

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 10 September 2025 from the Permanent
Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the attached communication, signed by Gedion Timothewos Hessebon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (see annex), sent in response to the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 9 September 2025 regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

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 to the
United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 10 September 2025 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 the Republic of Korea's presidency of the Security Council.

I wish to bring to the Council's attention Ethiopia's position in relation to the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt dated 9 September 2025.

I have the great pleasure and honour to share with the Council the news about the inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on 9 September 2025. This joyous occasion marks the fulfilment of a generational aspiration and the determination of the people of Ethiopia to use the River Abbay to attain development and prosperity. As indicated in the statements of leaders from our region who attended the inauguration of the GERD, the Dam signifies self-reliance, connectivity, renewable and climate-friendly energy development and cooperation in Africa. On this momentous occasion, Ethiopia is honoured to have been joined by esteemed Heads of State from neighbouring countries and the leadership of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, other international organizations and friends of Ethiopia from near and afar.

We are confident that the GERD will be the first of many more water development projects in the Nile riparian countries and other water bodies of the African continent.

As to the negotiations with Egypt and the Sudan on the guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation of the GERD, Ethiopia took exhaustive steps to carry out its responsibilities under the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project, signed on 23 March 2015. Such steps are sufficiently enumerated under 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](#)), 18 September 2023 ([S/2023/684](#)) and 6 September 2024 ([S/2024/659](#)).

Ethiopia's complete transparency and good-faith cooperation and the utter lack of reciprocity on the part of Egypt had made it clear that no proposal, concession or good-faith effort could quench the latter's unbridled desire to monopolize the waters of the Nile River. After negotiating the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) for more than 10 years, Egypt started to attack the CFA, and suspended its membership in the Nile Basin Initiative. Egypt's fixation on its supposed "historic right" is now manifesting itself with claims of "water security" and assertion of a position of supremacy and hegemony over the rights of other riparian countries. The colonial mindset and disregard for the needs and interests of other riparian countries have prevented Egypt from adopting sensible and sustainable policy choices.

In this light, it is disconcerting to witness Egypt's absurd claim that Nile riparian countries cannot use the river due to Egypt's supposedly "arid natural environment". This anachronistic claim is baseless and counterproductive. Egypt has ample groundwater that it should develop and use. Second, Egypt must cease its wasteful water use, development of unsustainable cities and unlawful out-of-basin water transfers. Furthermore, Egypt must increase investment in desalination. It should also be remembered that the River Abbay constitutes over 70 per cent of the surface water resource of Ethiopia, a country that lacks both the groundwater and desalination options Egypt enjoys.

Ethiopia, as well as the other Nile riparian countries, recognize the need to ensure cooperation in the use of transboundary watercourses. On this basis, Egypt has an opportunity to join an arrangement that upholds the rights of all riparian countries to equitable and reasonable utilization as enshrined in the CFA, which entered into force on 13 October 2024. Instead, Egypt is engaged in futile efforts to undermine the CFA and prevent its operationalization. Egypt is repeatedly obstructing the effort to build sustainable cooperation through the equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Nile.

Egypt's objectives in invoking the non-binding advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice are unclear. Notwithstanding, the same principle invoked in the Egyptian letter would entail liability for Egypt for the excessive harm and damage it had caused to the Nile riparian countries through its unilateral and monopolistic use of the Nile. Be that as it may, due to its refusal to engage in good faith to find a common framework of cooperation with its fellow riparian countries, Egypt does not have the moral standing to make the claims it has put forward in its letter. Egypt's contempt for the dignity of the people of sub-Saharan African countries, including Ethiopia, and our right to utilize the Nile, is rooted in a view that privileges certain categories of people over others and has no place in the twenty-first century.

Egypt's hostile posture towards Ethiopia is well known among members of the Council. Beyond rhetoric, Egypt's overt and covert attempts to destabilize Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa are well documented. Egypt's clear threats against Ethiopia should be understood in this context and as a continuation of its policy of destabilization in the Horn of Africa.

Recalling its previous letters to the Security Council, Ethiopia, in the most categorical manner, asserts that any water use or projects in Egypt have no bearing whatsoever on Ethiopia's just, legitimate and equitable use of the Nile waters.

(Signed) Gedion Timothewos **Hessebon**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
