

Malabo Declaration

Following a meeting between President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister, the Malabo Declaration was issued on June 28, 2014 in the form of a joint statement, stating that both parties had decided to form a supreme committee under their direct supervision to handle all aspects of bilateral and regional relations on the political, economic, social and security fields. The two sides also stressed the centrality of the Nile River as a basic resource for the life and existence of the Egyptians, as well as their awareness of the development needs of the Ethiopians. A number of principles have been agreed upon:

1. Respect of principles of dialogue and cooperation as basis for achieving mutual gains, and avoiding harming each other.
2. Prioritize the establishment of regional projects to develop financial resources to meet the increasing demand of water and to address the water shortage.
3. Respect the principles of international law.
4. Immediate resumption of the works of the Tripartite Committee on Renaissance Dam to implement the recommendations of the International Committee of Experts and respect the results of the studies to be carried out during the various phases of the dam project.
5. Commitment of the Ethiopian government to avoid any potential damage from the Renaissance Dam on Egypt's use of water.
6. Commitment of the Egyptian government to hold constructive dialogue with Ethiopia, which takes into account its development needs and the aspirations of the Ethiopian people.
7. Commitment of the two States to work within the framework of the Tripartite Committee well intentions and consensus.

The main importance of this joint statement is the establishment of mutual understanding, guaranteeing that Ethiopia can achieve its desired development while at the same time lifting or mitigating the damages affecting Egypt to be acceptable to some extent and maintain cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of the Nile Basin.

This statement is considered balanced because its wording achieves balance in between the visions of Egypt and Ethiopia, as well as the internal and external political stances of each country. However, there are some reservations regarding the Egypt, as Ethiopia does not recognize the current Egyptian quota (5.55 billion cubic meters), claiming it is not a part in the 1959 agreement between Egypt and Sudan, which approved these quotas. Therefore, the word "water uses" was used instead in the article related to "harmless". However, it was also remarkable not to refer to (quantities of current aquatic uses).