Summary/Key Points:

1. **Most importantly his platform is based on the development of institutions**
   1. This also shows that he is trying to actually set up a government with checks and balances – decentralizing power from one individual/group/branch – which I personally think is integral/key to making the right decisions, checking power and rooting out cronyism/corruption
   2. “He says that his vision would lead to a mix of parliamentary and presidential systems, which would resemble the French government arrangement. “
   3. Bastawisi suggests a presidential council to be elected in place of a president with vice presidents for different specializations. He also suggests a board of assistants to the presidential council, consisting of members under 40 years old to give the new generation the political experience necessary to lead the country in the future.
2. **Wants to decentralize power away from Cairo – granting local districts more autonomy, which will grant the governorates an ability to make the decisions that benefit themselves (you know all those issues in Sinai???)**
   1. “He suggests a decentralized system in which every governorate has an elected local council that acts as a local legislature and decides on the use of the budget allocated for that governorate.”
3. **Bastawisy said in television appearances that while he roots for a safe exit for the military from the political scene, this doesn’t mean giving the military rulers immunity against prosecution for crimes that investigations prove they have committed during their time as rulers (and I would assume he would push for more influence of civilian courts vs. military courts)**
   1. Yes, some will argue to just vehemently oppose SCAF and talk rhetoric but when they own all the guns/tanks/weapons and have strong control of governorates, etc. just stating that with bravado won’t get you anywhere. As much as I dislike SCAF myself, it’s not about personal vendettas and the future of Egypt is more important than focusing on the details of some individuals
4. **He will definitely push for the independence of the judiciary - something that I think is integral to the development of Egypt. Everybody can talk about short term implementations but it is the setup of a system that enables checks and balances that will allow for positive long-term changes rather than short-sightedness**
5. **Genuinely sees the benefits of the Jan25 uprisings and shares visions/hopes that I can relate to – something that cannot be said of most of the candidates**
6. **Discusses human rights, unprompted, on many occasions – making it seem like a key part/cornerstone of the institution development he plans on**
7. **How many other candidates can you find articles/video that shows them speaking out against Mubarak and his regime – DESPITE being in a prominent position of power that he could have easily coasted in and rubber stamped elections/fraud and been a very rich man**
8. **He says that his vision would lead to a mix of parliamentary and presidential systems, which would resemble the French government arrangement. While you may disagree with him on that specifically - the logic behind it is sound in that it helps inhibit the development of another dictatorship.**
   1. More importantly, the above point also shows that he is not keen on a power grab (in my opinion). I have always thought that the true sign of a leader who cares, and is not out for self-interest, is putting checks/balances on one’s self, to prevent one's own corruption
9. **He has outlined clear policies and suggestions for a variety of what I believe are the largest problems facing our country (specifically corruption and security sector reform).**
   1. The development of a job description for all state employees to avoid abuse of power
10. **Like all other candidates he talks about the importance of education and technology – however, he apparently excelled in law school and one of his sons is in engineering and the others graduates of law school so I feel he does have an emphasis on it in his own family**
11. **El Bastawisi’s limited financial resources and lack of a strong political backing are proving to be the main obstacles standing between him and the country’s top job.**
    1. Not cutting deals, compromising principles or taking money – that at the end of the day always gets called back in terms of favors/requests
12. **Has twice called off running for president and reprimand those discussing it – at the start of the revolution, stating that a national unity government and getting through transition were more important. Additionally, after Mohammed Mahmoud last November. He puts the country before himself or politics it seems to me.**
13. **A potential worry is that given his background in the judiciary that they may be co-opted but he has specifically called for corruption assessment to be a non-executive function, hence removing potential control from his purview if elected president**
14. **Soft-spoken yet a principles man as we can see from his actions in 1992 and 2005**
15. **Everybody mentions experience of candidates (or lack thereof) – he served as head of multiple courts across his career in Egypt, which I think required not only technical but administrative knowledge and know-how. Plus, he seems to have been liked/supported by the majority of lawyers/judges given their support for him**
    1. Moreover, he carried out this role in a principled fashion by constantly fighting corruption and not being coopted into the regime – culminating in his stepping down from his position when that was no longer feasible.
16. **Based on interviews he strikes me as a logical, well thought out man – he doesn’t answer with catchphrases and general vagueness but goes into the detail and also defers to “experts” which makes absolute sense**
17. Background:
    1. Born on May 23, 1951 in Cairo, El Bastawisi graduated from Cairo University with a degree in law in 1976. From 1980 to 1988, he worked as a deputy prosecutor at the Alexandria Customs Authority as well as the Department for Juvenile Justice. El Bastawisi and his family then moved back to Cairo, where he worked for 10 years with the cassation prosecution before being appointed judge at the Court of Cassation in 1998 and later vice president of the court in 2000.
    2. He is married to Olfat Salah El-Sahly, the daughter of well-known attorney Salah El-Sahly in whose office El-Bastawisi trained after he graduated from law school.
       1. He has three sons: Mohamed who received a bachelor degree in engineering, Ahmed and Mustafa who are both law students.
    3. In 1982, as a young judge overseeing the elections in the district of Menya al-Basal in Alexandria, Bastawisi canceled the elections in his district because of security intervention and rigging. He recounted in recent interviews how he got a phone call from a judicial source with a special pleading from Mubarak to reverse his decision, but he refused to comply.
    4. In 1992, El Bastawisi went on a four-year secondment to the United Arab Emirates.
       1. During his four years on assignment as a judge in the United Arab Emirates starting 1992, Bastawisi was just as uncompromising when it came to the dignity of the judiciary. Bastawisi reportedly received a note from a member of the UAE ruling family asking for a pardon for a defendant whose case he was seeing. Bastawisi responded with a note, writing “no intercession for anyone” — a saying with an Islamic reference stressing equality in justice.
       2. Bastawisi also started a strike for Egyptian judges in the Emirates when two of their compatriots were suspended because of a verdict they issued that angered the ruling family. The sit-in continued despite royal pressure until the reinstatement of the two judges.
    5. In 2003, Bastawisi assisted as deputy head of the secession court in a ruling to annul the election in the district of Zaytoun, in which former Presidential Chief of Staff Zakariya Azmy, one of the most prominent figures of the old regime, had won through rigging. Again, state pressure was not able to convince Bastawisi to reverse his ruling.
    6. During the last decade of Mubarak’s rule, El Bastawisi had gained a reputation of standing up to the regime’s corruption, with particular emphasis on its infringement on judicial independence.
       1. Bastawisi also suffered the consequences of confronting state intervention in the judiciary throughout his career. He was subjected to repeated travel bans, an alleged kidnap and defamation attempts.
    7. El Bastawisi is also a key figure in the Independence of the Judiciary movement; a reformist campaign calling for judicial independence from the regime’s executive authority.
    8. After initially refusing to monitor the 2005 elections, the general assembly of the Judges Club decided to go through with the monitoring; however, they documented all the illicit practices such as vote rigging, thuggery and fraud.
       1. Seeing a continuation of rigging in the elections, the Judges Club released a blacklist of the judges that took part in the rigging
       2. In response, the regime — under the guise of the Ministry of Justice — turned up the heat against the confrontational judges and referred El Bastawisi, along with Mekki, to a disciplinary tribunal.
          1. Mahmoud Abul Leil, then justice minister, admitted before his death last year that signing the papers to refer both judges to a disciplinary board was the worst moment in his life, and that he did it because of state pressure coming from Mubarak himself, who insisted that the judges be punished for publicly criticizing the judiciary.
       3. The decision, which El Bastawisi at the time described as “unconstitutional,” came as such a shock that the judge suffered a heart attack. Dozens of judges threatened to go on strike if their colleagues were disbarred, while hundreds of supporters visited El Bastawisi in hospital.
       4. Political activists and judges from the Judges Association organized a protest and took to the streets to demonstrate against the government’s crackdown on the reformist judges.
    9. From 2006 onward, El Bastawisi and his family were continuously harassed by the authorities, it is alleged. The regime made sure his career remained stagnant, his phone and that of his wife were tapped and the intimidation and threats were relentless. By 2008, claims the judge, the harassment had reached unbearable levels, prompting El Bastawisi to move to Kuwait and seek employment there. He returned to Egypt in January 2011 during the initial 18 days of the revolution.
18. Platform (additional points, but many are covered above and below)
    1. I will setup an apparatus independent from executive authority to combat corruption.
    2. Education and scientific research, the presidential candidate said, are the key tools for progress in Egypt, as well as the independence of the judiciary and restoring the national and regional role of Egypt
    3. "My most challenging mission, if I won, is to bring security and dignity together to the Egyptian citizen," *Very well said!*
    4. Bastawisy said the problem [with police force abuse and potential reform] was with the political leadership, not the police force.
       1. The new interior minister has pledged to reform the police force in line with the demands of the reformists who rose up against Mubarak. The hated State Security Investigative Services has been dissolved.
       2. "The problem of the security agencies were not in the police officers but in the former regime which had asked from them to work in this way without any respect for international human rights laws," he said.
19. Also
    1. ICC in Rome: http://www.iccnow.org/documents/Monitor36\_final.pdf
    2. Said NO to constitutional amendment referendum.
    3. Said he prefers a parliamentary system as it would prevent creation of a new dictator.
    4. Drafted a statement (along with Amr Moussa and Sabahi) in September 2011 asking SCAF to end martial law
    5. Quit presidential elections when he thought SCAF was going to simply manipulate them (circa November 2011).
    6. Notary employees in some cases declined to issue the petition forms for his candidacy.
    7. In a statement following the killing of Egyptian soldiers by Israelis, he said that the incident demonstrates that political figures and groups are right in their long-standing demands for the peace treaty with Israel to be renegotiated: Egypt needs to regain full authority over the Sinai.
    8. Well respected internationally by judges and international bodies (e.g. judicial)
    9. He relatively is technology saavy – something important in a leader today
20. Taggamu party affiliation (see Amr Adib, Cairo Today Video Interview - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b5o7laDyp8&feature=related0> for detailed discussion)
    1. He says the party gave him the freedom to differ from its ideology in his platform, making him the candidate of all Egyptians, not only the political left.
    2. Hussein Abdel Razek, Tagammu Party secretary general, said the party picked Bastawisi because, in addition to his honorable past, they felt he would represent the party’s ideology because he had been a member of the party briefly after graduation, before his judicial post forced him to disengage from politics.
    3. Abdel Razek said the party leaders assisted Bastawisi in forming his platform, but that they adjusted the party platform in order to suit a presidential candidate running for the general public and not on a leftist agenda.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5jAa6ZZGjg>

“SCAF is trying to reinstate the old regime and participating in this would be like giving a democratic image to a reinstitution of the regime”

SCAF has the same logic, methods, principles and politics that the Mubarak regime had

All our requests for fair elections have not been reached: international monitoring and a variety of other procedural issues. Removal of those who were involved in previous election forgery.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/21/opinion/21iht-edelta.html>

2005: "The government spent millions of pounds on advertising campaigns to persuade Egyptians to get out and vote," said Judge Hisham el-Bastaweesy at an election discussion at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. "But it spent millions more to prevent those who heeded the campaigns from voting."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2006/may/10/comment.egypt>

In Egypt we don't have any confidence in US policy because it is a contradictory policy that pays lip service to democracy while supporting dictatorships. We have confidence in the Egyptian people. We welcome support from any quarter, but we won't rely on it. We will depend on ourselves in our campaign for reform and change.

*Does not just speak out against US for sake of it – but understands how they approach and will take what we think is useful and needed.*

<http://egypttoday.com/news/display/article/artId:695/Hisham-El-Bastawisi/secId:34>

In 1992, El Bastawisi went on a four-year secondment to the United Arab Emirates, and from there he led the first Egyptian judges’ strike in response to the suspension of two of his colleagues. The strike lasted for 25 days

<http://egypttoday.com/news/display/article/artId:695/Hisham-El-Bastawisi/secId:34>

After his return to Egypt and public endorsement of the revolution, a Facebook page was set up by his supporters nominating El

Bastawisi for president. However, in an interview with the daily Al Masry Al Youm on March 1, 2011 the judge had not yet made this decision. Asked whether he planned to run for president, El Bastawisi at the time answered, “First of all, nobody should be thinking of themselves or contemplating their own projects at this moment. We should all be thinking about the best ways to pass this phase.

“Secondly, nobody should say he will run for president unless there is a public demand for him to run. Otherwise, he would be guilty of self-promotion. Third, since I am still a judge, I cannot run for president, engage in any political activity or hold any political post. I would have to resign first.”

In the period between March 2011 and March 2012, the reformist judge had taken part in several demonstrations against the Supreme Council of Armed Forces’ handling of the transitional period.

<http://egypttoday.com/news/display/article/artId:696/Q-A-With-Hisham-El-Bastawisi/secId:34>

Q&A

Interview from “Meet the President”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnMO7TVW_mQ>

* Asked for a moment of silence for the martyrs given the MOD clashes
* “Justice is a value that the Egptian people have been robbed of for many years”
* Gave up the two minutes into “stump speech” and asked to proceed directly to questioning – not out there to sell himself based on loose principles but rather to directly answer questions and provide transparency regarding his platform
* Did not agree to have administrative role in the last regime under Mubarak
* “If it weren’t for the transition I would have remained a judge”
* “I appreciate criticism because if it is objective I can learn from it”
* When he was in judiciary he implemented policy that would make judges pay for their personal phone calls and not allow personal use of government mobiles
* Economics
  + Will implement minimum and maximum wages (detailed answer with exceptins, etc.) – specifically saying that maxiumum wage for public servants needs to be assessed in detail as he does not want to push potential employees who could serve the country well from going to private companies or working in other countries
    - Maximum wage cannot be imposed solely by the executive as that would yield influence on the other branches of government
  + Needs to focus on poverty – however needs to reassess subsidies. He supports subsidies but needs to consider what is the purpose of the subsidy and make sure it is done effectively
    - Subsidies for private companies that sell goods on the public market at global prices should be removed (e.g. cement)
  + Wants to present a new vision but that cannot be implmeneted by me as I do not want to be new dictator
  + Supports a cooperative model for companies (employees are shareholders)
    - Gives the worker an interest in improving the companies productity and output
    - United Nations said the year 2012 is the year of co-operatives
  + Egypt has many recousrces – the problem was mismanagement and corruption
  + Mentions brining in experts to work out the details of all the policies – not just a machoism of dictating by the president
  + Three most important things for Egyptian citizens
    - Wages
    - Healthcare
    - Education
  + Previously, education budget was put to the interntior ministry – which was used to to put down protests
  + What should be controlled by the public sector?
    - Military/defense
    - Energy production
    - Heavy industry that the private industry cannot handle
      * Eg. Sinai development
  + Military control of industry
    - Will require heavy dialogue
    - If it is in the public interest that may be acceptable
      * However, giving industries that drive profit to the military should not be the case
      * Asked specifically about General Mahmoud Nasr’s comments that the military needs to control many industires and will fight to maintain its control (<http://ow.ly/a0YQE>)
        + “People can say what they want but we will discuss and negotiate these things. If people are acting in the interests of the nation and not out of personal interests then we can reach an agreement”
        + “I cannot believe that every member of the military wants the public interest only and has no personal interest in these things”
  + How would you promote investment for th ebeneift of the country?
    - Incestment needs justice, security and a stable political and economic environment
    - Try to push invesmtne in lower income governorates such as Assiut and we should implement policy to drive investment in these ateas
    - Judicial independence so that investors know it is fair and that the government will not be involved
    - However, it is not only invesmtnet that drives job opportunity but we need to educate/train. There are 6-9M unemployed yet there are also 3M jobs that we cannot fill due to lack of capabilities. Housewives can also be trained to take on opportunities
  + Genral policy
    - WE need to reassess all decisions made under the previous regime as some/many of the decisions were made out of personal interests – however, this is no the responsibility of the president per se (he was cut off before he could explain more)
  + *YES OR NO QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFICS AT 43 minutes*
    - Bread is of utter importance, will Egypt be self-sufficient in wheat production by the end of your tenure? Yes.
    - Special taxes for entrepreneurs and SMB/SME? Yes
    - Get rid of agricultural debt? Yes
      * Do you know details of the problem? Yes – and mentioned one or two things
* Foreign Policy and National Security (46 min)
  + *Human rights, institutions*
  + *President – refgardless of sstem parliamentary or presidential – has FP in his purview*
  + *The primary role of both of these should be protection of Egyptian “karama” inside and outside of Egypt*
  + *Spoke out against veto powers of Security Council as it is abused*
  + *Like his use of “north” and “south” terminology and that the “south” countries should work together to promote more global justics (i.e. Brazil, Turkey roles)*
  + *Camp David 51:30*
    - *Wants to move beyond “cold peace”*
    - *Sinai specifically – Egypt should have full control*
    - *Does not approve religious nature of Israeli state*

Interview on 90 minutes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWUF4NcLdsk>

Interview with Amr Adib: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b5o7laDyp8&feature=related>

Additional sources: (largely repeats but with some small tidbits)

* <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/judge-aims-restore-egypts-dignity>
* <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/36/124/36821/Presidential-elections-/Meet-the-candidates/Hisham-ElBastawisi.aspx>
* <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/36/0/37825/Presidential-elections-/0/Leftwing-Tagammu-Party-to-nominate-reformist-Judge.aspx>
* <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/19306/Egypt/0/Peace-treaty-with-Israel-should-be-renegotiated-af.aspx>
* <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/9755/Egypt/0/Mubarak-arrest-is-inevitable-presidential-hopeful-.aspx>
* <http://wiki.aucegypt.edu/isqatalnizam/index.php/Hisham_Bastawisi>
* <http://news.egypt.com/english/permalink/108789.html>