



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

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Statement

by

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Open Briefing - Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

Security Council

July 8th, 2020

New York

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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its appreciation to the Representative of Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Chair of the African Union, Mr. Parfait Onanga, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Horn of Africa and Ms. Inger Anderson, the Director General of UNEP, for their comprehensive briefings on this very important, yet complex and sensitive topic.

We also welcome the distinguished Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Sudan and the distinguished Minister of Water of Ethiopia in today's meeting and reaffirm our unwavering solidarity to our sister nations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acknowledges the paramount importance of the River Nile and its intrinsic value as a transboundary water resource to each of the parties, and by extension all riparian States, to enhance the quality of life of their peoples. This was underscored during our meeting last year and is worth repeating today.

Indeed, the Nile is indispensable to the sustainable and socio-economic development of each of the parties and we note their disagreements and credible concerns pertaining to its usage. We encourage them to assuage their entrenched positions and continue with the trilateral negotiations in good faith, in order to reach an amicable, equitable and reasonable agreement. Such agreements between riparian states become even more critical as climate change increases both flooding and drought in

the river, as highlighted earlier by the the UNEP Executive Director, Ms Inger Anderson.

The good offices of the African Union remains pivotal to facilitate constructive dialogue and meaningful negotiations. In this context, we are appreciative and pleased that the African Union is fully seized of the issue and commend the current mediation efforts of President T-shi-sek-edi Tshi-lombo, as well as those of his predecessor, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa.

It is our principled position that the African Union is best-suited to facilitate the pacific settlement of disputes on the motherland and we further underscore the importance of respecting the Principle of Subsidiarity, as well as Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

More pertinently, the existing disagreement is among family members. To this end, we are fully confident that Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan will resolve their difficulties, as all families do, with wisdom and harmony.

In closing, we underscore that the Nile remains a beacon of hope and prosperity, and a sanctuary for millions of people. Our sister nations have a common and shared history that is linked by the Nile and whose futures will be interwoven by it. Accordingly, it is in their collective interests to find a palatable solution to ensure that they can provide a dignified future for their peoples.

Despite the current setbacks, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains very optimistic that the parties will reach a lasting agreement, especially since they have already agreed on approximately 90% of the issues. We hope that the parties recommit to negotiations, in good faith, under the auspices of the African Union. We believe that such would only redound to the greater benefit of the three parties, to ensure the continuation of their peaceful and harmonious co-existence.

I thank you.