

## “The National Initiative for Smart Green Projects in Egypt's Governorates”

### Institutionalizing the initiative

#### Round 2

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#### **Background:**

The Egyptian Government launched the “National Initiative for Smart Green Projects Governorates in Egypt’s Governorates (NISGP)” as a pioneering initiative in the areas of achieving sustainable development goals, addressing the effects of climate change, accelerating digital transformation and encouraging innovative practical solutions in order to mitigate and adapt with climate change effects. This pioneering initiative adopts a bottom-up all-inclusive approach that aims at developing a governorate-level map of smart green projects, presenting innovative climate solutions at the local level. Moreover, NISGP aims at mobilizing the necessary investments for the implementation of these projects, creating a smart green movement at a grass-root level, and localizing smart solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The presidential initiative contributes to Egypt’s efforts to implement Egypt’s Sustainable Development Strategy “Egypt Vision 2030” and the “National Climate Change Strategy 2050”. It was launched pursuant to the decree issued on 23 June 2022 by the Supreme Committee on Preparation for Egypt's Hosting of COP27” chaired by H.E. the Prime Minister. On August 7, 2022, the initiative was launched under the auspices of H.E. President Abdelfattah El-Sisi, and H.E. the Prime Minister issued a decree No. 2738 on the organizational framework. The initiative is being implemented under the supervision of Dr. Hala Elsaid, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, is chairing the National Judging Committee responsible for the selection of the winning projects, and Ambassador/ Hisham Badr has been given the mandate of the general coordinator of the initiative. The decree set out the relevant operational and procedural steps and the time frame for the implementation of the initiative.

Six “Green and Smart” projects are to be selected in each of the 27 governorates. Qualified projects are evaluated by the Executive Committees within each governorate, chaired by each respective governor, and according to a set of criteria - set by the National Organizing Committee of the Initiative. The six qualified projects in each governorate represent the following categories:

- 1- Large projects
- 2- Medium projects
- 3- Small local projects (especially those associated with the Decent Life Initiative)
- 4- Projects submitted by start-up companies
- 5- Gender-related projects
- 6- Non-profit community initiatives and participation

A total of 162 projects (6 categories x 27 governorates) were selected by the executive committees in all governorates, to compete at the national level on the first 3 places in each category. The 18 winning projects were announced during NISGP national conference held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and honored by H.E. the Prime Minister. NISGP National Conference aims at showcasing the qualified projects with the participation of national and international organizations, financial institutions and development banks, as well as leading institutions concerned with encouraging exports, private investments, innovation, and sustainable development. Furthermore, NISGP was keen to present its winners to the world during COP27 in 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh and is looking forward to showcasing the winners of round 2 during COP28 in Dubai.

### **NISGP within the framework of the National Climate Change Strategy**

The Egyptian government gives great attention to mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to it and is committed to delivering its fair share of climate action as part of the global action to address climate change. Moreover, given Egypt’s high vulnerability to climate change, adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change is an imperative necessity. From this standpoint, Egypt prepared its **first comprehensive National Climate Change Strategy 2050** to be in line with the Sustainable Development Strategy SDS - Egypt Vision 2030.

As an unprecedented presidential initiative, (The **National Initiative for Smart Green Projects in Egypt's Governorates**) -NISGP compliments Egypt's efforts to implement Egypt' Sustainable Development Strategy "Egypt's Vision 2030" and the "National Climate Change Strategy 2050" through striving to fulfill its objectives that aligned with:

### Initiative's Objectives

### NCCS Goals and Objectives

## Integration of the National Climate Change Strategy Goals and Objectives within the Initiative

- ◆ Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth and Low-Emission Development in Various Sectors
  - ◆ Empowering different sectors in society, including women, youth, and the business community, to be an integral part of the national efforts in combatting the negative impacts of climate change.
  - ◆ Localization of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
  - ◆ Finding Egyptian solutions to climate change problems at the national level.
  
- ◆ Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change, and Alleviating the Associated Negative Impacts
  - ◆ Implementing Green/Smart projects through maximizing the use of climate solutions and ICT in line with the objectives of the "National Climate Change Strategy 2050".
  - ◆ Raising awareness about climate change risks and building the capacity of calibers to lead the change.
  
- ◆ Enhancing Climate Change Action Governance
  - ◆ Create a database and a map of Smart Green Projects all over Egypt to facilitate and encourage future national investment in green economy.

- Enhancing coordination and partnerships among key stakeholders in all governorates of Egypt to raise awareness of the importance of addressing climate change risks through utilizing innovative solutions and technologies.

- Enhancing Climate Financing Infrastructure

- Finding investment opportunities and a mechanism for financing projects by linking projects with donors and national and international financial institutions.
  - The smart partnership between local, national, and international

- Enhancing Scientific Research, Technology Transfer, Knowledge Management and Awareness to Combat Climate Change

- Implementation of smart technology and digital transformation in solutions that address climate change risks.
  - Creating a network of partners (civil society, educational bodies and think tanks, international organizations, and private sector entities) to offer capacity building, knowledge transfer, and encourage innovation to adapt to and mitigate climate change risks.

**Because of the success and recognized impact NISGP achieved in its first round, the Prime Minister decided to implement this initiative annually in order to continue the efforts towards fulfilling NISGP's objectives and further spread its impact across Egypt. Hence, the collaboration of all stakeholders including NGOs, civil society, private Sector, international organizations, (not limited to governmental agencies). NISGP is keen on involving all stakeholders as they can contribute effectively in realizing the objectives of the Initiative and promote collective action to better tackle climate change and its pressing risks.**

## Areas of collaboration:

- **Initiative's technical and financial support**

- **Providing experts for technical consultancy** related to environmental fields in addition to experts joining the judging committee to evaluate and select the eligible projects.
  - Senior Overall Initiative Consultant
  - Senior Consultant Projects and Financiers Matchmaking
  - Senior Environmental Consultant
  - Junior Expert in Green and Technological elements
  - Expert for the governorates to provide capacity building.
- **Restructuring the initiative's electronic platform & website.**

The call for applications opened through the initiative's official website: [www.sgg.eg](http://www.sgg.eg), with the support of Egypt Award for Government Excellence, to ensure the effectiveness of the platform and to add some modifications to it, it is necessary to restructure the platform. Additionally, NISGP website is planned to include further information and training to raise awareness of climate change risks and encourage generating innovative ideas to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- **Creating a database / a map for Smart Green Projects all over Egypt to facilitate future national investment planning.**
- **Provide technical expertise to support NISGP's various activities:**

Upgrading  
Capacity of the  
Governorates to  
evaluate smart  
green projects

Enhancing  
public and  
private  
partnership to  
support smart  
green projects

Forming  
international  
coalitions to  
promote smart  
green projects

Reinforcing the  
role of NGOs to  
ensure a  
smoother  
collaboration to  
develop future  
green projects

Capacity building of  
the Initiative's  
Structure including  
assistance in  
documenting  
initiative's papers &  
deployment of  
personnel nationwide

▪ **Outreach and Media campaign:**

Since Climate Change is a universal issue, all sectors and segments of society are considered key stakeholders. NISGP focuses on raising awareness not to merely bring attention to the matter but to motivate everyone to contribute to climate action. That's why NISGP is reaching out to all stakeholders through all possible channels. NISGP collaborates with private and public sectors, as well as national and international development partners, to promote the concept of green and smart projects all over the 27 governorates: through conferences, bilateral meetings, diverse joint projects/sessions, and seminars. Additionally, audio and visual advertising campaigns are essential to raise awareness of the initiative's objectives and encourage applicants to participate nationwide through:

- Radio campaigns.
- Digital Media & Marketing campaigns.
- TV campaigns.

▪ **Governorate's Capacity Building:**

- Calibers capacity building in all governorates in order to **act as climate ambassadors** to raise awareness on climate change.
- Implementation of many training programs and workshops to raise more awareness on the initiative, the definition of smart green projects, explain tasks required from each executive committee, educate both the structure of the governorates and the participants on how to use the website, and how to submit the applications fulfilling required information as per the 6 categories. In addition to explaining the definitions of the Small, Medium, and Large Enterprises as well as startups that have been outlined, according to Decree No. 152 for 2020, and explaining detailed steps of the evaluation process. The training also encompasses an overview of how to use evaluation tools according to the main criteria of NISGP.
- Divide the governorates into 9 regions, each region involving 3 - 4 governorates according to the geographical division of governorates for two days or more, to provide them with

- capacity building and knowledge enhancements. This training will be implemented for each region according to the number of submitted projects.
- Regional Press Conferences to feature projects selected by the Executive Committee in governorates.

▪ **National Conference:**

NISGP National Conference is held to bring together all stakeholders to put the solutions brought from all over Egypt into effect in order to become a viable part of climate action. The national conference doesn't only announce and honor the 18 winning projects on the national level, but it also showcases the 162 qualified projects representing Egypt's 27 governorates in order to discuss with potential partners the scalability of their solutions. The qualified projects are to be presented at the conference in the presence of H.E Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, the Egyptian Prime Minister, as well as Egyptian ministers, high-level officials, NGOs, private sector representatives, international organizations leadership, national and global entities representatives, as well as financial institutions.

▪ **Supporting the Sustainability of Winning Projects:**

To guarantee the sustainability of NISGP's winning projects, it is vital to link them with a network of supporters and potential partners nationally and internationally. Hence, NISGP is committed to not only offering the winning projects financial prizes and technical support but also to building a wide network for its winners and connecting them with potential investors to support in scaling up their projects. Hence, NISGP tailored its awards to motivate NISGP winners to further develop, help them in building their capacity, and incentivize other participants to partake in finding green solutions as well.

NISGP fulfills this commitment by offering its winners the following:

- Financial prizes
- Awards of recognition
- Technical support (Services and business solutions - consulting services- capacity building).
- Human capital support (Skilling winning projects to be prepared for COP28).

- **Featuring top winning projects during COP28.**

**The above-mentioned costs are a tentative estimation of the total expenses of the main activities that NISGP is holding and is communicating to potential partners to fully or partially support them. We hope that would partially support the activities that fall under its scope with USD 1 million.**

## **Timeline:**

### **February-March 2023**

- Review and redesign the criteria and evaluation process for selecting smart green projects.
- Review and improve project submission forms.
- Improve and restructure the online platform for receiving projects to allow accepting the targeted numbers during this round, in addition to providing all information about the initiative and what was done during the first round in both languages (Arabic and English).
- Prepare a comprehensive video that includes the following:
  - Introduction about the initiative.
  - NISGP's participation in COP27
  - Criteria required for projects to join the initiative (in the form of online training)
- Visit the governorates to elaborate on NISGP's plan for the second round and discuss the governorates' role in widening the scope of spreading awareness of the initiative in order to reach out to villages and centers and raise awareness on the importance of preserving the environment and climate change risks.



- Publicizing and advertising the initiative through different media channels and various social media platforms, in collaboration with the initiative's stakeholders (governorates - relevant ministries).

### **April To August 2023**

- Open the door for applications through the website from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and close it by end of August.

### **From 10<sup>th</sup> of September to 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023**

- The executive committee in each governorate shall operate under the supervision of the governor to select and define a list of 18 smart green projects (three projects in each of NISGP's six categories) with a total of 486 projects (3 \* 6 \* 27) in order to compete on the national level.

### **From 24<sup>th</sup> of September to 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023**

The announcement of the 486 qualified projects in a regional press conference within the governorates.

### **From 8<sup>th</sup> of October to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2023**

- Re-evaluation of qualified projects through a specialized technical committee comprising the relevant ministries, each in its specialization.
- Review and evaluate the results of the technical committee through an international committee comprising international entities and organizations (advisory opinion).

### **From 29<sup>th</sup> of October to 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023**

- The convening of the National Judging Committee, chaired by Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin - United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, for the final selection of the winning projects.

### **From 5<sup>th</sup> of November to 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2023**

Organize the national conference in the presence of H.E the Prime Minister, H.E the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin - the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, a number of concerned ministers, and representatives from various local and international organizations and financial institutions to present and review the 162 projects that were selected.

- The National Judging Committee announce the winning projects of the initiative with 18 winning projects nationwide (three projects from each of the six categories).
- Follow-up on the qualifications of the 18 winning projects, in preparation for presentation at COP28 in our neighboring country of, the United Arab Emirates.

### **End of November- Mid December 2023**

- Showcase and present NISGP's top winning projects during COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.