Establishing the National Council for Human Rights

In the Name of the People:

President of the Republic:

The People’s Assembly approved the following Act, which we have issued:

**Article 1**

The National Council for Human Rights shall be established and affiliated to the Advisory Council "Shura Council", with the purpose of enhancing, developing and ensuring the protection of human rights, as well as strengthening the values and spreading awareness of their importance to guarantee implementation thereof.

The National Council for Human Rights shall have a juristic personality, with its Head Office being in Cairo and the right to open branches and offices throughout the governorates of the Arab Republic of Egypt (ARE).

The National Council for Human Rights shall be independent in practicing its duties, activities and powers.

**Article 2**

The National Council for Human Rights shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and twenty-five members from amongst those public figures known to have an interest and expertise in human rights issues or who have a distinguished input in this field. The Vice-Chairman shall replace the Chairman when absent. The panel of the National Council for Human Rights shall be formed for a three-year period by virtue of a Decree issued by the Advisory Council.

**Article 3**

The National Council for Human Rights shall have the following powers to enable it to achieve its objectives:

1- Setting up a national work-plan for enhancing and developing the protection of human rights in the ARE, together with recommending the means for achieving same.

2- Submitting suggestions and recommendations to the concerned authorities in relation to all aspects of protecting, supporting and developing human rights for the maximum benefit.
3- Giving opinions, suggestions and recommendations in relation to those matters related to the protection and enhancement of human rights submitted or referred to the National Council for Human Rights by the concerned authorities and entities.

4- Receiving and studying complaints related to the protection of human rights by the National Council for Human Rights and referring them to the concerned authorities, together with following up same to advise the parties involved about the legal actions to be taken and assisting them in taking such actions or settling and resolving the complaints with the relevant authorities.

5- Ensuring compliance with international treaties and conventions on human rights and submitting suggestions, findings and recommendations to the concerned authorities in order to ensure correct implementation thereof.

6- Cooperating with international and national human rights organizations and authorities in order to ensure achieving the objectives of the National Council for Human Rights and developing relationships with such entities.

7- Participating with Egyptian delegations in international and regional conferences on human rights.

8- Contributing by opining on the preparation of reports that should be submitted by the State to human rights committees and commissions on a regular basis, in accordance with the international treaties, as well as responding to enquiries from such entities on human rights issues.

9- Coordinating with the State institutions concerned with human rights and cooperating with the National Council for Women, the National Council for Motherhood & the Child, and other concerned councils and authorities.

10- Disseminating information on human rights and educating citizens in this concern, with the assistance of those institutions and authorities responsible for education, media and cultural affairs.

11- Holding conferences, forums and seminars to discuss human rights issues or incidents related thereto.

12- Submitting recommendations necessary for enhancing the institutional and technical capabilities in the field of human rights, including the technical preparation and training of institutional employees working in the fields of public liberties, economic, social and cultural rights in order to increase their efficiency.

13- Publishing circulars, magazines and printed material about the objectives and powers of the National Council for Human Rights.

14- Issuing reports about human rights conditions and those efforts exerted in Egypt on a governmental and non-governmental scale.
Article 4

The State authorities shall assist and facilitate the performance of the National Council for Human Rights in carrying out its duties and practicing its powers, as well as providing the said Council with any data or information it requires in relation to practicing such powers. The National Council for Human Rights may invite representatives from such authorities to participate in the activities and meetings held by the Council, but without having the right to vote.

Article 5

The National Council for Human Rights shall employ a sufficient number of qualified employees, as well as hire experts and specialists, as necessary, to perform its duties and practice its powers.

Article 6

The Council shall convene at least once every month and whenever necessary upon the invitation of the Chairman and may also convene upon the request of one-third of its members. Meetings shall be valid if attended by two-thirds of its members. Resolutions shall be adopted by virtue of a majority vote and in the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. The Chairman of the Council may invite whomever he sees fit to opine or offer experience on a matter subject of research or discussion, but without having the right to vote.

Article 7

The President of the Republic may refer to the National Council for Human Rights any subjects within its jurisdiction for studying and opining thereon, and may also invite the Council to convene if it deems necessary.

Article 8

The National Council for Human Rights shall form permanent committees from amongst its members to practice its powers as follows:

1- The Committee of Civil & Political Rights
2- The Committee of Social Rights
3- The Committee of Economic Rights
4- The Committee of Cultural Rights
5- The Committee of Legislative Affairs
6- The Committee for International Relations

The Council may set up other permanent committees from amongst its members by virtue of a resolution adopted by a majority of two-thirds of its members. The Secretary of each committee shall be selected from amongst the Council members. The committee may seek assistance from whomever it deems fit and with the experience necessary to study any subject referred to it, but without having the right to vote.

Article 9

The National Council for Human Rights shall have a Secretary-General who shall have the power to carry out the resolutions adopted by the Council and generally supervise the Technical Secretariat, as well as the personnel, financial and administrative affairs of the Council, in accordance with it’s by-laws.

The Council shall issue a resolution to appoint the Secretary-General or others, who shall be appointed for the same term as the Council. If the Secretary-General is not a member in the Council, he shall have the right to attend it’s meeting, but without the right to vote.

Article 10

The Chairman of the National Council for Human Rights shall represent the Council before courts and in its dealings with others.

Article 11

The Council shall have a separate Balance Sheet that shall include its revenues and expenses. The fiscal year shall commence and end with the State fiscal year.

Article 12

The resources of the Council are as follows:

1- Funds allocated to the Council in the State General Budget.

2- Gifts, donations and endowments that the Council resolves to accept by a two-thirds (at least) majority vote.

3- Gifts and endowments allocated by the State to the Council in accordance with international treaties directing such funds for human rights issues.

A special account shall be opened to receive the funds for such resources and held with one of the banks under the control of the Central Bank of Egypt. The surplus resulting from such account shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year and shall appear on the Balance Sheet of the Council.
Article 13

The Council shall issue an annual report covering its efforts and activities that shall include any suggestions deemed fit within the scope of its jurisdiction for submission to the President of the Republic and Heads of the People's Assembly and Advisory Council.

Article 14

The Council shall issue by-laws regulating its activities, as well as statutes regulating the work of its technical secretariat, personnel, financial and administrative affairs, without being restricted by governmental systems.

Article 15

This Act shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be enforced from the day following the date of its publication. It shall be stamped with the Republican seal and implemented as one of its Acts.

Issued at the Presidency of the Republic on 19 Rabe'a El Akher, Year 1424 of the Hijry calendar, corresponding to 19 June 2003 of the Gregorian calendar.

Hosni Mubarak