

Eighth Pillar: Culture

Overview of Current Situation

Throughout history Egyptian intellectuals have influenced both Arab and international thought and contributed to all fields. The prominence of Egyptian culture includes translation and other contributions in literature—poetry, drama, novels, and literary essays. Egypt has also made great contributions to the cinema, to vocal and plastic arts, to photography, and to architecture. Our cultural heritage is evidence of a long-standing civilization, gifting the world a cultural heritage of great influence.

Culture contributes in developing the citizen through a set of core positive values around which a minimum level of agreement is achieved. Cultural industries come on top of the cultural motives, which witnessed major leaps over the last period improving its role in the cultural system. In addition, the scope of Egyptian culture extends to include all tangible and intangible forms of heritage, as traditional industries represent a genuine part of our cultural industries.

Unlike other Egyptian constitutions, the Constitution of 2014 paid unprecedented attention to cultural issues, as it states the concept of cultural justice, and includes a chapter on cultural pillars consisting of four articles in the second part entitled ‘Fundamental Pillars of Society,’ in addition to other articles highlighting rights, freedoms, and public duties. These culture-related articles in the constitution assert the State’s commitment to preserve cultural identity and its diversity within Egyptian society. These articles also highlight the State’s commitment to protect and preserve ancient monuments and to protecting the modern cultural wealth in its diverse forms.

The current situation of the cultural system in Egypt reflects various manifestations that underline strengths and a number of challenges that cannot be overlooked. Thus, a cultural vision and strategy were set to face such challenges and to implement various cultural and heritage programs that develop the entire cultural system. The government has already started implementing some cultural programs competent to finance innovative cultural projects such as ‘Think and Innovate,’ ‘Awladna,’ and ‘Acquire a Craft.’ The government has already started to train young people to develop arts and craftsmanship.

Strategic Vision for Culture to 2030

Create a system of positive cultural values respecting diversity and differences. Enable citizens to access knowledge, building their capacity to interact with modern developments, while respecting their history and cultural heritage. Give them the wisdom of freedom of choice and of cultural creativity. Add value to the national economy, representing Egypt’s soft power at both regional and international levels.