



## OXFORD ANALYTICA

EGYPT

MONETARY TRANSPARENCY

Country Report 2006

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# EGYPT



## COMPLIANCE RATINGS

<i>Monetary transparency</i>	2006	2005	2004	2003
Clarity of roles	••	••	••	••
Open decision process	•••	•••	••	••
Availability of information	•••	•••	•••	•••
Central bank accountability	•••	•••	•••	•••
<b>Score</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>2.50</b>

## OUTLOOK & COMMENTARY

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has continued to improve monetary policy transparency this year, and its execution of monetary policy is respected by the markets and general public. It intends to implement inflation targeting in 2007 and is currently receiving IMF assistance in this area.

The activities of the Monetary Policy Committee have become more transparent with the release of press statements signalling changes in interest rates following each of the MPC meetings. The CBE now disseminates an internal inflation report, but it plans to release this to the public when inflation targeting is introduced in 2007. However, staff capacity still needs to be developed, especially in the area of inflation forecasting.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2.75 Intent declared

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has continued to develop its credibility as an independent, transparent central bank. It plans to adopt explicit inflation targeting in late 2007 and is working closely with the IMF to develop its capacities in this area. Currently, there exists only implicit inflation targeting, and targets are not released to the public.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- formed in 2005 -- now publishes limited press releases immediately after the MPC meeting and an advance meeting schedule is also publicly available. Minutes and details of voting are not publicly available, but the CBE intends to begin publishing them in 2007, when inflation targeting is introduced. The CBE also publishes an internal inflation report which is presented to the MPC every six weeks; dissemination of the report to the public is intended for 2007. Capacity to develop inflation forecasting remains constrained.

However, the CBE has worked hard to improve the capacity of its staff in the past year, successfully recruiting two high-calibre graduates, and providing training in CBE operations and forecasting. Bank of England courses are also now available to CBE staff. However, capacity is still constrained, as the CBE has found it difficult to find more suitably qualified individuals.

Transparency of the banking sector should also improve following the privatisation of the Bank of Alexandria in October 2006, and the merger between Banque du Caire and Banque Misr which is due for completion at the end of 2006.

Egypt's overall score is unchanged from last year

## 1. CLARITY OF ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND OBJECTIVES OF CENTRAL BANKS

### ●● Intent declared

#### The objectives and institutional framework of monetary policy

##### Central bank objectives and responsibilities

The institutional framework of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) is set out in Law No. 88 of 2003 on the Central Bank, Banking Sector and Monetary System, also known as the 'Unified Banking Law'. This contains provisions for disclosure and transparency in the central bank's activities, and incorporates the five main laws dealing with the banking sector. Its seven chapters deal with: the role of the central bank, the organisation of the banking system, the management of public sector banks, the secrecy of bank accounts, provisions on the mortgaging of assets, the issuance of bank notes and foreign exchange, and sanctions.<sup>1</sup>

The CBE, which has separate monetary policy and foreign exchange units, is responsible for: issuing currency; formulating monetary, credit and banking policy; supervising policy implementation; managing the national gold and foreign exchange reserves; regulating the banking system; managing public debt and advising the government on loans and credit facilities.<sup>2</sup>

The flotation of the Egyptian pound in 2003 created a sudden depreciation and a re-emergence of the black market, leading to intervention on the part of the central bank. However, it has since stabilised, and by the end of 2004 the black market had been eliminated. Egypt now has a unified, flexible exchange rate regime which is largely determined by supply and demand in the inter-bank forex market. There is still some scope for CBE intervention, however: the CBE can choose not to buy at the closing rate which would then influence the exchange rate.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, public confidence in the management of the exchange rate has increased in the past few years, and high interest rates have reduced the pressure to convert savings to dollars as soon as possible.

Following an IMF comment that the CBE needs to improve the technical skills of its staff, the CBE has been receiving assistance from USAID to help recruit and retain skilled staff; to this end, in 2004 it implemented a 40% pay rise for professional staff.<sup>4</sup> The Monetary Policy Unit has continued its recruiting drive -- begun in 2005 -- to attract young graduates with strong academic credentials, and it now employs a number of highly qualified individuals who have undergone substantial training in forecasting. Bank of England courses are also now available to CBE staff, and the CBE has also set up a number of new departments for forecasting and analysis.<sup>5</sup>

##### Operational autonomy

In September 2002, President Mubarak placed the CBE under his direct authority rather than that of the prime minister, a move formalised in the Unified Banking Law. The president directly appoints both the governor of the CBE and its board. However, there are no statutory rules governing the appointments. In addition, under emergency laws, the president has the capacity to overrule any CBE decision under any circumstances.

The prime minister no longer interferes in CBE operations, and the cabinet appointed in 2004 has shown far more interest in coordination between fiscal and monetary policies. In addition, the current governor of the bank has already achieved improvements in management and transparency.<sup>6</sup> However it remains to be seen whether the current government will strengthen the CBE's autonomy.

## **Institutional relationship between monetary and fiscal operations**

### **Lending to government**

There continues to be no official definition of the institutional relationship between monetary and fiscal operations. However, as of 2006, the CBE is no longer able to provide loans to the government through the National Investment Bank (NIB, since the role of this bank is now being redefined), although it can still lend directly, subject to conditions.<sup>7</sup> Under the Unified Banking Law, government borrowing from the CBE must not exceed 10% of average annual budget revenue during the previous three years. Such loans must be for a period of three months, which is renewable on the condition that repayment is made within a maximum of twelve months from the date of extending the loans.<sup>8</sup> These loans are reported in the CBE's *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*.<sup>9</sup>

### **Central bank involvement in the rest of the economy**

The CBE is legally entitled to conduct open market operations in Egyptian government securities. Trading in the government debt market has been made electronic, and a primary dealer market for treasury bills has been launched. The CBE uses foreign exchange transactions only to cover its requirements and does not take positions. In December 2004, a foreign exchange inter-bank market was formalised, thus reducing the CBE's direct involvement in the currency markets.<sup>10</sup>

### **Central bank profit allocation**

Net profits of the CBE must be transferred to the Treasury after deductions to maintain reserves and for profit bonuses for personnel, which are decided by the board in accordance with rules set by the CBE.<sup>11</sup>

## **Agency roles performed by the central bank on behalf of the government**

The CBE acts as banker to the government and public institutions. The central bank therefore has the responsibility of the management of debt, credits and investments obtained by the government and other public entities from foreign banks and international organisations. However, the CBE is independent in its decisions on the terms and conditions of such guarantees.

The CBE is responsible for supervising and regulating the banking system in Egypt. A Banking Reform Unit within the CBE has been given the responsibility to restructure the banking sector to make it more robust and competitive. Its aims are to i) privatise and consolidate the banking sector, bringing the number of operating banks and foreign branches of banks from 57 in 2004 to around 22 by the end of 2007; ii) address issues with non-performing loans; iii) restructure financial and managerial sectors of state banks; and iv) improve CBE banking supervision. Work began in 2004 and, in accordance with these objectives, in mid-2005 the CBE ordered the liquidation of the branches of four foreign banks.<sup>12</sup> Of the public sector banks, the Bank of Alexandria was privatised earlier this year and the merger of Banque du Caire and Banque Misr is due for completion by the end of 2006. As a result of the work carried out in 2006, the number of banks has been reduced to 43, and further efforts are being made to increase the paid in capital to existing banks in order to increase competitiveness and ensure compliance to Basel II regulations.<sup>13</sup>

On behalf of the government, and in its capacity as the ultimate supervisor of the banking system, the CBE also plays a role in combating money-laundering. In 2001, after the OECD's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) included Egypt on a list of "non-cooperative countries and territories" (NCCTs), the Egyptian government issued its first law

to criminalise money-laundering, Law No. 80 of 2002.<sup>14</sup> In addition to this effort, in 2003 the government revised Law No. 80 and established a Money-Laundering Combating Unit, staffed by inspectors seconded from the CBE.

## 2. OPEN PROCESS FOR FORMULATING AND REPORTING MONETARY POLICY DECISIONS

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### The framework, instruments, and targets of monetary policy

#### Framework and monetary targets

Over the past three years the CBE has moved away from giving priority to exchange rate control policies, and its current aim is price stability. However, this is set to change, in late 2007/8, when the CBE is preparing to implement inflation-targeting.<sup>15</sup> The CBE does not yet want to publicise a precise inflation target, and it lacks internal capacity for measuring and forecasting inflation on a regular basis.<sup>16</sup> There have also been delays from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the main statistical body, in producing a reliable consumer price index (CPI), although the wholesale price index (WPI) is useable.<sup>17</sup>

However, it was felt by commentators that the overall credibility of the central bank was improving, and the markets have confidence in the governor.<sup>18</sup> The CBE is independent in choosing the specific monetary instruments to use in implementing policies, and in setting the numerical targets of those policies.<sup>19</sup>

#### Monetary instruments

Previously, the CBE used a broad range of monetary instruments to conduct monetary policy. In 2005, however, the CBE committed itself to the use of just two monetary instruments. In June 2005, the CBE implemented a new system for managing volatility in the interbank overnight rate, which involves a corridor system -- setting overnight deposit and lending rates. These provide a band within which the overnight rate can fluctuate. Central Bank Certificates of Deposit (CDs) replaced CBE Notes after legislation was passed in 2005 to exempt CDs from taxation. Open-market operations continue to be used to manage liquidity. This information is available online.<sup>20</sup>

### The monetary policy-making body

#### Monetary board

The CBE is headed by a governor who is appointed by presidential decree upon nomination by the prime minister. The governor has two deputies, also appointed by presidential decree. In addition, the CBE Board is made up of the head of the Capital Market Authority; three members representing the ministries of finance, investment, and foreign trade and industry; and eight experienced persons specialised in monetary, financial, banking, legal and economic affairs.<sup>21</sup> The composition, structure and functions of the board are specified in the Unified Banking Law.

As required by the Unified Banking Law, the CBE has now set up a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The MPC has nine members: the governor, the two deputy-governors, and six other members chosen from the CBE Board who have significant academic or practical expertise in monetary economics and policy. Announcements of changes in the interest rates are now published on the CBE website the day after each meeting, but with limited explanation.<sup>22</sup> Minutes and details of voting are not publicly available, but the CBE intends to begin publishing them in 2007, when inflation targeting is introduced.<sup>23</sup>

Separate from the MPC, a Monetary Coordination Council (MCC) was established in 2005 to formulate inflationary objectives. The MCC is made up of three members of the CBE (including the governor and deputy), three from the government (including the minister of finance and the prime minister) and nine independent members. Although it intends to meet quarterly, so far the council has met only twice this year, and commentators have been sceptical about the usefulness of the council.<sup>24</sup>

### **Advance meeting schedule**

According to Article 15 of the Unified Banking Law, the board of the CBE has to meet at least twice a month, upon the invitation of the governor or two-thirds of the board members. Board meetings are not considered valid unless attended by the governor or one of his two deputies and the majority of its members. Decisions of the CBE board have to be taken with the absolute majority of its members.

The MPC meets every six weeks and releases an advance meeting schedule which is published in the *Monetary Policy Statement* on the CBE website.<sup>25</sup>

## **Public statements on monetary policy**

### **Periodic publications**

The CBE's principal publications are the *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, the *Quarterly Review*, and the *Annual Report*. These publications are available from the CBE, although despite some improvements, the website remains somewhat unreliable for up-to-date electronic dissemination.<sup>26</sup> The *Monthly Statistical Bulletin* contains the latest information on a number of indicators including: reserve money and counterpart assets, net foreign assets, exchange and interests rates, and external and domestic public debts. This year, the CBE has also begun to publish a short quarterly Balance of Payments bulletin.<sup>27</sup>

With the formation of the MPC, a *Monetary Policy Statement* was released in June 2005, stating monetary policy objectives, the framework, instruments and the process of decision-making.<sup>28</sup> The CBE also publishes an internal inflation report, containing current price conditions, which is presented to the MPC every six weeks. Wider dissemination of the report is intended for 2007. Public statements and reports to the press have improved over the past year: the governor holds press conferences with the media and press releases are now released more frequently and in greater detail.<sup>29</sup>

### **Public hearings**

Within three months of the end of the current fiscal year, the CBE must prepare its financial statements for the past fiscal year as per Egyptian auditing criteria, which are then signed by the governor and two financial controllers. In addition, the CBE has to prepare a report on its financial position and the results of activities during the past fiscal year. This report contains a review of the economic conditions and financial, monetary, banking, and credit status in Egypt.<sup>30</sup> Quarterly reports on the bank's activities are also sent to the president and parliament.<sup>31</sup>

The financial statements, the report by the controllers, and the latter status report have to be presented to the president within ten days of their approval by the CBE board of directors. Copies must be submitted to the prime minister and parliament within the same period.

## **Regulations on data reporting by financial institutions to the central bank**

Over the past few years, the CBE has made considerable progress in developing its banking supervisory framework using materials, procedures and techniques obtained from other countries' supervisory systems. The CBE has been helped by the 2003 Unified Banking Law, which clarified banking supervision arrangements and prudential regulations. These have been published and made available to the banking sector.

By law, the CBE is entitled to have access -- at any time -- to the books and registers of banks in order to obtain data, and such access must take place at the premises of the central bank. However, local banks are reluctant to disclose information beyond what is supplied in their annual reports or to provide income statements. The CBE must report the results of its inspections and its recommendations.<sup>32</sup>

The CBE now complies with most of the Basel Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision, and action taken by the Banking Reform Unit has been working towards consolidating the banking sector, whilst also strengthening the central bank's capacity to enforce banking reforms and data reporting requirements. Indeed, the privatisation of the Bank of Alexandria and the merging of the public sector banks have been complicated by the low quantity and quality of publicly available data on the financial situation of these banks. To amend this problem, comprehensive, international standard audits have been carried out. The CBE has also now compiled a database on state bank information, although this is not available to the public.<sup>33</sup>

### 3. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON MONETARY POLICY



#### Release of central bank data

Egypt adopted the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) in January 2005. Data are available on the IMF's SDDS bulletin board and the CBE website.<sup>34</sup> However, commentators noted that while meeting SDDS requirements is commendable, there is still much room for improvement in terms of the timeliness and periodicity of the data.<sup>35</sup>

As well as daily and weekly inter-bank data, and weekly interest rates, the CBE publishes data on a monthly basis, seven weeks after the end of the reference month. Information includes figures on reserve money, net domestic claims on the public sector, net external position, and net international reserves.

The quality and quantity of information available on the CBE website has improved, although it is not user-friendly and, on occasion, the website experiences technical problems.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, while information on monetary policy formulation is improving, the nominal level of data release by the CBE is still compromised by the comparatively inferior data quality and dissemination standards provided to it from other financial bodies in Egypt. Independent users of data published by government ministries still treat official data with caution.

#### The central bank balance sheet

The CBE publishes a weekly statement of its financial position in the *Official Journal*, according to a format agreed by the board and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry. It publishes summaries of its balance sheet and the consolidated balance sheet of the banking system in Egypt in its *Monthly Statistical Bulletin* and *Quarterly Economic Review*, although these are not reliably obtainable from the CBE website yet. Also in the *Monthly Statistical Bulletin* data are reported for reserve money, counterpart assets, domestic liquidity, deposits, domestic credits, and foreign assets and liabilities.<sup>37</sup> These data are accompanied by some brief commentary. An overall balance sheet with aggregate transaction data is published in the CBE's *Annual Report*.

#### Lender of last resort

During the past four years the CBE has not been called on to act as lender of last resort. However, it remains liable to being required to do so. Legally the central bank is required to be ready to provide emergency funds to banks in trouble, and despite the fact that only some 10% of the population hold bank accounts, the Egyptian government has been unwilling in the past to let banks fail. If a default were to occur or be at risk of occurring, the CBE would likely bail out the bank in question. However, the banking reforms currently being completed make this less of a threat. The government has raised the minimum capital requirements for Egyptian banks from 100 million Egyptian pounds (17.5 million US dollars) to 500 million Egyptian pounds (87.5 million US dollars), which has reduced the probability of a bank collapse.

## Public information services

The main sources of public information on monetary policy are the publications and website of the CBE, and the statements by the CBE governor.<sup>38</sup> The CBE website provides details about changes in the lending and discount rates, exchange rate announcements and board decisions. Other information and measures relevant to the banking sector and private businesses are also available on the CBE website. These include information for foreign investors on capital repatriation and any new measures for regulating the foreign exchange market.

Additional economic information, some of it pertaining to monetary issues, is available in the *Egyptian Economic Bulletin (EEB)*, published by the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Centre.<sup>39</sup>

## 4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSURANCES OF INTEGRITY BY THE CENTRAL BANK

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### Accountability before a designated public authority

According to Article 28 of the Unified Banking Law, the CBE governor has to submit to the president a quarterly report on monetary, credit and banking developments, as well as foreign debt balances. Furthermore, the CBE board has to submit annually to the president, the prime minister and the speaker of the parliament a report covering the state of monetary and credit conditions nationwide. The CBE's *Annual Report* is publicly available and is examined by government ministers, banks, as well as the general public.

The CBE governor usually participates in ministerial meetings on economic policies and issues. However, there is still no public statement on the basis or details of such meetings, or requirements for explaining policy objectives and describing performance in achieving them.

### Financial statement

#### Audited financial statement

The annual financial statements of the CBE include a profit and loss statement, a balance sheet, and an overall report on its financial position and operations. The CBE Board submits the financial statements to the president and then the prime minister and parliament. Internal audit arrangements are not publicly disclosed.

#### External and internal audit

Monthly accounts are compiled on a cash basis and annual accounts on an accrual basis. The CBE's operating costs are reported in the *Annual Report*. Two external auditors who are appointed (with their fees fixed) by the Central Auditing Organisation (CAO) must review its annual accounts.<sup>40</sup> The CBE's financial year is the same as the financial year of the Ministry of Finance (and all public sector banks) and ends in June. Private sector banks in Egypt, however, use the calendar year. The accounting and auditing standards used are Egyptian standards, which draw on international standards.

### Conduct of officials

The CBE's internal code of conduct has been in place since its establishment. The board may issue regulations concerning the affairs of personnel, in particular remuneration, privileges and special allowances, as well as rates of allowances for domestic and foreign travel. CBE employees share the same protections as all public sector employees under national employment law.

## INTERVIEWS

Representatives of *Oxford Analytica* interviewed the following individuals during a visit to Egypt between 6 and 9 November 2006:

### Ministry of Finance

#### 8 November 2006

Amina Ghanem	Advisor to the Minister	Ministry of Finance
Hany Kadry Dimian	Advisor to the Minister	Ministry of Finance
Azza Moh Reda	Senior Economist	Ministry of Finance
Mohammed Assaad	Advisor to the Minister	Public Debt Management

### Central Bank of Egypt

#### 9 November 2006

Mohammed Hassan	Monetary Policy Advisor to the Governor	Central Bank of Egypt
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## ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS

#### 7 November 2006

Reham El Desoki	Senior Economist, Research Department	EFG-Hermes
Martin Hetherington	Head of Economic and Political Section	British Embassy in Cairo
Hanaa Ramzy	Economic Officer	British Embassy in Cairo
Khaled Sewelam	Business Studies and Analysis Manager	American Chamber of Commerce

#### 8 November 2006

Safaa Eweda	Under Secretary	Ministry of Economic Development
Sahar Nasr	Senior Financial Economist	World Bank
Simon Kitchen	Economist	CIBC

**9 November 2006**

Cyrus Sassanpour	Senior Resident Representative	IMF
Martin Steindl	Project Officer Governance	IFC
Maged El Deen Abdel Ibyari	Corporate Finance Directive Senior Consultant	PriceWaterhouseCoopers PriceWaterhouseCoopers

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> The Unified Banking Law gathers together disparate legislation passed under successive decrees in recent years, and also provides a legal basis for changes the government has made in the banking sector over the past year. This new law unifies five existing laws covering the banking sector: Banking and Credit law (No. 163 of 1957); Central Bank and Banking System Law (No. 120 of 1975); Banking Secrecy Law (No. 205 of 1990); Foreign Exchange Law (No. 38 of 1994); and the Law on Private Sector Contributions to Capital of Public Sector Banks (No. 155 of 1998).
- <sup>2</sup> Article 6, Unified Banking Law.
- <sup>3</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005, and 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>4</sup> 'Economic Trends Report', US Embassy, Egypt, September 2004, and IMF Article IV Consultation 2005 at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05177.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05177.pdf), p15
- <sup>5</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005, and 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>6</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 28 September-11 November 2004.
- <sup>7</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> Article 8, Statutes of the CBE.
- <sup>9</sup> See: [www.cbe.org.eg/Publications.htm](http://www.cbe.org.eg/Publications.htm)
- <sup>10</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>11</sup> 'The Bank's Finance', Part IV, Chapter 2, Article 40, Statutes of the CBE.
- <sup>12</sup> See: [www.mof.gov.eg/English/Reports/june2006/economic-news.pdf](http://www.mof.gov.eg/English/Reports/june2006/economic-news.pdf) for a summary of the Banking Reform Unit's activities.
- <sup>13</sup> Mena Report: *Consolidated assets of the banks in Egypt grew at a CAGR of 11.3% in the four year period from 2001/02 to 2005/06*. 12 November 2006, at: [www.menareport.com/en/business/Financial\\_Markets/205721](http://www.menareport.com/en/business/Financial_Markets/205721) and interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>14</sup> Available at: [www.cbe.org.eg/public/money%20laundering%20combating%20E.doc](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/money%20laundering%20combating%20E.doc)
- <sup>15</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>16</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>17</sup> IMF Article IV Consultation 2005 at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05177.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05177.pdf), p15
- <sup>18</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005, and 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>19</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 28 September-11 November 2004 and 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>20</sup> *Monetary Policy Statement* at [www.cbe.org.eg/public/MONETARY%20POLICY%20STATEMENT.pdf](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/MONETARY%20POLICY%20STATEMENT.pdf) and Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>21</sup> Articles 10-14, Unified Banking Law.
- <sup>22</sup> For example, see Monetary Policy Statement, November 2006: [www.cbe.org.eg/public/MPC\\_Press\\_Nov2006E.pdf](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/MPC_Press_Nov2006E.pdf)
- <sup>23</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>24</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005, and 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>25</sup> Available at: [www.cbe.org.eg/public/Amendment%20and%20Schedule%202.pdf](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/Amendment%20and%20Schedule%202.pdf)
- <sup>26</sup> As of end-2006, the CBE website was not up-to-date in its provision of these documents.
- <sup>27</sup> See Press Release, BOP Performance, 1Q of FY 2006/07: [www.cbe.org.eg/public/BOP\\_PressRelease\\_2006\\_07\\_E.pdf](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/BOP_PressRelease_2006_07_E.pdf)
- <sup>28</sup> *Monetary Policy Statement*, June 2005: [www.cbe.org.eg/public/MONETARY%20POLICY%20STATEMENT.pdf](http://www.cbe.org.eg/public/MONETARY%20POLICY%20STATEMENT.pdf)
- <sup>29</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>30</sup> Article 21, Unified Banking Law.
- <sup>31</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005.
- <sup>32</sup> 'Purposes and Functions of the Bank', Article 20, Part II, Statutes of the CBE.
- <sup>33</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>34</sup> [www.cbe.org.eg/Metadata.htm](http://www.cbe.org.eg/Metadata.htm)
- <sup>35</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 14-21 November 2005, and 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>36</sup> Interviews in Cairo, 6-9 November 2006.
- <sup>37</sup> See tables in *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, [www.cbe.org.eg/Monthly%20Statistical%20Bulletin.htm](http://www.cbe.org.eg/Monthly%20Statistical%20Bulletin.htm)
- <sup>38</sup> See [www.cbe.org.eg](http://www.cbe.org.eg)
- <sup>39</sup> Egyptian Economic Bulletin website, available at [www.economic.idsc.gov.eg/](http://www.economic.idsc.gov.eg/)
- <sup>40</sup> 'The Two Auditors of the Bank', Article 36, Chapter 1, Part IV, Statutes of the CBE; and Article 41, Statutes of the CBE.