**CONCEPT PAPER FOR
AN APPLICATION TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND IMPROVE
GOVERNANCE IN EGYPT BY COMPLEMENTING USAID ACTIVITIES**
Project Title: Radioactive Emissions Monitoring and Public Transparency
Submitted by:
Middle East Programs,
Department of Global Security Engagement and International Safeguards,
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1.0 Objectives/ Basis/Strategy/Partnering Institutions

Greater public transparency by government agencies in the sharing of emissions data from sensitive nuclear research facilities in Egypt will lead to an increase in the trust and confidence of affected communities and greater accountability of the government agencies involved. Such transparency will strengthen community participation in the Egyptian environmental sector and create **governance institutions, processes and policies that are transparent and accountable** across the environmental sector.

Through our proposed project, over a **two-year period**, we plan to share with the Egypt Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA) the experience within the US of the Neighborhood Environmental Watch Network (NEWNET) – a system of radiation and other environmental data monitors that have been placed around sensitive nuclear research facilities in the US and that share their data with affected communities. An example of such a site is the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico that has several NEWNET stations located around its perimeter and in neighboring communities. At most NEWNET stations in the US, affected communities participate in the data collection, including High School students, concerned citizen groups, and environmental NGOs. For example, a NEWNET station to monitor air releases of radioactivity was placed by the Los Alamos National Laboratory on the reservation of a neighboring American Indian tribe, the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. From some NEWNET stations, environmental data is posted automatically on the Internet, allowing the public almost real-time access to data on releases of contaminants of concern (if any). We plan to provide a mobile radiation monitoring station (similar to a NEWNET station) to Egyptian environmental NGOs that could be placed around nuclear research facilities of the EAEA. The project will be developed in collaboration with the EAEA – however, resources will only be provided to the environmental NGOs involved. The sharing of data on environmental releases of possible concern to the public by the EAEA will be a significant step in creating greater public accountability of major government research and industrial facilities and increased transparency in the public assessment of the environmental impacts of the facilities.

This Concept Paper is submitted by the Middle East Programs section of the Department of Global Security Engagement and International Safeguards at **Sandia National Laboratories** (**SNL**), Albuquerque, NM, USA. SNL has unique capabilities that will support the US Agency for International Development (US AID) in the area of **Promoting and Supporting Public Accountability**. The result of our project will be greater public accountability of the EAEA, especially relating to radiation levels around sensitive research centers. As SNL has worked cooperatively with the EAEA in the past,

we anticipate that our project will have the support of the EAEA, although funding will only be given to Egyptian environmental NGOs and, as appropriate, other allowable local agencies.

2.0 Beneficiary Population and Geographic Range of the Program
We will especially target Egyptian NGOs working in the environmental sector. We will ensure that women have adequate representation in the data collection teams, and that the data is shared among all concerned citizen's groups living around various facilities of the EAEA.

3.0 Development Plan and Activity Description
The project activities will be as follows:
- We will host initial round-table discussions with the EAEA and concerned citizen's groups and environmental NGOs, to promote the NEWNET concept and system within Egypt. (**First quarter of project.**)
- Visits by Egyptian personnel to the US to investigate the operation of NEWNET stations in the US (**Second quarter of project**.)
- We will work with Egyptian affected citizen's groups and environmental NGOs to design and procure a mobile environmental and radiation monitoring system suitable to the needs of Egypt and to the placement of which the EAEA will be amenable. The research center within the EAEA we will work with is the National Center for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control (NCNSRC). (**Second to Fourth quarters of project.**)
- We will install the mobile monitoring system and create a system for the sharing of data with the affected communities – this data sharing system could be near real-time through automatic data acquisition and transmission via satellite, or based on the manual collection, analyses, and posting of data on a project web site. (**Fourth quarter of project**
- We will sustain a web-based system of data sharing and communication between the concerned government agencies and the public (**Fifth to Eighth quarters of project.**)
- Final report: We will publish a final report that will present the details of the project and its outcomes, as well as lessons learned (**Eighth quarter of project**.)

4.0 Expected Impact
We will continually publicize the data monitoring and sharing process to empower affected communities, strengthen networking among Egyptian environmental NGOs, and facilitate critiques of the project.

5.0 Technical/Administrative Capabilities in Proposed Work Area
SNL has key competencies in the areas of democracy promotion, citizenship, tolerance, civil society reform advocacy and civic education, and especially in the use of advanced technologies (such as the use of web-based data and knowledge sharing systems) to further US AID goals in these areas. SNL is managed by Sandia Corporation, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin, on behalf of the US Government, and receives funding from a variety of federal agencies, including the Department of Energy, the Department

of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State (US AID, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), etc.) SNL has an annual budget of over 1.5 billion dollars, and over eight thousand highly qualified natural and social scientists, engineers, technologists, and administrative staff.

The Middle East Programs section of the Department of Global Security Engagement and International Safeguards works to improve regional stability among Middle East countries through selected applications of science and technology.. SNL has developed and managed a range of programs and projects in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, the Gulf countries, Israel and the Palestinian territories, and others. SNL has had very successful interactions with Egyptian scientists and research institutions. In 2005, for example, 14 Egyptians scientists and engineers from the EAEA spent eight weeks at SNL collaborating on issues related to environmental security and receiving training. Another relevant SNL project is the Web Access for Civil Society Initiatives (WACSI) project that has been initiated in collaboration with the Southwest Institute for Religion and Civil Society (SIRCS) at the University of New Mexico (UNM). The goal of the WACSI project is to provide an Internet-based network for non-governmental organizations working to enhance societal initiatives in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria. Funding for the WACSI project comes primarily from the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of the US Department of State.

SNL has been successfully involved in building sustainable environmental monitoring collaborations in the region for some time. These activities include holding joint (Arab and Israeli) meetings and training, daily collecting and sharing of monitoring data on ecological and sustainable land use parameters, and building, strengthening, and maintaining a sharable infrastructure through the Internet. A goal of such projects has been to sustain and improve cooperation and confidence building through applications of cooperative monitoring and internet-based knowledge management capabilities. The Sustainable Land Use (SLU) project is a joint Israeli/Palestinian study launched by SNL in 1999. The aim of the project is to collect long term data on land conditions and requires minimal resources to maintain a network of meteorological and environmental monitoring stations. Data from these stations is collected and shared via the Internet among affected Israeli and Palestinian affected communities and government agencies.

SNL, as a leading national laboratory working at the interface of advanced technology and national security, is fully cognizant of the need to promote democracy in Egypt and well able to support the US AID in its democracy promotion goals.