



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

Permanent Representative

Open VTC - Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

Security Council

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New York

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

And I also thank USG DiCarlo for her briefing.

Let me begin by saying that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its solidarity with our Egyptian, Ethiopian, and Sudanese brothers and sisters. In the spirit of camaraderie, we extend our sincerest support to your collective struggle for an equitable, reasonable, and lasting agreement on the allocation of water resources from the River Nile.

As a small island whose identity is inextricably linked to a body of water, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes, and fully appreciates, the intrinsic value of the Nile to each of the parties, not only as a symbol deeply enmeshed within their national identities, but as a critical resource upon which their dreams of development and prosperity depend. To this end, we respect each country's national interests, and we wholeheartedly accept their very credible concerns. At the same time, their collective identity, crafted through the existential links of the Nile, gives us confidence that they are more inclined to work together than to pull further apart. In this regard, we are encouraged by the parties' determination, as demonstrated at the June 26th meeting of the African Union Extraordinary Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to continue their trilateral negotiations, in good faith and in the spirit of solidarity, towards an agreement that is reasonable, equitable and amicable. We urge them to take the requisite bold political steps to conclude these negotiations.

Given the intensified droughts and resource shortages precipitated by climate change, we acknowledge the need for a comprehensive and sustainable agreement that thoroughly addresses each party's concerns, so that current and future generations of Egyptians, Ethiopians and Sudanese can live, work, and play together as they peacefully coexist with their neighbours along the Nile. On issues as complex and as consequential as this, final settlements can only be achieved through a shared journey in which each party builds a reciprocal and recognizable sense of understanding.

Mr President, it is important to note that the concerned parties are almost at the end of this painstaking journey, as more than 90% of the issues have already been resolved. We are therefore confident that our Egyptian, Ethiopian and Sudanese brothers and sisters will settle their outstanding disagreements, as all families do, with discretion and harmony. It is the collective wisdom of Africa that would facilitate a lasting solution to this situation.

I thank you.