

Implication of GERD to Sudan and Prospects of Long-Term Resolution for Conflicts Around the Eastern Nile

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Abstract

This paper highlights the prospect for long term solutions to the water resources development plans in the Eastern Nile with special emphasis on the Abay Blue Nile River System. The impact of GERD dam to Sudan is highlighted and areas that need immediate attention from Sudanese point of view were explained. We envisaged that the negotiations process should be structured around two parallel tracks. One track should focus on the short-term needs and agreement around the filling and operation of GERD. The second track should focus on arriving at benefit sharing and water sharing agreement at a sub-basin level. The development plan on each sub-basin shall be explored with the goal of accommodating future water demands for the upper riparian states. All the data and information used in the analysis were extracted from the Cooperative Regional Assessment Studies (CRA's) that were undertaken by the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office. We see the potential of arriving at a sustainable and long-term solutions that could mutually benefits all the states in the Eastern Nile and with the goal of scaling up agreement by sub-basin to include the other Equatorial lake riparian states.

Keywords: Abay Blue Nile, Sudan, Ethiopia, GERD, Eastern Nile, Conflict resolution, Nile riparian states

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