

**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Country:** Egypt

**Delegate:** Fatima Naeem Shaikh

**School:** Ashoka Universal School

**Agenda:** Fostering Resilience and Inclusivity in the Informal Economy

---

## **I. Introduction to the Topic**

The informal economy includes jobs like street vending, small-scale farming, and home-based work that are not regulated or protected by the government. In many countries, including Egypt, the informal economy is a big part of how people earn a living. However, workers in this sector often face challenges like low wages, no job security, and lack of access to healthcare or education. These problems make it hard for them to improve their lives. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to help these workers by promoting resilience (the ability to recover from difficulties) and inclusivity (making sure everyone has equal opportunities). This agenda is important because it supports Sustainable Development Goal 8, which focuses on decent work and economic growth for all.

## **II. Country's Stance on the Issue**

Egypt believes that the informal economy is very important because it provides jobs for millions of Egyptians, especially women and young people. Many people in rural and urban areas depend on informal work to support their families. However, Egypt recognizes that informal workers face risks like unstable income and no social protections (like insurance or pensions). Egypt is committed to working with the UNDP to create solutions that help these workers. The government wants to make the informal economy stronger by giving workers better skills, access to markets, and legal protections. Egypt also supports international cooperation to share ideas and resources to improve the lives of informal workers.

### III. Past Actions

Egypt has taken several steps to support the informal economy. The government has worked with organizations like the UNDP to provide training programs for informal workers, especially in skills like farming, crafting, and small business management. For example, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity has launched programs to help women in rural areas start small businesses. The government has also created microfinance programs, which give small loans to informal workers to grow their businesses. In 2014, Egypt passed a law to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which helps some informal workers register their businesses and get legal protections. Egypt has also partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to study the informal economy and find ways to improve working conditions.

### IV. Proposed Solutions

Egypt proposes the following solutions to foster resilience and inclusivity in the informal economy within the UNDP framework:

- 1. Provide Training and Education Programs:**

Egypt suggests that the UNDP support programs to teach informal workers new skills, such as digital skills, financial management, and marketing. These programs can help workers earn more money and compete in modern markets. Special focus should be given to women and youth, who make up a large part of the informal economy.

- 2. Improve Access to Financial Services:**

Many informal workers cannot get loans or save money because they do not have access to banks. Egypt proposes that the UNDP work with governments to create affordable microfinance programs and mobile banking services for informal workers. This will help them invest in their businesses and save for emergencies.

- 3. Create Legal Protections:**

Egypt encourages the UNDP to help countries develop laws that protect informal workers. For example, governments can make

it easier for workers to register their businesses and get social benefits like healthcare and pensions. This will give workers more security and stability.

**4. Promote Fair Trade and Market Access:**

The UNDP can help informal workers sell their products in local and international markets by promoting fair trade practices. Egypt suggests creating platforms where informal workers, like farmers and artisans, can connect with buyers. This will help them earn more money and grow their businesses.

**5. Raise Awareness and Include Stakeholders:**

Egypt believes that governments, businesses, and informal workers should work together to find solutions. The UNDP can organize campaigns to educate people about the importance of the informal economy and involve workers in decision-making processes. This will ensure that policies meet the real needs of informal workers.

Egypt is committed to supporting the UNDP's efforts to make the informal economy more resilient and inclusive. By working together with other countries, Egypt hopes to create a future where informal workers have better opportunities, fair treatment, and a stronger voice in society.