## Egypt

Egypt's Reform Commitments and Initiatives	Progress in Meeting Commitments and Initiatives	Partner Support
	MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK	
	Macroeconomic Stability	
	2018	
Manage fiscal risks through the newly established fiscal risk committee.	<ul> <li>Fuel subsidy reform advanced in 2019. A regular indexation mechanism committee has been formed and is mandated to monitor global energy prices, with decisions on fuel prices domestically taken every quarter with a cap of 10 percent. As of March 2023, the government conducted 7 consecutive upward adjustments to fuel prices (since April 2021 following 12 months of stability in fuel prices). The increases were driven by heightening pressures emanating from international oil price increases and depreciation of the Egyptian pound against the U.S. dollar.</li> <li>The government enhanced publication and communication of fiscal risks by adding a section on fiscal risks in its annual budget documentation that is shared with parliament and being published to citizens.</li> <li>In 2022, the government reported: A hedging unit has been established at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to look at commodity price developments and monitor and manage potential risks to the budget. The unit has been partially staffed and is working with all banks and traders. A section on fiscal risks has been added to the published mid-year budget review report.</li> <li>The government is considering publishing a stand-alone fiscal risks report clarifying risks associated with the fiscal and macroeconomic forecasts, financial sector stability, climate, contingent liabilities (potential claims on budgetary resources due to guarantees granted by the government) and debt risks (liquidity and refinancing, interest rate and forex risks), among others.</li> </ul>	The World Bank Group is unclear how this stand- alone report extends the existing published report on fiscal risks or whether this report is forward- or backward-looking.
Green budgeting and climate policies	<ul> <li>The Egypt MoF was the first Middle East and North Africa sovereign to issue a green bond in 2020 and we issued first green bond impact report with World Bank Group support in 2021 in line with international best practices. The MoF was the first Middle East and North Africa sovereign to conclude a syndicated green loan with regional and international banks in 2021.</li> <li>In 2022, the government reported that MoF allocated EGP2.3 billion in FY21/22 budget to support a program to replace old vehicles (passenger cars, taxis, and micro buses) with new natural gas vehicles with MoF providing green incentive to households worth 15-25 percent of price of new car. MoF introduced a green fee on fuel products in 2021.</li> <li>In its budget statement for FY23, the government has announced that it is currently working on (i) improving the revenue and tax systems and developing a system of incentives and initiatives to encourage transition to green activities and reduction of emissions, (ii) expanding use of green financing tools and (iii) directing 50 percent of government investments to environmentally sustainable projects.</li> <li>In the context of hosting COP27, Egypt aims to move toward its climate-related targets. The government announced in its budget circular for FY24 that it is working on a cost-benefit exercise for green budgeting.</li> </ul>	In September 2022, the World Bank organized a one-week Green PFM Workshop to MoF

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•	on countries who are most vulnerable to climate change and risk, The Sustainable Debt Coalition whereby countries with high debt distress can manage its portfolio with regards to green investments and the Sustainable Financing Framework, allowing Egypt to issue not just green bonds, but any bonds related to sustainability, water, social or other forms. This will allow the country to access unconventional markets and widen its debt scope. The government also announced within its Extended Fund Facility Agreement with the IMF, that it is considering introducing a natural gas indexation mechanism in addition to the fuel price indexation mechanism already in place. In addition, the Government (FRA, EGX, MOIC, MoF, MOE, MoFA and Central Bank of Egypt [CBE]) is currently forming its climate program to be submitted to an RST financing from the IMF where the main objective is to safeguard the economy from shocks that could result from disasters and climate change. The National Initiative for Green Smart Projects in Governorates was launched by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of International Cooperation, and National Council for Women. It is a flagship project directed toward attaining sustainable and smart development and addressing the environmental dimension and effects of climate change. It builds on efforts to achieve sustainable development, in line with Egypt's Vision 2030, by safeguarding the environment to improve quality of life and protect the rights of future generations. The initiative is implemented within the framework of the National Climate Change Strategy 2050. The objectives include focusing on real-life implementation and application of green projects and stressing the need to address the environmental dimension and climate change considering achieving SDGs and digital transformation by carrying out projects fulfilling of those goals. The initiative, in add	
Announce an IPO • action plan to	The government plans IPOs or selling stakes to strategic investors for 32 state-run companies throughout this year until March 2024. The Prime Minister indicated that at least 8 companies will be offered over the next 6 months.	The World Bank has not been asked to provide

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divest stake in public entities	<ul> <li>The list includes 32 companies, including 3 banks, namely Banque du Caire, The United Bank, and the Arab African International Bank. The program will include two companies affiliated with the National Service Projects Organization (NSPO), the filling station Wataniya and the bottled water company Safi.</li> <li>In December 2022, Egypt finalized its first State Ownership Policy (SOP). The SOP, signed off by the President following extensive consultations, sets out a framework and governing principles for SOEs, including the rationale for ownership, additional investment, and divestment. It commits to principles of Corporate Governance of SOEs and competitive neutrality.</li> <li>In February 2023, the government announced a plan to sell stakes in 32 SOEs working in 18 business sectors starting from the first quarter of 2023. According to the Prime Minister, these SOEs are to be sold to strategic investors and/or via the EGX. The privatization program appears to be whole-of-government. The list of companies planned for privatization includes companies overseen, directly or indirectly, by the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Defense, and MoF. This is in addition to companies reporting to the Ministry of Public Business Sector. The list of companies includes commercial banks controlled by the CBE.</li> <li>In September 2020, Law No. 185 was issued amending the Public Business Sector Law No. 203 of 1991, which covers a subset of SOEs in Egypt. The amendments aimed to enhance corporate governance and to bring this law closer to the General Companies Law, which covers private sector corporations. For example, the amendments require: (i) separating the positions of the chairman of the board and the CEO; (ii) limiting the labor representative seats on the board of directors of subsidiary companies to two members only, down from 50 percent; and (iii) requiring SOEs that are not listed on the EGXs to publish semi-annual performance reports.</li> </ul>	advice on either the identification of divestment targets or the process through which the sale would be made.
Continue the transition of the monetary policy framework toward inflation targeting.	Inflation has exceeded the CBE's current inflation target (7 +/-2 percent), with headline urban inflation recorded at 31.9 percent, and core inflation (excluding volatile food and regulated prices) at 40.3 percent in February 2023. During December 2022, the CBE has published updated inflation targets at 7 +/-2 percent on average by Q4-2024 and 5 +/-2 percent on average by Q4-2026.	Under the new IMF program, the CBE announced a move to sustained floating of the currency. The CBE continues to state its intention to enact a formal inflation targeting framework to anchor monetary policy once prerequisites are met.
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
New incentive program for electrical vehicles	The MoF and MoE is finalizing a new incentive program for electrical vehicles. The program will include an inclusive framework with financial and non-financial incentives to speed and facilitate the transition toward EV manufacturing and usage in the Egyptian market.	The World Bank is not involved in providing advice on this policy.

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Role of the State	In December 2022, the president has approved the State Ownership Policy (SOP) that aims at clarifying and reducing the role of the State in the economy. The SOP is publicly available and is expected to positively contribute to ensuring a level playing field and enabling private sector participation in the economy.	
Exchange Rate Regime	The CBE renewed its commitment to a flexible exchange rate regime in March 2022. The official exchange rate has since depreciated, and the parallel market premium has shrunk significantly as of early March 2023. However, the foreign currency crunch persists. The CBE announced that the letters of credit were repealed by the end of December 2022, with efforts toward clearing out backlogs and goods held at ports. The FX backlog was dealt with by authorities, coinciding with the IMF's board approval and the durable shift to a flexible exchange rate regime. Standing at about \$14 billion since economic conditions tightened, the authorities cleared about \$10 billion of them. The backlog is back to pre-crisis levels of about an average of \$4 billion. Tourism revenues helped finance part of the FX backlog considering the exceptional rebound the sector experienced in FY21/22. Moreover, once the CBE shifted to a flexible exchange rate, part of the FX that was considered out of "official markets" saw its way into the interbank. Finally, remittances from workers abroad proved to be a steady and high-performing external account.	
Subsidize lending initiatives	<ul> <li>The prime minister issued a decree in November 2022, based on which CBE stopped managing and bearing the cost of subsidized lending initiatives. Some of the subsidized lending was terminated, while others (namely, those targeting industry and agriculture) were kept but transferred to the MoF.</li> <li>Transfer of these remaining subsidized schemes to the MoF eliminates the quasi-fiscal activities that the CBE used to incur, but (depending on its size) may continue to cause pressures on the budget.</li> <li>By the end of January 2023, the MoF launched a program that is set to offer EGP 150 billion worth of loans at a subsidized 11 percent interest rate to industry and agriculture players.</li> </ul>	
	Domestic Revenue Mobilization	
	2018	
Implement a simplified SME tax	A new MSMEs Development Law No. 152 of 2020 was enacted in July 2020. The Law gives tax and non-tax incentives to MSMEs. The executive regulations of the Law were issued in April 2021 by Prime Ministerial Decree 654.	
regime Implement international standards on exchange of information for tax purposes	The exchange of information for tax purposes is included in 58 bilateral tax agreements signed with Egypt. In 2022, the government reported that Egypt is continuing its efforts to expand its international exchange of information instruments to be able to exchange information. Moreover, Egypt is planning to become a party of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.	The OECD continues to provide Egypt with TA to implement the exchange of information under the transparency framework.
Implement a Medium-Term Revenue Strategy	A MTRS was formulated and approved by Cabinet in December 2020, targeting a 2 percent increase in tax-to-GDP levels over the course of 4 years up to FY24. Tax-to-GDP ratio increased in FY21 and during the first half of FY22	IMF, World Bank, and OECD have been main partners in developing

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(MTRS) starting FY20/21	despite COVID implications and challenges. The strategy is then updated and extended for another four years until FY26/27. The OECD has been a main partner in the developing of this strategy and helped in guiding the process. In 2022, the Government reported that The MTRS is a live document that is being updated according to current fiscal policies and trends. Measures taken and projected would include reforms on the tax policy and administration sides and on international taxation. Reform measures implemented so far includes Changing VAT law (was ratified in FEB 2022) with support provided by OECD to tax e-commerce activities. Introducing a green fee on fuel products in 2021. Increasing taxes on tobacco and cigarettes and putting in place a new tax regime to capture new tobacco products. Streamlining and reducing exemptions granted to domestic entities related to their investments in government securities.	this strategy, with several TA missions and meetings held with the MoF to help guide the process.
Improve Public Finance Management (PFM)	A new modern PFM Law has been approved by Parliament in 2022. The law aims at covering the following: A fiscal responsibility provision that will guide macro-fiscal policy; Mandating medium-term budget framework to all budget entities; Highlighting main elements for the budget calendar; Mentioning the minimum content to be covered by budget documents; Provide robust provisions on reallocation of resources, managing contingency reserve and asking for supplementary appropriations; Setting accounting rules for all public entities including economic authorities. Executive regulation of the law that brings all key reforms into action is pending. The 2014 Constitution provides that the annual reports of the regulatory and oversight bodies (including the Supreme Audit institution) are made publicly available. In February 2023, the first set of audit reports was made public. The published reports covered FY18/19, FY19/20, and FY20/21.	IMF Support. The World Bank is supporting the MoF in drafting executive regulations of the Unified Public Finance Law. The World Bank received the first draft in December 2022 and provided comments.
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Dematerialize tax systems	By the end of FY22/23 the full automation of tax system would be in place including the rollout of e-payment and e- receipts. By the end of 2022 we would have full automation of custom procedures and payments.	
	Public Investment Management (procurement, PPPs, SOEs, utilities)	
	2018	
Improve public procurement practices and transparency	<ul> <li>New Public Procurement Law was approved in 2018 and Executive Regulations were issued in November 2019. The new law includes provisions to facilitate SME access to and participation in Egypt's public procurement market. Initial findings from an assessment indicate that since implementation of the law, the number of SMEs awarded contracts has increased ~12 percent.</li> <li>Capacity building strategy drafted and communication strategy drafted under an ASA financed by the World Bank.</li> <li>The Concept Note for an e-GP system according to KOICA model was developed and submitted to the MOF. This concept note was used by the government to request KOICA to finance the e-GP system and according to the last update on February 2023 from GAGS, the project was signed with a target of implementing a full e-GP by 2026. The World Bank suggested starting with the e-portal as soon as possible, to have one single window for the advertisement of public procurement opportunities and publishing all contract awards, to increase transparency</li> </ul>	MoF/GAGS engage with KOICA in implementing an e-procurement system. The World Bank is supporting this via peer learning visits to countries (Bangladesh, Jordan, Rwanda, and Tunisia) with similar experiences. The

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	<ul> <li>and facilitate business participation. According to the last update, GAGS has developed a new e-Portal that will be launched in March 2023.</li> <li>In 2022, the government reported that additional reforms under discussion include (i) disseminating the findings from the study on the SME/public procurement nexus, developing policy briefs to facilitate SME participation in Egypt's public procurement market, and (ii) rapid quantitative assessment of SMEs in Egypt's public procurement market.</li> <li>The MoF started publishing all government procurement contracts above E-GP 20 million on a monthly basis.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Public Business Sector is the primary owner of SOE reform and MoF is a member in the committee that was formed by a prime minister decree working on SOE modernization efforts, including procurement. The MoF welcomes initiatives that support SOE procurement reform objectives to be presented to the Ministry of Public Business Sector. The MoF/GAGS engage with the World Bank on SME participation in public procurement and awareness and communication initiatives.
Reform the process for appraisal, select and monitor public investments, and improve the quality of public investment portfolio	<ul> <li>Infrastructure sector governance reform and openness to private sector participation. The government reduced the price of natural gas and decreased electricity tariffs to all industries whilst fixing these tariffs for at least the next three years, to improve their cost structures and price-predictability.</li> <li>In April 2022, the government reported that a new draft planning law under the number 18/2022 is currently being discussed at Parliament. The new law will cover in more detail a revised framework for public investment management.</li> </ul>	In October 2022, the World Bank participated in a Public Investment Management Assessment mission led by the IMF. The same mission conducted a climate assessment.

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consistent with macroeconomic framework.		
Amend Law no. 67 for 2010	<ul> <li>The PPP Central Unit at the MoF suggested some amendments in the provisions of Law no 67 for the year 2010 which have been issued (on December 18, 2021) by Law No. 153 for the year 2021. These amendments include the following: Acceleration of tendering and contracting procedures. Apply new forms of contracting methods (direct order–unsolicited proposal–limited tender) to meet the needs of the tendering authorities and expanding the investment of PPP projects. Creation of a new committee between the MoF and MoP to select the relevant PPP projects in the pipeline. The Executive Regulation of the new Law is being prepared.</li> <li>In 2022, the government reported that 4 projects under the new law have been tendered including: 10th of Ramadan Dry Port and Logistics Center (with an estimated investment cost of \$200 million), Phase 2 of the PPP new schools project (estimated cost: \$65 million), 8 Waste-to-Energy Plants PPP Project (estimated cost: \$550 million), and 4 Strategic Warehouses for Strategic Commodities (\$210 million for the 4 sites).</li> <li>Several projects are in the pipeline for 2022 currently under study. They include projects from the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Housing.</li> </ul>	
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Strengthen procurement by SOEs	New areas for support include: (i) providing support to the development of the e-GP system; and (ii) strengthening the procurement by SOEs. Strengthening the procurement by SOEs is a very important topic. Specific activities include, for example, rapid assessment of the actual performance of procurement system, review and provide inputs to SOEs' own procurement procedure to identify gaps and recommend areas of improvements, provide technical support on the development for one of SOE's e-procurement strategy.	
	BUSINESS FRAMEWORK	
	Regulations and Institutions	
	2018	
Trade	New customs law/regulations were approved by the Parliament in November 2020. The MoF finalized the executive regulations on August 31, 2021 by Decree No. 430 of 2021.	The World Bank provided advice to support the completion of executive regulations.
Implement National Single Window in preparation for Regional Single	Rollout of the National Single Window <i>Nafeza</i> is underway in ports and airports since April 2021. Several constraints to the full and effective implementation of Nafeza need to be removed for its desired potential and full utilization to be achieved. These constraints are mostly related to legislation and business processes, which need to be streamlined to take full advantage of the new electronic environment. The institutional basis for the governance and operation of Nafeza needs to be strengthened by introducing formal lines of control between the governing body and the	The World Bank has a longstanding TA engagement with the customs department

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Window and International Single Window	operating entity. The accountability of the operator to the users and government needs to be strengthened to offer clients and government the necessary guarantees of quality of service.	focused on trade facilitation.
Introduce systems integration	Egypt recently ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.	
Pass amended competition law	Revised draft competition law was approved by the Parliament and enacted by the President. The new law introduces provisions for merger and acquisition control. Further amendments of the law are expected in the coming months to increase the independence of the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA).	The adoption of the revised competition and merger control laws is a benchmark in the current IMF EFF program.
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Level the playing field between SOEs and the private sector	Operationalization of the Supreme Committee of Competitive Neutrality as the ECA is now reporting to the Prime Minister instead of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Legislative reforms were enacted to enhance the ECA's independence and autonomy and add a chapter to cover its leading role in M&A. A competitive neutrality committee was established and headed by the Prime Minister and all relevant stakeholders with ECA acting as secretary. Incentives will be linked to outcomes and targeted to specific activities, with a clear time horizon. Incentives will be applied equally to all eligible participants. Incentives include activating golden permits, simplifying the licensing process, simplifying land allocation, and allowing long-term renting under a unified land prices and rent law. The MoF is compiling reports on tax incentives and breaks, and related foregone revenues.	The World Bank stands ready to support the ECA to operationalize the Supreme Committee.
	Investor Protection and Dispute Resolution	
	2018	
Revise the bankruptcy law	Amendments to the newly introduced insolvency law have been successfully enacted by the President and published in the National Gazette. The amendments aim to encourage restructuring and improve the balance between creditor and debtor rights.	The World Bank is providing TA to the MoJ on a range of justice issues, including insolvency law.
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Revise the Code of Civil Procedures (CPC)	The review of the CPC will serve as the basis for a comprehensive revamping of the legal and regulatory framework for commercial justice in Egypt and representing the first effort of its kind to be carried out since 1968	The World Bank is providing TA to the MoJ on a range of justice issues, including the review of the CPC.

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	FINANCING FRAMEWORK	
	Investment risk mitigation	
	2018	
Promote a cashless society	<ul> <li>Law No. 18 of 2019 mandating the use of cashless payment by public and private entities was signed by President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi on April 19, 2019. The Law obliges all public authorities and entities and state-owned companies to pay certain payments that include taxes, customs, duties, and related fines (if they exceed the limit identified by the executive regulations) through cashless means of payment.</li> <li>If entities and companies do not stick to the above requirement, a fine will be imposed. Online tax payment is already implemented. The suspension of all cash transactions was made through the imposition of administrative fees in the case of cash payment.</li> <li>During March 2023, the CBE raised the limits on e-transfers made through its digital payment app. The new limits, which came into effect on March 15, allow transfers of up to EGP 70k per transaction, up from EGP 50k. Users will be able to transfer EGP 120k per day and EGP 400k per month—up from EGP 60k and EGP 200k. This decision was rooted in customer requests, opinion polls, and growing demand for the app.</li> </ul>	The IBRD and IFC provide TA on financial inclusion and financial infrastructure. IBM and EY in implementation of the tax automation projects.
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Dematerialize tax and commercial transactions	<ul> <li>Egypt launched several projects like the tax automation, e-invoice, and e-receipt (currently being rolled out) to ensure that the Egyptian Tax Authority can monitor all commercial transactions via a real-time electronic system.</li> <li>E-commerce is currently about 10–15 percent of commercial activity (especially wholesale and retail), so the MoF is working on introducing taxes on e-commerce sector and to be subjected to the VAT, which will generate a huge revenue to the budget.</li> </ul>	IBRD and IFC provide TA on financial inclusion and infra-structure. IBM and EY in implementation of tax automation projects.
Establish an entity in charge of licensing and regulation of fintech companies	In addition to the above, Parliament passed a Law on January 5, 2022 (pending ratification) stating that the FRA would be the only entity in charge of licensing and regulating fintech companies. It would also set transparency and governance standards and be charged with protecting consumer rights.	IBRD and IFC provide TA on financial inclusion and infra-structure. IBM and EY in implementation of tax automation projects.
Increase competition in the auction of government debt	The MoF will be issuing a new Decree on Primary Dealers on Government with improved incentives and obligation in the auction and secondary market. The objective is to increase competition, improve price formation in the auction, broaden the investor base beyond banks, and increase secondary market liquidity.	The World Bank provides TA to align the PD Decree with best practices in the context of Egypt.
Broader investor base in the capital markets	The MoF and FRA will be issuing a series of regulations supporting the creation of money market and fixed income mutual funds, and a voluntary multiclient private pension fund pillar. The reforms will allow us to diversify the investor base and provide a source of long-term finance in local currency.	The World Bank committed to providing TA on these reforms.

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Ecosystem for domestic voluntary carbon credit markets	The FRA and MoE are working on the development of the enabling environment for the domestic ecosystem for voluntary Carbon Credit Markets. The first reform has been the Decree establishing a Supervisory Committee that will oversee and develop the rules for the domestic carbon credit market.	The World Bank provides TA on these reforms.
	Mobilization of Private and Institutional Investments	
	Progress Made on 2018 Reform Commitments	
Domestic debt mar	rket	
Establish Clearing, Settlement and Depositary for Government Securities system	After the publication of a MTDS for FY18–21 in May 2019, an update of the MTDS was published in December 2020 to cover FY20/21–24, supported by a MTDS mission delivered by the World Bank in November. The government designed and launched a new issuance policy and of a robust Central Securities Depository company with sophisticated clearing and settlement functionalities, and a new trading system for government bonds.	The World Bank provides TA to strengthen debt reporting and transparency.
Safeguard sound debt management		
Diversify debt portfolio, improving domestic market liquidity to extend debt maturity beyond five years by 2025.	<ul> <li>Re-inclusion into JP Morgan Index: In April 2021, JP Morgan announced that Egypt has fulfilled all the needed requirements and therefore Egypt was put on the Watch List for the following indices.</li> <li>I. JP Morgan Government Bond Index for Emerging Markets Global Diversified (GBI-EM) with an estimated weight of 1.78 percent representing 14 bonds (issuance) with a total value of \$26 billion, which amounts to approximately 30 percent of the total debt under review for the eligibility.</li> <li>JP Morgan Environmental, Social and Governance Index (JESG) On the back of the green bond's issuance in October 2020, Egypt is eligible for the inclusion in the JESG Index with an estimated weight of 1.14 percent. The inclusion in the GBI-EM Global Diversified will pave the way for Egypt to be added to the GBI-AGG Diversified, which tracks liquid local currency government bonds across developed and emerging markets. With the inclusion, Egypt will join South Africa as the only other country from the Middle East and Africa region.</li> <li>FTSE Russel's Government Bond Index for Frontier and Emerging Markets with a weight of 10 percent which is the highest weight per country in that index.</li> </ul>	JP Morgan team
	Egypt has been re-included in the JP Morgan Index at the end of January 2022.	
	New Reform Commitments and Initiatives	
Publish new debt report covering	The MoF published an annual debt report in October 2022. The report was in the format of a PowerPoint presentation and provided a brief analysis on central government debt developments as of June 2022.	

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central government debt		
Use new debt instruments, such as Green Bonds.	<ul> <li>Egypt established a green bonds framework in September 2020 with an issuance of \$750 million. Egypt also obtained the first Green Loan from the region in 2021 worth \$1.5 billion.</li> <li>The government succeeded in issuing its first Samurai (Japanese yen-denominated) bond, equivalent to \$0.5 billion at an interest rate of 0.85 percent and a maturity of 5 years in March 2022.</li> <li>The MoF also succeeded in establishing a multi-year international program for sovereign Sukuk issuance, worth \$5 billion. The program was registered on the London Stock Exchange in February 2023 and the first issuance amounted to \$1.5 billion at an interest rate of 10.875 percent and a maturity of three years.</li> <li>The government is also looking into issuing SDG-related bonds.</li> </ul>	