

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 23, 2019

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President El Sisi Meets the WHO Director-General

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met on Thursday with the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom.

President El Sisi welcomed Dr. Adhanom on his first visit to Egypt since assuming his post as WHO Director-General. The President lauded the WHO's efforts and progress in enhancing the health sector across the world, particularly in the African continent.

The WHO Director-General commended the state's remarkable efforts in the field of healthcare and in improving the health sector in Egypt, which aimed at delivering quality health services to the citizens through a multitude and a variety of presidential initiatives. He confirmed the WHO's appreciation for Egypt's unprecedented efforts at the international level, which turned Egypt into a model to be emulated in the commitment and political will to improve and promote the health of its citizens.

Dr. Adhanom valued the success of the 100 Million Healthy Lives initiative, which has become an inspiring model for medical screening at the African and international levels, given the huge and historically unprecedented numbers of citizens included in the screening, while providing full and free treatment. This

is in addition to the outstanding, fast and accurate screening process. The WHO Director-General noted that his current visit to Cairo came to unveil a report prepared by a WHO verification team on the 100 Million Healthy Lives initiative, which he delivered to President El Sisi during their meeting. Dr. Adhanom revealed that the report lauded the huge efforts exerted by the government of Egypt to screen and treat Hepatitis C virus and to detect non-communicable diseases. The WHO Director-General noted that the report calls for disseminating and sharing the Egyptian experience and expertise in the elimination of the Hepatitis C virus with the rest of the world to serve humanity.

The meeting tackled the state's efforts to improve public healthcare in Egypt, notably through the relevant presidential initiatives, which include initiatives to improve women health and to end waiting lists of patients who require critical surgical interventions. This is in addition to a multitude of presidential initiatives that are set to be launched in the near future, including an initiative to detect and treat hearing impairment in newborns, as well as the launching of the first phase of the comprehensive healthcare insurance system in Port Said governorate, which constitutes a key aspect of the program to improve and reform the health sector in Egypt. The comprehensive healthcare insurance system is set to encompass all governorates in Egypt in the coming years.

President El Sisi reviewed Egypt's efforts, within the framework of its current chairmanship of the African Union, to reform the healthcare system in Africa, particularly by launching an initiative to treat one million African citizens from Hepatitis C virus. This is in addition to its success to attract international institutions that provide the vaccinations and medication needed to combat Hepatitis B at low prices for African countries.

President El Sisi looked forward for the WHO to assume its role as a liaison with the relevant international institutions to support Egypt's efforts by

providing the necessary technical support to enhance its ongoing efforts to improve healthcare at the African and international levels.

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