United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Republic of Sudan

By Ivan Chumakov

POSITION OF SUDAN REGARDING WATER FLOW CRISES WORLDWIDE



General information

The Nile river system (composed of Blue Nile and White Nile) provides over 80% of Sudan's fresh water supply. This water is used for irrigation and as a drinking water. Sudan also has 3 major dams along the river current, which are essential for electricity production and double as water reservoirs. Sudan is actively in a dispute with Ethiopia regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, as that project endangers Sudanese water supply even further. Due to droughts and climate change, water is a scarce resource in Sudan and many irrigation systems and dams rely on natural levels of Nile.

Position on the matter

Sudan and Egypt rely on the 1959 Nile Waters Agreement, drafted during construction of Egyptian Aswan Dam, and regulated distribution of Nile fresh water between Egypt and Sudan. leaving none to Ethiopia. The later Nile Basin Initiative and the Entebbe Agreement, which were to promote fair freshwater distribution, were accepted by Sudan with noticeable scepticism, but as these initiatives were in consultation with downstream countries, Sudan did not oppose them. When the GERD project was announced by Ethiopia, Khartoum immediately voiced their concerns, as such a project endangers the coordinated water retention agreements with Egypt and Sudan and will lead to decrease of freshwater Sudan will get at its dams to increased evaporation.

Proposed solutions

Sudan and Egypt have as their greatest interests to draft a trilateral agreement with Ethiopia regarding the Nile water retention following the GERD construction. As the Sudanese population in their majority concentrated along the Nile river, Sudan wants a framework to be developed, which will preserve their downstream rights. Furthermore, for drought years, Sudan wants that any upstream projects are able to let enough water through to Sudanese needs.

Potential Blocks

The primary ally of Sudan on matters of water security is Egypt. Furthermore, with a history of partnerships tracing back to 2019, the United States is likely to support Sudanese claims.

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Agreement on Declaration of Principles between The Arab Republic of Egypt, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia And The Republic of the Sudan

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[Egypt, Sudan warn against Nile dam unilateralism, reaffirm defence pact]
[Blue Nile Recedes: GERD or Sudan's Water Management Behind the Crisis?]
[https://iwaponline.com/wp/article/26/9/859/104258/The-long-shadow-of-the-1959-Nile-Waters-Agreement?__cf_chl_tk=G89xhvQg.9xHkHIr3cQSC8ApSj03u7EQQhE.v.neJMU-1793720428-1.0.1.1-OCwT3.yb09Pzqs1kLVIoj2C.vAOZ3.jrvAfufvoZpEM]
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