

A Vision on the Development of the Urban Cadastre in Egypt

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SUMMARY

The need for information, development of appropriate databases and exchange of information as condition for creating the basis of sustainable development in all regions of the world is addressed in the UN Agenda 21 and The Habitat II Global Plan of Action. One reason for this is that the global society faces great problems with urbanisation and the influence of urbanisation on coastal zones and environmental conditions overall. Spatial information in general, and cadastral information more specifically, is an indispensable part of the basic infrastructure of a country.

In Egypt administrators and politicians are recognising spatial information as a national resource as well as a part of the basic infrastructure that needs to be efficiently co-ordinated and managed in the interest of the nation. The Egyptian eGovernment initiative is an example here. Further, the Egyptian government is encouraging the development of a Real Estate Industry and foreign investments. One step in this development is the completion of the urban cadastre, including both spatial data and legal administrative attributes. The efforts to realise this will be substantial. A main condition for implementation of an urban Cadastre is the co-ordination and co-operation between the governmental agencies like the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA), the Real Estate Publicity and Notarization Department (REPND) and the Real Estate Taxation Department (RETD).

In the vision as presented in this paper a low profile approach is proposed to establish an urban cadastre. A high geometric accuracy is often unnecessary for users of the data. Low-cost surveying and mapping techniques are proposed to be used. Existing administrative and spatial data sources are proposed to be upgraded: *upgrading of the taxation cadastre to a legal cadastre in a step by step approach combined with geometric data collection and linking or integrating geometric data with legal/administrative data*. Public inspections are required; the tax payers are not owners in all cases.