



## Egypt & The United States: A Dynamic Partnership

“Egypt, for a long time, has been a very important strategic partner of the United States, and we do share common interests, particularly the stability of the region, counterterrorism, peace with Israel, and other concerns.”

– U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, 29 April 2014

Since the 1978 Camp David Accords, Egypt has been among the United States’ closest allies. This important partnership will be further anchored and reinforced with the establishment of a Egypt-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, a critical opportunity to strengthen the vibrant diplomatic, security and economic ties between our two nations and advance our common agenda toward vital 21st century imperatives. Together, Egypt and the U.S. are working to expand prosperity, promote stability and defeat the threat posed by international terrorism.



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL STABILITY

Egypt and the U.S. have maintained comprehensive diplomatic and security ties for nearly 40 years, providing a foundation for both their bilateral relations and their respective leadership roles across the region and the world. Some of the most important of these roles are ongoing today.

Of note, in 2014 Egypt led efforts to achieve a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza. Today, Egypt is playing a key role in the international community’s efforts to restore stability and establish a national unity government that can lead the effort to combat terrorism in Libya. Egypt is also taking a leading role in forging a sustainable solution to the Syrian crisis, and earlier this year hosted a conference of Syria’s secular opposition leaders who agreed on a roadmap to a political resolution there. In addition, Egypt has pursued arms control initiatives to create a Middle East free from nuclear weapons and looks forward to working with the United States to ensure that the recent comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran contributes to this goal.



Cooperation on the strategic, operational and intelligence-sharing levels has advanced military-to-military relations for over 35 years. Notably, Egypt contributed one of the largest regional forces during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91, and most recently secured the Red Sea from hostilities in Yemen as part of the U.S.-backed Operation Decisive Storm. Egyptian and American forces are highly interoperable, made possible by the use of common defense equipment, military education and training programs, and frequent high-level visits. U.S.-made Apache helicopters, F-16 aircraft, Harpoon missiles, M1A1 tanks and other equipment provided through the U.S. Foreign Military Financing program contribute to joint security efforts.



Meanwhile, Egypt provides the U.S. Navy with expedited passage through the Suez Canal, the fastest route for American ships to reach the Persian Gulf from the Atlantic Ocean. Between 35 and 45 U.S. Naval vessels pass through the canal each year, complemented by U.S. military aircraft that are granted blanket overflight authority by Egypt. Other collaborative efforts to combat common security threats consist of border protection initiatives, including securing ports of entry and cutting off supply routes for the illicit flow of money and weapons. Complementing these efforts and pursuant to the Camp David Accords, hundreds of American soldiers comprise the largest authorized force serving in Egypt as part of the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO), the Sinai-based international peacekeeping force.

Egypt works closely with the U.S. to combat violent extremism and the distorted ideology that drives it. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has called for a renewal of religious discourse, encouraging Muslim leaders to renounce misinterpretations of Islam and promote its true essence as a religion of peace and tolerance.



# Embassy of Egypt

WASHINGTON, D.C.



U.S. EXPORTS TO EGYPT GREW

# 25%

IN 2014

EGYPT REMAINS THE

# THIRD

LARGEST ARAB MARKET FOR U.S. GOODS

IN 2014, THE U.S. SENT

# \$6.5

BILLION IN TOTAL EXPORTS TO EGYPT



As leaders in the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Egypt and the U.S. co-chair its Criminal Justice & Rule of Law Working Group, which advances rule-of-law based and human rights-compliant approaches to combating and preventing terrorism. In addition, Egypt the United States are coalition partners against Islamic State terrorists in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), with Egypt providing intelligence and eliminating key sources of funding and recruitment.

### ACTIVE PARTNERS ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Egypt and the U.S. both benefit from a robust economic and cultural relationship. In 2014, nearly \$8 billion in good and services were exchanged between the two countries and U.S. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Egypt totaled \$2.1 billion, representing 32 percent of its total FDI in Africa. Last October, 150 executives from nearly 65 major American companies travelled to Egypt, making history as part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's largest international trade delegation ever. American companies were again key participants at the March 2015 Egypt Economic Development Conference where billions of dollars worth of deals were announced, including a gas turbine trade deal with General Electric (GE) worth \$1.7 billion.



Egypt and the U.S. are also partners in liberalizing trade relations. Egyptian goods exported to the U.S. enjoy low tariffs pursuant to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences. In addition, Qualifying Industrial Zones, established as an economic complement to the Camp David Accords, allow duty-free entry into the U.S. of manufactured goods containing Egyptian and Israeli components from designated industrial areas.



Maritime commerce is a key economic sector between Egypt and the U.S. Illinois' Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company is one of six international firms that recently dredged a 45-mile expansion of the Suez Canal. This expansion includes a 76,000 square kilometer commercial and port development area, providing new opportunities for American companies. GE has already announced a \$200 million investment in this economic zone. Finally, approximately 37 percent of Egypt's trade with the U.S. is routed through Texas and Louisiana, with the Port of South Louisiana being the premier site for wheat and oilseed exports to Egypt.

On the agricultural front, Egypt's Orascom Construction Industries is financing and constructing the Iowa Fertilizer Company, a new production facility in the rural town of Wever, Iowa. This \$1.8 billion project currently employs 1,900 workers and represents the single largest investment in the history of the state.



Education, cultural preservation and tourism have always been important elements of bilateral commerce and people-to-people exchanges between Egypt and the U.S. The Egypt-U.S. Higher Education Initiative, a \$250 million scholarship and grant program announced in April, provides opportunities for 1,900 Egyptians to attend Egyptian and American universities. Egypt is also working alongside the U.S. to preserve cultural heritage and protect antiquities across the Arab world. This includes collaboration between our security agencies and cultural institutions to repatriate stolen artifacts and, in May, hosting with the U.S.-based Antiquities Coalition an international conference that addressed the destruction, looting and trafficking of antiquities across the Middle East. With regard to tourism, the first quarter of 2015 saw a 6.9 percent increase over the same period last year in the total number of foreign visitors to Egypt, including a 30 percent increase in the number of American tourists alone.