

The strategic goal of a "Diversified, Knowledge-based, and Competitive Economy" embodies the economic perspective of Egypt's Vision 2030. A diversified economy signifies the capacity of various sectors to generate income, manage resources, and create employment opportunities across industrial, agricultural, and service fields. This approach ensures that growth and development are not confined to a single sector; thus providing multiple income sources and granting the country the flexibility to confront diverse crises and disruptions. A knowledge-based economy is an economy built on innovation driven by research and development. It relies on an efficient system that connects educational and scientific research institutions with economic sectors. To achieve this, the presence of information infrastructure is vital to enable the integration of modern technologies and their adaptation to local requirements. Competitiveness involves the state's ability to produce goods and services that meet local demands while also competing in regional and global markets. This hinges on crucial elements for a robust economy, including infrastructure, a supportive macroeconomic environment, and factors enhancing efficiency such as education, training, scientific research, technological readiness, and innovation. Consequently, competitiveness serves as a key accelerator for growth and fosters effective and efficient integration with global markets. Hence reflecting the strength of the national economy and its regional and international standing in maximizing both apparent and latent strengths, confronting diverse challenges, and capitalizing on available opportunities. The pursuit of a "Diversified, Knowledge-based, and Competitive Economy" aligns with the SDGs, and underscores Egypt's vision with the global perspectives, thereby bolstering the state's endeavors to align with international visions and strategies. The state commits to protecting them, increasing their competitiveness, providing an environment that attracts investment, and works on increasing production, encouraging exports, and regulating imports". This strategic goal reflects as well recent developments witnessed in the Egyptian economy in recent years, which have influenced various facets of life, particularly the implementation of the National Program for Economic and Social Reform. This program embraces financial, monetary, and structural reforms, all aimed at bolstering confidence in the Egyptian economy and facilitating inclusive and sustainable growth that generates positive impacts on citizens by reducing poverty rates, boosting productivity, increasing income levels, enhancing living standards, and creating adequate and decent employment opportunities, while achieving financial and monetary stability. The realization of Egypt's Vision 2030 is closely linked to the imperative of empowering the private sector to support the development process and foster sustainable economic growth. This involves the government providing robust infrastructure, enhancing the legislative environment, advocating for fair competition policies, and stimulating and diversifying investments to enhance job opportunities. Additionally, integrating the informal sector into the formal economy by offering various incentives, including facilitating access to financing, fostering innovation, and raising awareness of non-cash transactions. The general trends of economic indicators show that despite the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Egyptian economy, similar to economies worldwide, the policies implemented under the National Program for Economic and Social Reform have equipped the economy to withstand and mitigate the crisis repercussions. This is evident in the coherence and positive outcomes of economic indicators during 2019/20. Consequently, Egypt's international standing in terms of diversity, knowledge, and

competitiveness has improved, with the country's ranking rising in the Economic Complexity Index to 68 out of 133 countries in 2019, compared to 71 in 2018, [34] implying that the Egyptian economy has become more diverse. Moreover, the country's position in the Global Knowledge Index improved by ten places in 2020 compared to the previous year, reaching 72 out of 138 countries. [35] Moreover, Egypt has maintained its position in the Global Competitiveness Index, while making progress in ease of doing business, global innovation, entrepreneurship, and budget transparency indicators. The various targets of this strategic goal can be achieved through a number of enablers, such as "financing", "technology and innovation", "digital transformation", "data generation and availability" and "supportive legislative and institutional environment". Each of these general goals include a suite of enabling policies, coupled with quantitative indicators for performance monitoring and evaluation. Specifically, this strategic goal correlates with SDG8: "Decent Work and Economic Growth", SDG9: "Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure" and SDG12: "Responsible Consumption and Production". In the national context, the strategic objective aligns with the economic goals stipulated and safeguarded by the Egyptian Constitution, mainly "achieving prosperity in the country through sustainable development and social justice to guarantee an increase in the real growth rate of the national economy, raising the standard of living, increasing job opportunities, reducing unemployment rates and eliminating poverty," in addition to "Economic production, service-based and information-based activities are key components of the national economy. The strategic goal "Diversified, Knowledge-based, and Competitive Economy" is accomplished through seven general goals, namely, "Fostering Productivity, Diversity, and Value Added", "Improving the Business Environment and Enhancing Competitiveness", "Increasing Decent Employment Opportunities", "Shift towards Financial Inclusion", "Manufacturing Revitalization", "Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises", and "Attaining Fiscal Sustainability". To enhance the Egyptian economy's diversification and competitiveness, as well as improve macroeconomic indicators, it is crucial to address this strategic goal within the Guiding Principles governing Egypt's Vision 2030, namely –"Human-Centered Development", "Equity and Accessibility", "Resilience and Adaptation", and "Sustainability", which are closely intertwined with the general goals.