2 – Related development partner projects and programs to coordinate and integrate efforts and maximize outputs

### 1. World Bank PROBLUE program

#### 1. برنامج البنك الدولي، برو-بلو

##### 1.1. Cleaner Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in Egypt (2020-2022)

1.1. برنامج نظم بيئية بحرية وساحلية أنظف في مصر (2020-2022)

### 2. UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) for Egypt

#### 2. برنامج منظمة اليونيدو للشراكة الدولية في مصر

##### 2.1. Plastic value chain assessment study (UNIDO's study for Africa) (Completed, 2020)

2.1. دراسة تقييم سلسلة القيمة للمواد البلاستيكية (مشروع دراسات اليونيدو في إفريقيا) (تم الانتهاء من الدراسة- 2020)

##### 2.2. Valorization of agricultural wastes for alternative materials & packaging products (since 2019)

2.2. دراسة توظيف المخلفات الزراعية كمواد بديلة في منتجات التعبئة والتغليف (منذ 2019)

##### 2.3. Supporting to promote circular economy practices on plastic value chain in Egypt (Q3 2021-2024)

2.3. دعم تعزيز ممارسات الاقتصاد الدوار على سلسلة القيمة للمواد البلاستيكية في مصر (Q3 2021-2024)

### 3. JICA cooperation

#### 3. مشروعات هيئة اليابان للتعاون الدولي

##### 3.1. JICA/CEDARE study on single-use plastic bags (SUPB) (2020-2021)

3.1. دراسة الجايكا ومركز سيدارى حول الأكياس البلاستيكية أحادية الاستخدام (2020-2021)

### 4. UN Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre projects

#### 4. مشروعات مركز الأنشطة الإقليمية للإنتاج الأنظف (الأمم المتحدة)

##### 4.1. Green & blue business development project: SWITCHMED down the Nile (Q4 2021-2023)

4.1. مشروع تطوير الأعمال (الاقتصاد الأخضر والأزرق): التحول على ضفاف النيل (Q4 2021-2023)

### 5. USAID Trade and investment activities

#### 5. أنشطة الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية: التجارة والاستثمار

#### 5.1. SEED Project, Component C: Integration of MSMEs in Value Chains (2015-2020)

5.1. مشروع "سيد"، المكون ج: تكامل المشروعات المتناهية الصغر والصغيرة والمتوسطة في سلاسل القيمة (2015-2020)

#### 6. GIZ projects

##### 6. مشروعات الوكالة الألمانية للتعاون الدولي

6.1. Improving waste management in Egypt: National Solid Waste Management Program (2019-2022)

6.1. مشروع تحسين إدارة النفايات في مصر: البرنامج الوطني لإدارة النفايات الصلبة (NSWMP) (2019-2022)

#### 7. EU funded projects

##### 7. المشروعات الممولة من الاتحاد الأوروبي

7.1. Water and environment support in the ENI southern neighbourhood region (2021)

7.1. دعم المياه والبيئة في منطقة الجوار الجنوب (ENI) (2021)

#### 8. Other (smaller scale) activities around Egypt

##### 8. أنشطة أخرى (على نطاق أصغر) في جميع أنحاء مصر

8.1. VeryNile "cleaning the Nile, one kilo at a time!" (since 2018)

8.1. مشروع VeryNile "نظف النيل.. كيلو واحد في كل مرة!" (منذ 2018)

8.2. Ongoing campaigns by Chamber for Diving and Water Sports (CDWS), Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA), Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Banlastic, and other NGOs, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, among others.

8.2. حملات مستمرة من قبل غرفة الغوص والرياضات المائية (CDWS)، وجمعية حماية البيئة (HEPCA) بالغردقة، مؤسسة فريدريش إيبرت الألمانية، بانلاستيك، ومنظمات غير حكومية أخرى، بدعم من وزارة البيئة وجهات أخرى.

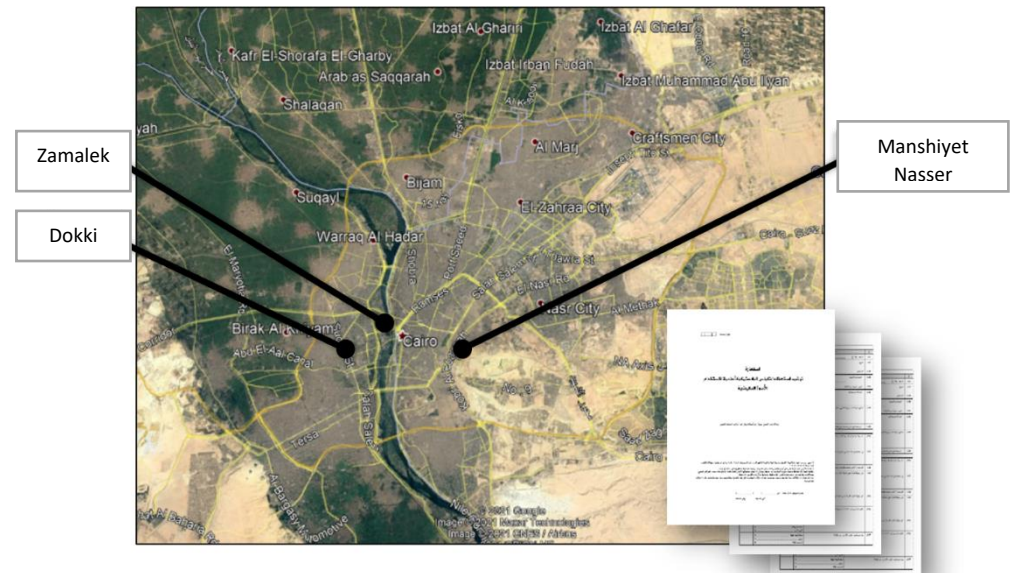
## Annex 3 (A) Summary of the results of the field survey in Greater Cairo during the months of April and May of 2021 - under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment

The team working on preparing the studies supporting the strategy conducted a field survey aimed at understanding the nature of the consumption of plastic bags by citizens of different categories (in continuation of other preliminary studies that were carried out previously in Alexandria, the Red Sea and South Sinai in 2020 that depended on community consultation at the time).

The questionnaires in Greater Cairo included coverage of **3960 individuals from 940 families visited**, and the areas were chosen to represent samples from different societal groups: Manshiyet Nasser - Dokki - Zamalek. The field study showed the nature of consumption, awareness, and opinions towards reduction measures, which still need intensification, as well as the high consumption, **specifically 565 bags per person per year**. Although the samples are limited to the areas of Greater Cairo, it is also possible to be guided by the difference in the percentage of waste production per capita between rural and urban areas, thus reaching an approximate figure for per capita consumption at the level of the Republic ranging between 350-500 bags per capita per year as indicative numbers for future expanded surveys.

The field survey areas include coverage of 3,960 individuals from 940 families to survey behaviors, opinions, and consumption rates.

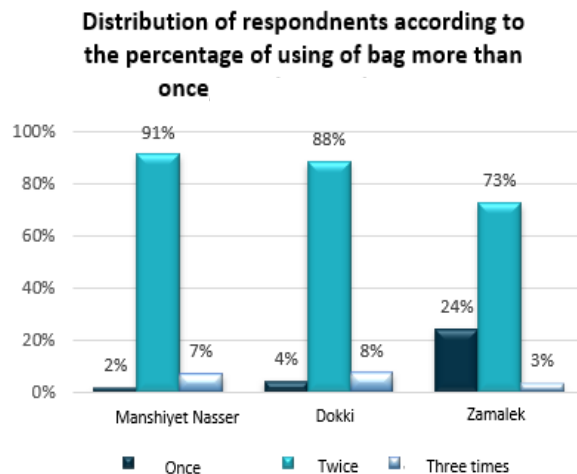
The study included 27 questions aimed at understanding the general situation in the selected areas - as a sample - to inquire about the following dimensions:



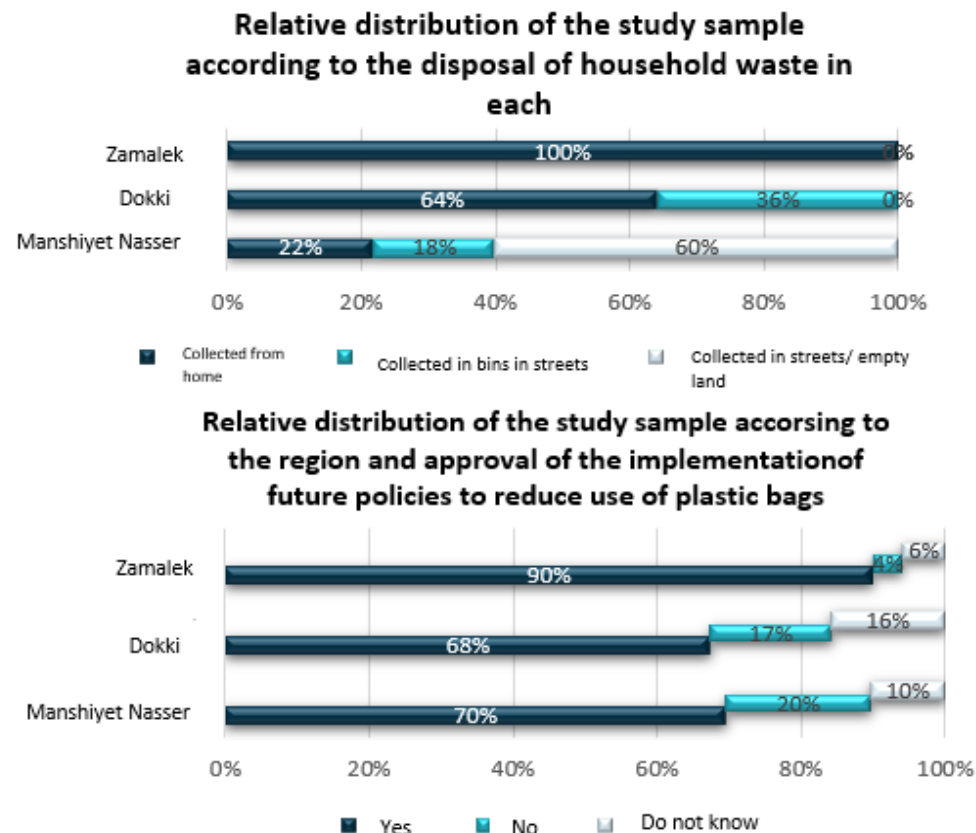
Map showing the areas of the field study

- Demographic and social data
- Frequency patterns at outlets selling various consumer products such as supermarkets and bakeries
- The way of disposal of waste.
- Frequency of using plastic bags and reuse purposes.
- Knowledge about relevant campaigns.
- Opinions on consumption, rationalization, environmental and health impact.
- The extent of acceptance of rationalization and support procedures.

The questions included inquiring about the approval of implementing future policies to reduce the use of plastic bags. In the Zamalek area, a very high approval rate of 90% (which coincides with the highest levels of education) while in Dokki and Manshiyet Nasser 68% and 70% respectively, which are also high rates and reflect the citizens' desire to supporting the government in implementing reduction policies. The results of other questions indicated that the majority believes that the measures will be effective by responding *"It will make a difference, and I support it"* with rates ranging between 59% in Manshiyet Nasser and 73% in both Zamalek and Dokki, as well as high rates



Some of the study questions also indicated the importance of focusing awareness campaigns on informal areas, which are characterized by a high percentage of unsafe disposal of waste in the street or landfills, to highlight the importance of these areas as a priority in awareness campaigns. Below are some graphs of some of the results illustrating the observations mentioned in this summary of the expanded field survey report.



## Annex 3(B) Summary of the results of survey on free retail distribution at large retailers (supermarkets)

A survey on free retail distribution included nine large retail establishments within a pilot sample who participated voluntarily, representing a total of **726 branches** distributed throughout the country and a total of **200 million single-use plastic bags** that were distributed free of charge during the year 2020. The retailers' questionnaire contained **questions covering data and the nature of the bags distributed free of charge, such as:**

- *The number of bags distributed each year, during the past four years.*

- *Weight and size of bags.*

- *Type, material of manufacture, and percentage of filler for bags.*

- *The thickness of the distributed bags of each type or size.*

- *Availability of printed bags.*

- *Measures taken to reduce the use of plastic bags, because of retailers' interest in environmental and social responsibility.*

Note: Due to the difficulty of availability and compatibility of information in some institutions, only the available data were reviewed and analyzed, and data that was not available was

excluded to the extent that the results were valid. The following table shows some of those results for the nine volunteer institutions.

The results indicate the availability of plastic bags with a thickness of **50 microns or more** in five of the nine large supermarket companies, and it is among the thickness ratios recommended by the largest number of countries in the early stages of implementing strategies to reduce the use of light plastic bags, which is a positive indicator of market readiness in Egypt for such actions.

The study clarified the challenges that these institutions faced or might face while trying to reduce the use of contaminated plastic

*\* A table showing the availability of thick plastic bags in various retail establishments, and the number of bags distributed free of charge in 2020.*

CODE OF RETAILER	NUMBER OF OUTLETS IN EGYPT	NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTED BAGS IN 2020	PROVIDES BAGS OF THICKNESS ≥ 38 MICRONS	PROVIDES BAGS OF THICKNESS ≥ 50 MICRONS
R1	60	100,431,262	×	
R2	137	31,372,000	✓	
R3	18	39,680,000		✓
R4	3	260,000		✓
R5	457	549,460	✓	
R6	24	13,200,000		✓
R7	6	1,121,400	N/A	
R8	1	13,200,000		✓
R9	20	460,000	✓	✓

bags, whether by providing alternatives or encouraging customers to reduce the consumption of free bags.

**Among the most important of these challenges are:**

- Institutional challenges, such as the provision of enabling policies and laws to ensure the sustainability of decisions.
- Awareness challenges, such as the spread of users' awareness and acceptance of changing materials, prices, and support.




- Educational challenges, such as building the capacity of workers in the relevant institutions.

- Economic technical challenges, such as providing environmentally friendly alternatives at the same time economical.





Thus, the study examined several major retailers from supermarket/hypermarket chains, the extent of readiness and the possibility of accepting reduction procedures, and accordingly the appropriate recommendations were concluded.



## Annex 4 Suitable alternatives for carrier bags already available in the local market\*

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages
Polypropylene (Woven and Nonwoven) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Easy to clean by wiping</li> <li>• Flexible</li> <li>• Light weight</li> <li>• Moisture resistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-biodegradable</li> <li>• Hand washed only</li> <li>• Needs regular washing</li> </ul>
Cotton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodegradable</li> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Machine washable</li> <li>• Reduces allergies</li> <li>• Comfortable and soft</li> <li>• Made from natural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some crops are treated by pesticides</li> <li>• Heavy and bulky</li> <li>• Can shrink when washed</li> <li>• Needs regular washing</li> <li>• Fibers can break easily with use</li> </ul>
Polyester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Easy to clean by wiping</li> <li>• Easily pressured</li> <li>• Anti-wrinkle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-biodegradable</li> <li>• Hand washed only</li> </ul>

\*There is a possibility for the presence of other emerging materials, such as those that biodegrade in the natural environment or according to controls and requirements that will be prepared in the future during the capacity-building developments recommended in this strategy to enable national cadres to plan, follow-up and continuous development in everything that is in the public interest.

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Paper</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodegradable</li> <li>• Made from natural resources</li> <li>• Cheap and recycled material in Egypt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited reuse</li> <li>• Cannot be washed</li> </ul>
<p>Nylon</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Easily pressured</li> <li>• Flexible</li> <li>• Light weight</li> <li>• Moisture resistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-biodegradable</li> <li>• Needs regular washing</li> <li>• Prone to fading</li> </ul>
<p>Jute</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable</li> <li>• Biodegradable</li> <li>• Made from natural resources</li> <li>• Strong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grainy texture</li> <li>• Not resistant to moisture</li> <li>• Needs regular washing</li> </ul>
<p>Cloth from different materials</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Machine washable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs regular washing</li> <li>• Heavy material</li> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>

## Annex 5 Laws, regulations, and relevant international conventions

Laws and regulations related to the gradual banning of free distribution of single-use plastic bags			
	Legislation	Type	Topic
1	Law number 90 for the year 1945	Law	Supply
2	Law number 189 for the year 1958	Law	Chambers of Commerce
3	Law number 34 for the year 1976	Law	Commercial Register
4	Law number 43 for the year 1979 and its executive regulations	Law and Executive Regulation	Local Administration
5	Law number 48 for the year 1982	Law and Executive Regulation	Protection of the Nile River and the waterways
6	Republican decision number 284 for the year 1983	Republican Decision	Establishment of cleanliness and beautification authority for Cairo and Giza
7	Law number 4 for the year 1994	Law and Executive Regulation	Environment
8	Law number 154 for the year 2019	Law and Executive Regulation	Local Retailers
9	Law number 202 for the year 2021	Law	Waste Management
10	Law number 1 for the year 1973	Law	Hotels and Coastal Facilities

Laws and regulations related to the mitigating of social impacts			
	Legislation	Type	Topic
1	Law number 21 for the year 1958	Law	Regulating and encouraging the industry
2	Law number 24 for the year 1977	Law	Industrial Register
3	Law number 4 for the year 1994	Law and Executive Regulation	Environment
4	Law number 91 for the year 2005	Law and Executive Regulation	Taxes
5	Law number 119 for the year 2008	Law and Executive Regulation	Standard Construction
6	Law number 15 for the year 2017	Law	Facilitation licensing procedures for industrial facilities
7	Law number 72 for the year 2017	Law	Investment
8	Law number 95 for the year 2018	Law	Industrial Development
9	Law number 152 for the year 2020	Law and Executive Regulation	Small, medium, and micro projects
10	Law number 202 for the year 2020	Law	Waste Management

Individual decisions made by governors related to the gradual banning of free distribution of single-use plastic bags			
	Management Decisions	Type	Topic
1	Decision number 54 for the year 2000 by Governor of the Red Sea	Governor's Decision	Ban of any free float carrying plastic bags from all the Red Sea ports
2	Decision number 167 for the year 2019 by Governor of the Red Sea	Governor's Decision	Banning the usage of plastic bags in public shops
3	Decision number 172 for the year 2019 by Governor of South Sinai	Governor's Decision	Banning the usage of plastic bags in public shops
4	Republican decision number 648 for the year 2020	President's decision	Allocating a piece of land in the 10 <sup>th</sup> of Ramadan district as a sanitary landfill

International Conventions			
	Convention	Topic	Date of release
1	Basel Convention	Concerning the control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and its disposal	1989
2	Bamako Convention	Concerning the prohibition of the import of hazardous wastes into Africa and the monitoring and management of their movement across the African borders	1991
3	Jeddah Convention	The regional convention to preserve the environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden	1982
4	Barcelona Convention	Protection of the marine environment and the coastal area of the Mediterranean Sea	1995

## Annex 6 Summary of the main roles of Stakeholders

After reviewing all international agreements, laws and regulations related to the banning of free distribution of single-use plastic bags and related administrative decisions. Additionally, after clarifying how to maximize opportunities for owners of single-use plastics projects - to improve product quality and benefit from the advantages of legalizing the situation, these general guiding recommendations were prepared, which represent necessary action steps in light of the updated texts contained in the Waste Management Regulation Law No. 202 of 2020, which laid the foundations for reducing waste consumption of single-use plastic bags, in addition to the executive regulations of this law, which will determine the controls stipulated in Articles 27 and 76 regarding single-use shopping bags, and we summarize these guiding recommendations as follows:

### Ministry of Trade and Industry

- 1) Issuance of decisions related to controls, requirements and technical specifications related to single-use plastic bags. The most important of which is that the Egyptian General Organization for Standardization and Quality<sup>1</sup> issues technical specifications for plastic shopping bags and determines the minimum thickness of bags through the specialized committees to distinguish them from other plastic bags (exempt uses) and identify prohibited materials considering what is stated in the strategy<sup>2</sup>.
- 2) Issuing a decision for banning the manufacture, import, export, or trade of plastic bags that do not conform to the technical specifications of those bags.
- 3) Coordination with the **Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Development Authority** regarding adding projects that work in safe alternatives to

environmentally friendly single-use plastic, as well as single-use plastic recycling projects within the projects that has the incentives and benefits mentioned in the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises Law. In addition to placing these projects as priority for the projects supported by this body, adding new incentives if necessary, and providing educational and awareness sessions about the circular economy, the opportunities available to companies, and the details of the supporting legal and legislative environment (including awareness of the advantages of laws related to formalization of the informal sector), in order to help attract more manufacturers and producers of plastic to comply with specifications or to develop alternative products, upgrade reduction processes, join the formal sector, and encourage innovation in related fields.

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<sup>1</sup>This authority is the government agency entrusted with determining the approved technical specifications for any product in accordance with Law No. 2 of 1957.

<sup>2</sup>Refers to what was stated on page 12 of the indicative strategy, which is related to the fact that several countries determine the minimum thickness of single-use plastic as a reference.

### **Ministry of Environment**

- 1) Preparing a guideline and providing the necessary educational material to facilitate the work of the executive regulations and continuous awareness activities, which will be carried out in coordination with the relevant development partners' projects once the executive regulations are issued.
- 2) Allocating a department in the Waste Management Regulatory Agency to monitor and control violations resulting from the application of Waste Law No. 202 of 2020. This department works in cooperation with local units in different governorates to monitor and control the violations stipulated in the Waste Law.
- 3) The continuation of awareness campaigns and adopting a societal dialogue with the owners of single-use plastics projects and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of conforming to

the new specifications or to projects aimed at conforming to the specified specifications as well as producing alternatives and heading towards recycling, and preparing several training courses to raise awareness about behavioral change and about multi-use plastic bags and other more sustainable alternatives.

- 4) Continuing the work of the National Committee to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags headed by the Ministry of Environment and continuing coordination between the relevant ministries regarding the issue of plastic.
- 5) Monitoring and follow-up of developments in the field of plastic waste.
- 6) Following up on the study of global technologies in the field of alternatives, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the National Committee.
- 7) Creating a website to collect all data related to plastic, including

suppliers, consumers, and all new laws and legislations in this regard.

### **Ministry of International Cooperation**

Contribute to negotiations with development partners to provide the necessary cooperation and funding for projects related to plastic issues, and provide continual support to articulate the priorities of the Ministry of Environment as part of the cooperation strategies with international development partners, whether bilateral or multilateral, to maximize soft financing necessary and provide needed technical cooperation of grants and training programs and scholarships to enhance experience-exchange, and supporting entrepreneurship in environmental projects and the green economy, with the aim to avoid duplications and ensure synergies between the various sectors.

### **Ministry of Health**

Participation with various agencies to prevent health harm to citizens by participating in the awareness campaign to



raise health awareness about the harms caused from using plastic.

### **Ministry of Local Development**

- 1) 1) Issuance of a decision by the Minister of Local Development<sup>3</sup> in his capacity as Chairman of the Higher Committee for Licensing Public Stores<sup>4</sup> regarding the banning of free distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags and the development of pricing mechanisms for these bags in coordination with the Ministry of Internal Trade, provided that this bag is treated as any commodity and that the selling price of the bag is not less than its cost. Licensing centers in the governorates are addressed to follow up on the implementation of this order.
- 2) Develop a time plan for the governors to issue administrative

decisions within each governorate like the previous decisions issued in some governorates considering the texts developed for the purpose of gradually banning the consumption of single-use plastic bags considering the legislation that has been developed in the recent period and the penalties it came with. It is recommended to start with tourist governorates with less population density (mainly the Red Sea and South Sinai), and this plan must include the development of control and deterrence mechanisms to implement those decisions within each governorate, while setting a time plan for the rest of the governorates.

### **Ministry of Tourism**

Issuance of a decision banning the sale and circulation of plastic bags that do not conform to specifications inside tourist facilities and hotels subject to Law No. 1 of

1973 considering what will be determined regarding the technical specifications of such bags and the prohibition of free distribution of bags. With this mandatory measure, it is also recommended to expand measures to reduce the consumption of other priority single-use plastic products on a voluntary basis in tourist facilities and hotels at the current stage to encourage voluntary pioneering initiatives.

### **Ministry of Finance**

- 1) Issuing a decision regarding tax and customs exemptions in coordination with the Ministry of Trade and Industry in implementation of what was stated in the third paragraph of M/27 of the Waste Management Regulation Law in order to attract and encourage projects that wish to manufacture safe and supportive alternatives to environmentally friendly practices such as

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<sup>3</sup>This is in accordance with Resolution No. 942 of 2020 issued by the Prime Minister 28/4/2020 regarding the formation of the Higher Committee for Licensing.

<sup>4</sup> Under Article 4 of Law 154 of 2019 regarding public premises.

alternative bags/bags such as cloth, paper or whichever plastics are biodegradable in the natural environment or various types of plastics with a multi-use design, or recycled materials or other innovations. This is in parallel with capacity-building measures to monitor this, which are gradually being carried out by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Trade and Industry and in cooperation with development partners to enable dealing with emerging materials and the conditions for dealing with them.

- 2) Coordination with the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade to provide tax exemptions and incentives for manufacturers of multi-use bags that will be distributed to families benefiting

from the supply system support system within the awareness campaign of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which will determine The Ministry of Supply has the number of beneficiary families.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Ministry of Supply and Internal Trading**

- 1) An introductory awareness campaign in coordination with the Ministry of Environment to provide multi-use bags/bags for the beneficiaries of the food support system, along with awareness messages that clarify the return on the citizen from measures to preserve the environment and health, including the state's support to preserve the efforts

made in the field of waste management and in Hygiene, beautification, and disinfection of canals...etc.

- 2) Issuing a decision to compel the sales outlets of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade not to use plastic shopping bags that do not conform to specifications, and this is after a grace period for the completion of the stock, if any - and to treat the bag as a commodity sold to the consumer.
- 3) Establishing a mechanism to motivate major outlets to replace worn out bags with new ones that are identical to encourage the consumer to one of the separation practices at the source.

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<sup>5</sup>As an indicative example - if 10 million families are targeted and the price of the bag is 10 pounds (selling price), then the total cost will be 100 million pounds, and it will also serve as an incentive for manufacturers and workers in the relevant value chains.