

Visit of the Hungarian National Security Advisor

The Hungarian National Security Advisor Mr. Joseph Czukor along with the Hungarian Ambassador "Peter Kveck" and Mr. Gyorgy Galicza, an advisor at the cabinet office of the prime minister visited the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs on 19th September 2016. The attendees include; Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran the Chairman, and ambassadors Mr. Abdel Raouf El Reedy the Honorary Chairman, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Shaker, Dr. Ezzat Saad the Director, Marwan Badr, Dr. Hazem Attia Allah and Dr. Norhan El Sheikh.

The Hungarian guest expressed his thanks to the members of the board for giving him the opportunity to talk about the developments in his country, its current foreign policy as well as its bilateral relations with Egypt. In this regard, he referred to many issues that includes; his previous visits to Cairo, meetings with high officials, his country's foreign policy as well as its experience in reforming its economy. Besides, he explained the negative aspects that infected the EU performance lately. In spite of all these issues, the guest said that they are optimistic about the future of the Union and its usefulness in maintaining peace and security in Europe.

The Hungarian guest answered the members' questions and the cooperation between Hungary and Egypt in fighting terrorism. The Hungarian guest Mr. Czukor also praised the role of Al-Azhar in spreading the true values of Islam.

The Consequences of the British withdrawal from the EU



The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs has held a round-table conference at its headquarter in Maadi on 3 July 2016; in order to discuss "The Consequences of the British withdrawal from the EU on Egypt", which ended with a number of recommendations.

The board chairman started off the round table with a speech that showed the result's background of the referendum; on remaining Britain with the EU bloc or not; which took place in the UK on June 23rd 2016. Ambassador Raouf Saad referred that the concentration in what concerns the referendum's results may end up by the withdrawal of Britain from the EU might be discussed from two sides which are the effect of this withdrawal on the EU generally on one side, and its effect on the bilateral relations between Egypt and Britain on the other side.

The MP Mrs. Anisa Hassouna pointed out that the time of this round table conference coincided with a meeting of the Egyptian Parliament to a number of ministers from the Egyptian Government; and the question addressed to them were as follows: Did the Egyptian government make up any expected scenarios regarding the British withdrawal?

Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem called for the importance of coming up with a group of recommendations that we can offer to the decision maker, pointing out to that the exit of Britain has some political, economical and social effects and consequences on many other fields and that Egypt can hold an essential role in the migration issue with the concerned parties.

Ambassador Gamal Bayoumy ensured that Britain was hesitating about joining the EU since the emergence of the European market in 1967 especially because the British community, for reasons regarding Britain's geography as a radical country, has the feelings of independence and arrogance. He also suggested preparing a bilateral mutual speech between the Egyptian Minister of Trade and his British counterpart about the continuation of using the same terms of the partnership agreement with the EU.

The UN International Law Commission homage the role of Boutros Boutros-Ghali



Based on Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna's proposal, the UN International Law Commission devoted, during its meetings in May ٢٠١٦, a special plenary session to mourn Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former member of the Commission and the former Secretary General of the United Nations.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Hassouna inaugurated his speech by thanking the International Law Commission to organize such a special session to pay homage to the multi-talented Egyptian prominent figure Dr. Boutros-Ghali. Dr. Ghali was a knowledgeable professor, famous journalist, and prominent diplomat, active member of the International Law Commission and the first Arab and African one to be the Secretary General of the United Nations. Dr. Boutros Ghali played a vital role in the Egyptian diplomacy as the minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he contributed to peace process in the Middle East, the struggle of the African people and supported the performance of Non-Aligned Movement. Also he stuck, during his term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to apply the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on all states without discrimination, and to respect the neutrality and the independence of the post of Secretary General of UN, and made important initiatives as his reports on the peace agenda, on the development agenda, and on the Democratic agenda. Dr Boutros Ghali supported the creation of the first international criminal court concerned with the trial of war criminals in the former Yugoslavia.

Despite of Dr. Gahli's achievements, the Security Council could not renew his term because of the use of veto by US, while all other Member States in the Security Council were in favour. In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was elected later as Secretary-General of the Francophone Organization, in which he activated and expanded its membership. Upon his return to Egypt, Dr Ghali headed the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, in which he always supported all human rights charters, whether Arab or African or international ones. Dr. Boutros Ghali also headed The Hague Academy for international law, believing in the importance of teaching and spreading the provisions of international law between various communities and ages.

Following Dr. Hassouna's intervention, all members of the International Law Commission expressed their appreciation of Dr. Boutros Ghali and his national and international achievements. The Chinese and the Japanese members, in addition to the African group, have praised Dr. Boutros Ghali's achievements and contributions.

The visit of the researcher Students at Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies

On July 20th, 2016 On July 20th, 2016 ECFA hosted some students from Faculties of Economics and Political Science from different Egyptian Universities (Cairo, Alexandria, Beni Suef, 6th of October). The meeting was within the framework of arrangements carried out by Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, which was attended by both Prof. Mohamed El-Saeed Idris, the Center's advisor and Dr. Mohamed Abd el kader expert of Turkish studies, besides ECFAs 'members including; Dr. Mounir Zahran, the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Ezzat Saad the Director, along with Dr. Mohamed Shaker and Dr. Hesham El-Zemeity, both members of the board.



Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran started the meeting by welcoming the guests, and defining the role of the Egyptian Council for foreign affairs as a civil society organization specialized in foreign affairs. He also pointed out to some members of the council who are professors at faculties of Economics and Political Science, such as the previous Secretary General of the United Nations Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, adding that the Council brings together previous ministers of Foreign Affairs like Mr. Amr Moussa, Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Mr. Mohamed Kamel Amr and Mr. Ahmed Abo El ghait.

Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad spoke about the working mechanism at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs which is mainly represented in geographically divided permanent committees, in addition to temporary task forces entrusted with discussing specific issues such as terrorism, for example. This division imposes itself on those who wish to join the membership of the Council and find themselves able to contribute to the activities of these permanent committees using their experiences, such as the international security, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons committee and nuclear disarmament, the united nations and other international organization committees, where new members choose to join a permanent committee fundamentally or alternatively. He also added that themembers of the Council are from different back grounds including previous ambassadors, researchers, members of the Egyptian military and intelligence, in addition to the academic scientists like engineers, doctors and others. Members also include corporates which have a valuable contribution in carrying out economic and technical research.

The chair of the board, the members and the executive director answered many questions addressed by the students.

Seminar about Book “Eurasian Russia: The Time of President Vladimir Putin ”

On 21st of Sep. 2016, The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs Hosted at its headquarter in collaboration with Centre for Partnership of Civilization at The Moscow University for International Relation which is affiliated The Russian Foreign Ministry , Seminar about "Eurasian Russia: The Time of President Vladimir Putin". The seminar headed by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran the Chairman and Ambassador V. Popov the director of the Centre for Partnership of Civilization and the Coordinator of Strategic partnership Group between "Russia and Islamic world". In addition, Some of Russian Diplomats and members from the Russian Embassy headed by the Russian Ambassador in Cairo Mr. Sergei Krepetchenka, besides a number of specialists and experts from the Council members.



In this regard, the Seminar focused on the Main Items in the book which is, the Russian Federation in the world after the Soviet Union, the political challenges and dilemmas that faced it during determining its identification, including openness to the West which caused many disappointments for it.

The book also discussed the return of Russia to the square of the international conflict and the stages of transition to confirm the Russian International standing, orientation toward Central Asia and Eurasia generally , President Putin's thought to create Eurasian structures including the Eurasian Economic Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) beside the regional coalitions and new international alliances. According to the Russia military doctrine, it was working to develop the defense policies which promote its abilities against NATO's expansions toward the east and the directed western intervention at Russia's neighbors, such as Ukraine.

Finally, the seminar had discussed the Present and the future of the Egyptian-Russian relations. In this regard, the partners expressed their interest in identifying the case of Russian Tourism to Egypt and if the wheat fungus will impact on the Commercial Exchange between two countries or not. According to these Issues, The Russian Ambassador confirmed on the deep relations between two countries and ongoing contacts between two leaders in both of them, particularly the last meeting between president Sisi and president Putin in China during the G20 Summit. All of these Movements ensure to reach for acceptable Solutions in Tourism and agriculture exports issues ...etc, referring to the Egyptian delegation travel to Moscow before the end of September 2016 to settle all these issues in the framework of common interests and mutual benefits between the two countries.

Weapons and the rule of international law at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law Conference

Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran participated in the 29 annual round table of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, which took place in the city of San Remo, Italy from 8 to 10 September. From Egypt, Ambassador Soa'd Shalaby (NCW) participated along with number of accredited ambassadors in Geneva, diplomats and military personnel from different countries. The Legal Counsel of the United Nations, the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a judge of the International Criminal Court of Nigeria.

The round table was under the title "Weapons and the rule of international law". The Round Table was inaugurated by Mr. Fausto Pocar, the president of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the Professor of International Law at the University of Milan, former judge in the court of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, "ICTY", and the Mayor of San Remo. The general secretary and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Mr./ Miguel Serpa Swariss' speech was relevant to the topic of the round table, particularly weapons of mass destruction and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons "CCW" that cause heavy damages.

Mrs. Christine Burley, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), discussed the role of the ICRC in the application of international humanitarian law, referring to the relevant resolutions.

The round table emphasized on the following topics:

- (A) Reviewing the status of the new weapons legally and its deadly and destructive effects against the populated regions.
- (B) The current and the future challenges, particularly the application of "Unnecessary suffering" for the population and property, which stated in the CCW.
- (C) The position of applying the international humanitarian law from a military point of view, with particular reference to the situation in Peru between the Peruvian army and the FARC, which has developed its operations by changing its fighters' outfits to a civilian one and mixing with the population.
- (D) Reviewing the development of the contemporary conflicts and the type of the weapons that used by non-governmental organizations, particularly in the former Yugoslavia and Syria.
- (E) The use of explosives in populated areas in the armed conflicts - reference to the practices of Daesh in Syria and Iraq.
- (F) The challenges posed by the cases of the use of chemical weapons and petrol bombs that internationally banned, with reference to the prohibition of the use of the police for the quick shot guns. In that issue, Ambassador Dr Mounir Zahran expressed his wondering on how the police are prohibited to use the quick shot guns while the terrorists are using such weapons.
- (G) The position of using submarines in conflicts and electronic warfare.
- (H) The position of the International Conference for Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2010 and the preparation of the next conference in 2019.

Ambassador Zahran also made an intervention in the discussions criticizing the question raised about the promotion of non-governmental organizations to adopt and apply the international humanitarian law. Dr Zahran added that such responsibility rests on the States parties and not on the non-governmental organizations that are supposed to be subject to the governments of the States Parties. He also pointed out that the continued possession of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, is considered a violation to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations with special consideration to article "2", which states - among other provisions - not to threat or to use force in international relations, and the mere possession of such weapons is considered as a threat.

The different means of combating Corruption

The Egyptian Cultural Forum hosted Amb. Dr.Mounir Zahran; the chairman of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs; on 18/9/2016 in it's headquarter in Garden City to give a lecture on the different means of combating Corruption. Dr.Mounir started his speech assuring that the phenomenon of corruption is irrelevant to our morals and violation to the principles and ideals and betrayal of trust and he referred that all the heavenly religions that he knew well; are stressing on those principles.

Then, he mentioned specific points such as:

- Corruption is a universal phenomenon; it is found in rich countries as well as poor ones, as we have witnessed some Corruption issues in the U.S and he gave the example of the Chief Justice of the United States and the Chairman of the Supreme Court Mr .Ab Fortas who has been convicted in a Corruption issue on 1969 as well as Mr. Spiro Agnew; the 39th Vice President of the United States under President Richard Nixon; who had retired from his position on 1973 after discovering that he has committed a Corruption Crime during his post as the governor on Maryland state on 1968-- 5 years earlier – which resulted in convening a Summit for Combating Corruption in London on 12 May 2016.

- Dr.Mounir added that the definition of Corruption according to the transparency organization is "The Abuse of Entrusted Power ".

He gave some recommendations for Combating Corruption that includes:

- 1- Consolidating the dual and international cooperation with other countries through revising the bilateral conventions in order to come up with UN, Arab and African Conventions, including surrendering suspects and criminals, collaboration in investigation and executing the verdicts / judgments issued by the Egyptian courts on Corruption.

- 2- Promoting charters and codes of conduct, including the local administrations, especially in the governorates.

- 3-Using early warning system and guarantying the protection of the whistleblowers.

- 4- It is important not only to join related international and regional agreements / conventions and updating legislations, but also enforcement of law, and compliance with its provisions through the administrative Prosecution, public prosecutions and security authorities, customs, control administrative and intelligence, and strengthen cooperation between them through the National Coordinating Commission to prevent and combat corruption, which established in 2014 according to the decision of the Prime Minister.

- 5- Amending the Egyptian legislations - particularly the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

- 6- Examining the constitutionality of reconciliation in money laundering crimes and smuggling to retrieve properties located abroad, and dropping the punishment in case of returning such properties.

- 7- Innocence judgment in case the suspect guides for his partners in the seizure of public money or money laundering, as US laws permit it.

- 8- Inevitability inclusion of the oath in the Law of Civil Service for all civil servants as it should include the signature of each employee on a charter or code of conduct, which refers to the relevant anti-corruption laws and assuring abiding by the oath in written form and signing it. Although there is no excuse for laws` ignorance, the text in the document on these laws and the provisions contained therein will have a private utility. And he mentioned that because of the large number of Egyptian laws; including what might be useful; many laws are forgotten even forthose engaged in making laws such as lawyers.

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Moscow's Fifth Conference on International Security 27-28th of April 2016



Ambassador and Dr. Mohamed Shaker and Ambassador Ezzat Saad were invited by the Russian Ministry of Defense to participate in the Fifth Moscow Conference on International Security. This conference is organized annually since 2011 as a forum to discuss important issues regarding regional and international security.

This year there was about 700 participants including 20 ministers of defense of different countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America all having strong ties with Russia. As well as, the secretary general of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Hamed Kerzai the former president of Afghanistan and two representatives of the United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon.

The Russian ministers of defense (Sergey Shoygu) and foreign affairs (Sergey Lavrov) commenced the conference. The conference started with the welcoming speech of President Putin given on his behalf by Nikolay Patrushev the secretary of the Security Council of Russia, a speech on behalf of Ban Ki-Moon was given by Jeffrey Feltman the head of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

The conference included four main sessions. First of all, a session was conducted about the global threat of terrorism to international peace and security. This session included a discussion of the different forms of terrorism and the possible military cooperation against it. Second of all, a session was conducted about the challenges and opportunities and challenges regarding international military cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. Third of all, a session concerning international security and military cooperation which included an evaluation of challenges and threats and the role of the armed forces in present military issues. And finally, a session about the issues concerning war and peace and the trend towards a new security system in Europe.

Parallel to the four main sessions, there were several discussion sessions that addressing issues such as: the interlocking contradictions in the Middle East, the old and new challenges to international security, the color revolutions and regional security including the role of the armed forces in ensuring national stability, and security in central Asia.

In the speeches of senior Russian officials including Nikolay Patrushev, the secretary of the Security Council of Russia, and the ministers of foreign affairs and defense, they highlighted:

- The Russian plane accident in Sinai which took place last October as one of the top accidents which shows the extent of how terrorism became a grave challenge for the entire international community.

- The struggle in the Middle East does not revolve around the struggle between Sunna and Shiaa people. In addition, Russia is very interested in resolving the Palestinian situation through the two-state solution and guaranteeing the security of the Gulf area as well as Central Asia and Afghanistan.

- The Russian officials also complained of what they called a vast media war against Russia by Europe, especially the states located in Central Europe and the Eastern European former communist states and the members of the NATO. This war in their opinion creates the suitable environment for an arms race. Furthermore, some Russian officials pointed out that the incident of the destruction of the Russian jet by a Turkish military plane reflects the animosity present towards Russia.

Not only were there Syrian, Egyptian, and Lebanese representatives however it is important to note that there was a large Iranian delegation headed by the Iranian defense minister.

Even though the Western powers officially boycotted this conference, in hopes of isolating Russia due to its actions of annexing Crimea and its stance regarding Ukraine, it is important to note that the Russian officials adopted a very calm tone in their general criticism, and its policies regarding the recent developments in Syria and specifically the topic of terrorism. In this context, some officials noted that if Russia and the United States were able to cooperate regarding Syria then they could be able to extend this cooperation to include other areas.

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Editor in-chief
Atef El-Ghamry

Tower no.2 Osman
Towers Cornish EL Nile
Maadi - Cairo - Egypt
Tel: (202) 25281091-6
Fax: (202) 25281093

Email:
info@ecfa-Egypt.org

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Editorial

The National Strategy of Egypt's Water Security



The great interest given to the issue of the Egyptian water security will remain with high concern to all Egyptians on all levels whether the official or the popular one; as the Egyptian water security is considered to be the backbone to Egypt's national security. Proceeding from this stand point, the round table conference that was held by the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs with a group of experts and specialists aiming at setting national strategy face the challenges of the Egyptian water security issue.

The past few years had witnessed a chain of conferences and seminars on the water of the Nile River, which was attended by many specialized experts. Therefore, ECFA had made some conferences under the same topic. Despite all that, the issue of water security had deeper dimensions than that of the water flow of the Nile.

The internal and external conditions of each state whether a big or small one, are the main factors that will lead to prioritizing the elements of each country's national security. But, the Egyptian national security has a special privacy that pushes the water security issue to be on the top of its priorities.

Since the beginning of history in ancient times, Egypt and the Nile River are interconnected. It is a bond of life, existence, renaissance and Civilization. The Nile River improved the thought and the activities of the community which had developed in all fields of agriculture, industry, culture and architecture on the river banks. Now, any barriers that influence the flow of water of the Nile River to Egypt will be the major content of its broad national security.

That's why the direction of holding round table conference to set a national strategy in dealing with this vital issue, is very important especially after the discussion had summarized specific complementary conclusions that we have to move forward on implementing them as it's no longer possible to focus on one conclusion without giving the same interest/care to other aspects/conclusions as well.

The multiplicity of these aspects will lead to increasing the awareness of the Egyptian citizen on the destiny of the Nile water; as it has the same vital importance of the issue of Egypt's relations with Nile Basin countries as well as reaching a comprehensive convention with Ethiopia to determine future water cooperation mechanism between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

There is no doubt that developing the relations of the Egyptian foreign policy with Africa to be again at the top of Egypt's foreign relations, was an important step and a strategy in the direction of drafting Egypt's national security, after years of absence from Africa which had a negative impact on the relationship with the Nile Basin countries in the previous years.

The conclusions of the round-table conference, are considered to form an important map work, and contribute to the matter of the Nile water issue, with a more comprehensive and multi-dimensional look.

The Editor



ECFA

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National Strategy to deal with the Egyptian water security challenges



On 26th of July 2016, the Egyptian Council held a round table meeting with experts and professionals, at its premises, to discuss setting on a national strategy to deal with the Egyptian water security challenges. Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad and Dr. Farouk Makhoul have worked on preparing for the round table meeting, organizing the participants and in editing the final report.

The Council has put forward a working paper on the need for a comprehensive and urgent Egyptian strategy to face the current challenges and the future threats to Egypt's water security, dealing with the E'ntebbe "Convention, the tripartite D'eclaration of Principles," and the implementation of the Ethiopian Renaissance dam. Participants of the meeting expressed their appreciation for the worksheet, and its contribution in facilitating the success of the meeting, and shortening the time of the discussions.

The discussions stressed that water security for Egypt is the backbone of our national security in its wide definition, which means that this issue from the perspective of the present and the future is a matter of life or death. From this angle only, we have to deal with and face both the current and future water threats and its consequences ranging from the headwaters of the Nile in Ethiopia and tropical countries, until the arrival in Aswan, or the challenges that would threaten the rights of Egypt in this regard.

The concept paper included the following aspects:

1. On the national level:

(A) We should give the Nile water issue and the Egyptian relations with basin countries a vital importance to secure Egypt's water resources from the Nile. It should be regarded not only as a national security issue, but a matter of life or death for the Egyptian citizen.

(B) Increasing the awareness of the Egyptian citizen with the importance of the Nile for Egypt and the necessities of rationalizing the use of the water. We can get benefit from the advantage role of civil society organizations in promoting these efforts.

(C) Rationalizing the use of the Nile resources and maintaining quality in all sectors (drinking water, industry, agriculture ...) through setting up the plans and legal measures to ensure the rationalization of the Nile. We should take into account the environmental standards and the preservation of human life.

2. On the Egyptian/ Sudanese level (Khartoum - Juba):

(A) We should strengthen the Egyptian-balanced relations with Sudan and South Sudan in all fields and ensure coordination with each of them ensure a unified position on Nile water issues.

3. at the level of Egypt's relations with other basin countries:

(A) There is no doubt that Egypt adopts an effective foreign policy toward Africa in general and the Nile Basin countries in particular. Therefore, the Water dimension should not be the only sole focus of Egypt's relations with these countries. Such a strategy should be directed as the highest priority in Egypt's foreign policy strategy.

(B) In the case of failure of the current negotiations to reach a consensus with Ethiopia regarding solving the problem of the Renaissance dam, Egypt should resort to the international and regional communities by submitting the technical studies and scenarios.

(D) We should work with Ethiopia to reach a comprehensive convention (in the light of previous agreements) defines water cooperation mechanism in the future between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia on prior notification and not to cause harm, to prevent the non-recurrence of the problem in the coming Ethiopian projects.