

**Outcome of the Second Nine-Party Meeting  
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Water and Heads of Intelligence of Egypt, Ethiopia  
and the Sudan**

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In line with the directives of the leaders of Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan, the Second Nine-Party Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Water, and Heads of Intelligence of the three countries met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

The Ministers reiterated the commitment of the three countries to the Agreement on Declaration of Principles on the GERD signed in Khartoum in March 2015 so as to achieve its object and purpose, and agreed on the following:

1. On Regularizing the Tripartite Summit of Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan:

The Ministers, on the basis of the directives of the Heads of State and Government, and in the spirit of their countries unity as one to fulfill the aspirations of their people to live in peace, security and prosperity; building on the cooperation between them, have confirmed the convening of regular Summits of the three leaders every six months, on the basis of rotation in their respective capitals.

2. On the establishment of the Tripartite Infrastructure Fund:

The Ministers discussed on the best way forward to implement the directives of the Heads of State and Government in Sharm El-Sheikh to establish an Infrastructure Fund to provide for joint infrastructure and development proposals in the three countries.

The Ministers agreed to bring together high officials from the three countries to work out the most suitable modality for the establishment of the Fund which shall be raised to the Heads of State and Government through the line ministries.

The three countries have accepted the kind invitation of Egypt to host the High Officials meeting in Cairo on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

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3. On the draft Inception Report:

The current Chairman of the TNC - as a sole exception from the TNC practice and Rules of Procedure - will provide the Consultant with a compilation of queries and observations regarding the draft Inception Report (according to the attached draft email), which has not gained consensus within the TNC, and do not constitute any instructions to the Consultant, and are for the provision of reply from the Consultant.

4. The Consultant will submit within 3 weeks his written reply – which shall be in accordance with the Contract Agreement and Consultancy Services Agreement - on these queries and observations. The Consultant's written reply will be deliberated in the context of a Ministerial TNC meeting attended by the Consultant, and which will be convened in Cairo one week after receiving the Consultant's written reply. This Ministerial TNC meeting will be held back to back with a Nine-Party meeting in Cairo on 18 - 19 June 2018, in the presence of the Consultant, to review the report of the TNC.

5. On establishing a National Independent Scientific Research Study Group:

To establish a National Independent Scientific Research Study Group of the three countries, as follows:

- The mandate of the National Independent Scientific Research Study Group is discussing means of enhancing the level of understanding and cooperation among the three countries with regard to GERD, including discussing and developing various scenarios related to the filling and operation rules in accordance with the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of shared water resources while taking all appropriate measures to prevent the causing of significant harm.
- The National Independent Scientific Research Study Group comprises 15 members. Each country nominates 5 members.
- The National Independent Scientific Research Study Group shall hold 9 meetings, each for three days, by rotation according to the indicative attached schedule.

The Independent Group will submit the outcome of its deliberations within three months (by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2018), for consideration of the Water Ministers who will report to the Nine Party mechanism.

Signed in Addis Ababa, on 15 May, 2018

