



Security Council

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**Letter dated 7 July 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you a letter dated 7 July 2021 from Yasir Abbas Mohamed Ali Hamed, the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources of the Republic of Sudan, addressed to Seleshi Bekele, the Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Ethiopia, on the latest developments related to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (see annex).

It is kindly requested that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed **Elbahi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July 2021 on the second filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) this rainy season.

However, it is unfortunate that your letter points to an admission by Ethiopia of taking unilateral action, for the second year in a row, in filling the GERD, despite the serious implications that may be endured by the Sudanese people.

Incidentally, Ethiopia had already decided to conduct the second-year filling in the first week of May, when it decided to raise the middle section of the GERD. Therefore, obviously, when the inflow of the river is larger than the capacity of the two bottom outlets, the water will be stored and ultimately overtop the middle section of the dam.

The information that you provided on the second-year filling is of very little value to Sudan now that a fait accompli has been set upstream of the Roseires Dam. In the meantime, Sudan has undertaken considerable mitigation measures, which still do not alleviate the worst of the expected economic and social effects of the second unilateral filling of the GERD, nor do they completely attenuate the ramifications for the safe operation of our national dams.

It is appropriate to assert that the predicament described above is in direct contravention of the international water law principles of cooperation and causing no significant harm, as the mitigation measures undertaken by Sudan owing to Ethiopia's non-cooperation have taken a substantial economic and social toll.

Furthermore, as is well known to you, the filling and operation of a large dam such as the GERD without the essential and crucial execution of an environmental and social impact assessment are in direct breach of international practice and custom in the construction and operation of mega dams.

With regard to your offer of reciprocal data exchange, Sudan requires that such data be exchanged within a legally binding framework that mitigates Sudan's concerns, including dam safety provisions and the requirement that an environmental and social impact assessment be conducted. It is pertinent to demonstrate here that an analogous position had been fostered by Ethiopia in its 7 December 2020 letter, which conveyed to Sudan the need to conclude an agreement in order to exchange information between sovereign countries.

It is Sudan's sincere hope that Ethiopia accepts the proposal of Sudan to resume talks on the GERD as soon as possible, subject to a robust negotiations process. In that respect, Sudan has proposed an enhanced African Union-led process, in which the African Union leads a consortium of international and regional entities to support the reaching of an amicable agreement.

(Signed) Yasir Abbas Mohamed
Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources of Sudan