

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 12 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt 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 from Sameh Shoukry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the fourth consecutive unilateral filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”.

*(Signed)* Osama **Abdelkhalek**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

For the fourth consecutive year, I am apprising the Security Council of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's repeated violations of international law, including the 2015 Agreement on Declaration of Principles (DoP) on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

On 10 September 2023, Ethiopia announced the completion of the fourth stage of the first filling of the GERD reservoir. This unilateral resumption of filling, along with Ethiopia's decision to unilaterally commence the dam's operation in February 2022, amounts to a perpetual material breach of the DoP, which obliges Ethiopia to reach a legally binding agreement on the rules that govern the filling and operation of the GERD before commencing such filling and operation.

Egypt categorically rejects such illegal unilateral Ethiopian actions, which are in total disregard of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 15 September 2021 (S/PRST/2021/18), in which Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia were instructed to "finalize expeditiously the text of mutually acceptable and binding agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD, within a reasonable time frame".

I would like to recall the numerous correspondences of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Security Council over the past few years, [S/2020/355](#), [S/2020/566](#), [S/2020/617](#), [S/2021/354](#), [S/2021/565](#), [S/2021/607](#) and [S/2022/587](#), in which Egypt has provided a detailed account of this issue.

Given Egypt's almost exclusive reliance on the Nile River and its unique water scarcity situation, I would like to reiterate that Ethiopia's continued unilateral practices could pose an existential threat to Egypt and its stability, thereby endangering regional and international peace and security.

Egypt is currently engaged in a tripartite negotiation process with Ethiopia and Sudan, in accordance with the outcomes of the meeting between the leaders of Egypt and Ethiopia on 13 July 2023, in which it was agreed to launch negotiations expeditiously in order to conclude the requisite agreement on the rules of filling and operation of the GERD within four months. Egypt continues to negotiate in good faith, demonstrating sincerity and commitment, and urges Ethiopia to reciprocate and conclude an agreement that meets Ethiopia's pronounced national interests, while safeguarding the interests and rights of the 150 million citizens of the downstream countries.

In accordance with Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations and as a responsible member of the international community, Egypt once again brings the issue of the GERD to the Security Council's attention. Egypt calls upon the Council to discharge its responsibilities under Article 24 of the Charter, and to remain seized of the matter to ensure that a peaceful resolution is reached, including through the full implementation of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 15 September 2021 (S/PRST/2021/18).

*(Signed)* Sameh **Shoukry**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Arab Republic of Egypt