

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 6 September 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Upon the instruction from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the attached communication, signed by Taye Atske-Selassie, Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (see annex), sent in response to the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt of 1 September 2024.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfaye Yilma **Sabo**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I wish to convey my best wishes for Slovenia's presidency of the Security Council.

I am writing this communication to put on record Ethiopia's position on the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt dated 1 September 2024.

I am pleased to inform members of the Security Council that the sixth instrument of ratification of the Cooperative Framework Agreement on the Nile River Basin was deposited with the African Union Commission on 14 August 2024. This facilitates the entry into force of the Cooperative Framework Agreement and the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission. The Commission is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Agreement, the first Basin-wide legal and institutional framework. It will enhance cooperation among the riparian countries for the shared prosperity of the peoples of the Basin. The Commission will have mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of differences. This landmark development heralds an era of equitable use of the Nile River by all the riparian countries. Egypt is, therefore, encouraged to ratify the Agreement and make positive contributions to the Nile River Basin.

Ethiopia reiterates its position that the use of natural resources falls within the national jurisdiction of States, and differences concerning transboundary water resources must be resolved amicably through bilateral and regional mechanisms. Ethiopia's experience, including with respect to energy interconnectivity in the region, exemplifies the real potential for such regional solutions.

Ethiopia rejects the litany of unfounded allegations contained in the letter of Egypt's Foreign Minister. Egypt insists on repeating these fabrications, which are refuted in Ethiopia's letters to the Security Council of 14 May 2020 (S/2020/409), 22 June 2020 (S/2020/567), 26 June 2020 (S/2020/623), 16 April 2021 (S/2021/376), 23 June 2021 (S/2021/600), 23 February 2022 (S/2022/151), 2 August 2022 (S/2022/598) and 18 September 2023 (S/2023/684). Recalling its letter to the Security Council dated 23 February 2022, Ethiopia, in the most categorical manner, asserts that any water use or project in Egypt has no bearing whatsoever on Ethiopia's just, legitimate and equitable share of the Nile waters.

On 13 July 2023, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, during his visit to Egypt, agreed with the President of Egypt to continue the trilateral technical negotiations on the guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Unfortunately, Egypt joined the talks with the sole objective of stalling progress, reverting to hardline and unreasonable positions. While Ethiopia was fully prepared to continue the negotiations, Egypt declared the suspension of its participation in the trilateral negotiations on 19 December 2023.

This is yet another process that Egypt has obstructed, in addition to the work of the Tripartite National Committee, the work of the National Independent Scientific Research Group, and the African Union-led talks, during the chairmanships of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo. On the point of impact assessment study, the Dam's impact assessment study is analysed and endorsed by a group of experts, including from Egypt. However, multiple projects in Egypt are built over the Nile with no impact assessment study and with absolute disregard for the rights of other Nile riparian countries. Nevertheless, Egypt curtailed the Dam study, denying the collection of primary data from its territory and insisting on the use of its self-claimed "historic right" as a baseline. Egypt is single-handedly responsible for obstructing progress in these otherwise hopeful processes.

This makes it evident that Egypt is only interested in perpetuating its self-claimed monopoly over the Nile River. Most recently, the Prime Minister of Egypt, on 19 July 2024, pronounced: “development projects by any other country must be executed in a manner that does not compromise or diminish Egypt’s historical share of the Nile River”. While this has been communicated to the Security Council by Ethiopia, this public statement from a high government authority reverberates that Egypt is still not amenable to any outcome that does not affirm colonial-era deals and notions, to which Ethiopia and other upper riparian countries are not party and have rejected. This monopolistic position guided Egypt’s insistence over the years on blocking international finance for water development plans in Ethiopia. Egypt is thus determined to obstruct a mutually beneficial outcome consistent with international law.

Ethiopia, on the other hand, demonstrated commitment to all the negotiations to reach a mutually acceptable outcome. Despite Egypt’s continued violations, Ethiopia exhaustively implemented the Agreement on Declaration of Principles on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. In the process of filling the Dam, Ethiopia followed the guidelines endorsed by the technical team of the three countries. Ethiopia also continued to exhibit good-neighbourliness by taking extra measures that ensure maximum flow of water downstream. Ethiopia is also exchanging data with the Sudan, based on mutually agreed terms. Furthermore, Ethiopia is willing to continue the negotiations on the Dam, either within the framework of the Cooperative Framework Agreement or under the auspices of the African Union, which is seized of the matter, as decided under the communiqué of the Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union of 24 June 2021.

The Security Council must take note of Egypt’s repeated threat to use force against Ethiopia, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Ethiopia, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, will be steadfast in defending its national development projects, putting the country firmly on the path of socioeconomic progress and prosperity. Egypt must abandon its aggressive approach and unreasonable demands and commit to the accepted principles of international law. Ethiopia is ready to resolve differences over the Nile River through genuine negotiation.

(Signed) **Taye Atske-Selassie**  
Ambassador  
Minister of Foreign Affairs