



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations, New York
Security Council - 2021-2022

BRIEFING ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2021

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you Mr. President

1. I thank the representative of the foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union who is the actively seized mediator on the matter of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.
2. I respectfully recognise the legitimate concerns that have prompted the presence here in the Security Council of Her Excellency Mariam Mahdi Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, His Excellency Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, and His Excellency Dr Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water Irrigation and Energy of Ethiopia.

3. Thank you to the Director General of UNEP, Inger Andersen, and the Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga for their briefings.
4. The human settling of the Nile Basin throughout history has been a source of hope and connection. It is unfortunate that we are discussing it here in a Security Council whose mandate is to deal with dangers to international peace and security.
5. It is home to more than two hundred and fifty seven million people. It covers the territory of a dozen African countries whose population is close to half a billion.
6. The majority have woken to a busy day and may not be aware of this meeting in faraway New York City. But every single one will be impacted by the statements and decisions made here today.
7. This meeting is directly about the GERD and the three countries represented here. But the story that arises from it also concerns the 10 countries joined by the ambition that gave rise to the Nile Basin Initiative in 1998.
8. The objectives of this riparian intergovernmental partnership are to develop the Nile Basin water resources in a sustainable and equitable way to ensure prosperity, security, and peace for all its peoples.
9. It seeks to pursue the same aims pursued in the GERD within a framework agreement. Its millions only desire is to throw off the shackles of poverty and its associated ills of disease and war.

10. They do not consider such a desire to be a threat to international peace and security because the legal principles underlying the initiative are protective of all its members.
11. Today, Mr. President, the Security Council is considering the legitimate concerns of two riparian states – Egypt and the Sudan arising from the legitimate utilisation of the Nile waters by another riparian state – Ethiopia.
12. Kenya stands with the three states, recognising their equality and that all their people equally deserve development and prosperity.
13. We pay tribute to His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa who, as Chair of the African Union, initiated the negotiations between the three countries.
14. We commend the Governments of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan for their faith and confidence in the capacity of African Union mechanisms to assist them to mediate an agreement.
15. We respectfully recognise and support the mandate of mediation presently held by His Excellency President Felix Tshisekedi, the current Chairperson of the African Union. We call on all parties supporting this process to commit their expertise to ensure that it is adequately resourced.
16. We recommend to the attention of the Council that the Chairperson is actively seized of this matter. This being reflected in the Commu-

nique of the meeting of the AU Bureau of Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government held on 24th June 2021.

17. It reports that that the AU Chairperson traveled to Cairo, Khartoum and Addis Ababa, during the week of May 9 where he had encouraging bilateral talks with the Heads of State and Government.

Mr President,

18. Kenya recognises the critical importance of the principle of subsidiarity in this matter and recommends it to the Security Council.
19. We call on the parties to recommit to negotiating in good faith within the AU-led process in a spirit fired by our shared dream of building a more united and prosperous Africa by 2063.
20. We urge them to avoid inflammatory utterances because making them is what may lead to tension, as opposed to the underlying issue of the Nile River and its uses.
21. Kenya has every confidence that our Egyptian, Ethiopian and Sudanese brothers will make the principle of 'African solutions for African challenges' a reality.

I thank you