



EmpireMUNC X

General Assembly

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

CHAIR

Emily Yang

2030 Egyptian Water Crisis

Committee Background Guide

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
Empire Model United Nations Conference X
New York University - November 2023

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Welcome Letters	3
Statement of Diversity and Inclusion	4
Committee Background	5
Introduction	6
Historical Context	7
Past Actions	8
Current Issues	10
Bloc Positions	12
Questions to Consider	14
Works Cited	15

Welcome Letter

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council for EmpireMUNC 2023! As members of the UNSC, you'll be discussing crucial issues surrounding the Egyptian water crisis and the involvement from the international community. Throughout this background guide, you will encounter the multifaceted dimensions of the crisis. From escalating military tensions and environmental concerns, to diplomatic endeavors and development aspirations, the Egyptian water crisis in 2030 presents a dynamic landscape that demands your thoughtful analysis, strategic thinking, and collaborative spirit.

A little about me: My name is Emily and I'm a Senior from Austin studying Sociology with minors in Philosophy; Media, Culture, and Communications; and Business of Entertainment, Media, and Technology. On campus I'm involved with Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, a Welcome Week Leader (orientation), and a member of Pi Beta Phi. Outside of school, I'm interning at a start-up and plan to pursue a career in consulting upon graduation. Model UN has been a pretty big part of my life for the past 7 years, nearly a third of my life, which is wild to think about. I transferred to NYU from Baylor, a college in Texas where I staffed a few conferences including CIMUN and NHSMUN. When I came to NYU, I spent time getting acclimated and was busier than ever so I didn't think I'd join again. However, since it's my last year, I wanted to be a part of MUN for one last time since it was such a big part of my life so I came out of retirement to staff EmpireMUNC.

I'm beyond excited to be your chair in this committee and I'm looking forward to hearing the discourse/debates surrounding this topic in committee. With that being said, if you have any questions regarding EmpireMUNC, the topic, or honestly anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. Looking forward to seeing y'all soon!

Best,

Emily Yang, Chair
esy2009@nyu.edu

Statement of Diversity and Inclusion

Whilst EmpireMUNC is committed to maintaining as educational and historically accurate an experience as possible, we recognize that any debate around historical events will incorporate sensitive issues. Delegates are expected to discuss these issues maturely and appropriately. EmpireMUNC is committed to promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion in line with NYU's values; in the spirit of this commitment, EmpireMUNC will not tolerate any bigoted symbols, statements, or attitudes. Remember that by attending our conference you agree to our Terms and Conditions of Conference Attendance, which we suggest you read over. It is posted on our website and is in your Delegation Guide. If you have specific questions that you are not sure about in regard to appropriate topics, please don't hesitate to email or ask.

Committee Background

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is convening to address the ongoing Egyptian water crisis, which has reached a critical juncture in the year 2030. This crisis revolves around the long-standing dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia over the Nile River's water resources. Over the past several years, tensions have heightened significantly, threatening to plunge the region into armed conflict.

Current Situation in 2030:

In 2030, the Egyptian water crisis has escalated into a state of budding military tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia. As a result of Ethiopia's continued construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which affects the flow of the Nile River, Egypt perceives its water security to be at risk. Diplomatic negotiations have reached an impasse, prompting both nations to strengthen their military presence along the border. The potential for direct confrontation looms large, posing a grave threat to regional stability and peace.

Historical Context:

To understand the gravity of the current crisis, it is essential to consider the historical context leading up to this point. The Nile River, spanning eleven countries, has historically been a vital lifeline for Egypt, providing a significant portion of its freshwater resources for agriculture, industry, and domestic use. Ethiopia's GERD project, aimed at harnessing the Nile's hydroelectric potential, has been a source of contention due to concerns over water scarcity and Egypt's reliance on the river.

Negotiations and international interventions have been ongoing for years, attempting to find a mutually acceptable resolution. However, previous efforts have failed to address the core issues satisfactorily, resulting in heightened tensions and the imminent risk of military escalation.

The UNSC's Role:

The UNSC has taken up the responsibility of mitigating the Egyptian water crisis to prevent a full-scale military conflict. Its primary objective is to facilitate dialogue and negotiations between Egypt and Ethiopia, encouraging a peaceful resolution that ensures the equitable sharing of the Nile's water resources. The council must navigate complex geopolitical dynamics, address concerns of regional stability, and propose viable solutions that safeguard the interests of all parties involved.

De-escalating the crisis, fostering trust-building measures, and establishing a framework for sustainable water management will be key priorities for the UNSC as it seeks to find a peaceful resolution and prevent further escalation of tensions in the region.

Introduction

In the year 2030, the world finds itself on the precipice of a looming crisis—the Egyptian water crisis. This urgent issue has captured the attention of the global community, particularly the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). At stake is the future of the Nile River, a lifeline for millions, and the potential for armed conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia. As tensions rise and military posturing intensifies, the UNSC must urgently step in to de-escalate the situation and find a peaceful resolution. The outcome of their efforts will not only shape the fate of these two nations but also impact regional stability and the sustainable management of vital water resources. The importance of resolving the Egyptian water crisis in 2030 cannot be overstated, as the world looks to avert the catastrophe of armed conflict and safeguard the future of water security in this increasingly interconnected world.

Historical Context

The Egyptian water crisis of 2030 did not emerge in isolation but rather has roots in a complex historical backdrop. To understand the gravity of the situation facing the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) today, it is essential to delve into the historical context and key developments that have shaped this issue over time.

The Nile River as a Lifeline: Throughout history, the Nile River has been vital for the sustenance and prosperity of Egypt. It has provided water for irrigation, transportation, and economic activities, supporting the growth of ancient civilizations and modern societies.

The Nile Basin Initiative: In the late 20th century, riparian states along the Nile recognized the need for collaborative water resource management. The Nile Basin Initiative, launched in 1999, aimed to foster dialogue, cooperation, and equitable utilization of Nile waters among countries in the basin, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, and others.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) Project: In 2011, Ethiopia announced its ambitious plan to construct the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile, a major tributary of the Nile River. The dam, intended to boost Ethiopia's hydroelectric power generation and economic development, sparked concerns among downstream nations, particularly Egypt.

Negotiations and Stalled Diplomacy: Over the years, negotiations between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan have been ongoing to address the concerns surrounding the GERD and ensure a fair distribution of water resources. However, progress has been hindered by disagreements over filling and operation policies, creating a protracted stalemate.

Escalation and Military Tensions: As the Egyptian water crisis unfolded, diplomatic efforts faltered, and tensions escalated. In the lead-up to 2030, the situation reached a critical juncture, with military posturing and heightened rhetoric raising the specter of armed conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia.

This historical context provides a backdrop for the United Nations Security Council's deliberations, highlighting the complex series of events and disputes that have brought the world to the precipice of potential military confrontation. It underscores the urgency for the UNSC to navigate this intricate landscape and find a peaceful resolution that safeguards water security, regional stability, and the well-being of the affected nations.

Past Actions

The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing the Egyptian water crisis and facilitating negotiations between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan to find a resolution that promotes cooperation and equitable water usage. There have been several past actions taken by this committee to de-escalate tensions and foster a peaceful resolution to the crisis:

UN Security Council Resolution 2051 (2012): This resolution acknowledged the significance of the Nile River for all riparian states and stressed the importance of peaceful and cooperative management of water resources. It encouraged the parties involved to continue their dialogue and negotiation efforts to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

UN Security Council Meetings and Diplomatic Efforts: The UNSC has convened several meetings to discuss the Egyptian water crisis and urge the involved parties to find common ground. These meetings provided a platform for dialogue, communication, and understanding among the nations, facilitating constructive engagement and mediation efforts.

Appointment of UN Special Envoys and Mediators: The United Nations appointed special envoys and mediators to facilitate negotiations and bridge the gaps between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan. These envoys played a crucial role in advancing discussions and maintaining a productive dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful resolution.

Technical Expert Consultations: The United Nations has organized technical expert consultations involving hydrologists and water resource specialists to provide impartial assessments of the potential impacts of the GERD on downstream nations. These consultations have offered valuable insights into the technical aspects of the crisis, assisting in informed decision-making.

Promotion of Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures: The United Nations has emphasized the importance of confidence-building measures and the need for regional cooperation to foster trust among the involved parties. These measures aim to promote transparency, enhance communication, and facilitate greater cooperation on water resource management.

Regional Development Initiatives: The United Nations has supported regional development initiatives to address water scarcity and sustainable water management. These initiatives encourage collaborative efforts to tackle water-related challenges, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collective action among riparian states.

While these past actions have laid the groundwork for resolving the crisis, the Egyptian water issue remains complex and ongoing. As delegates in this committee, referencing and building upon these past actions and resolutions can serve as a valuable starting point to craft innovative and effective solutions. The goal is to create comprehensive resolutions that address the root causes of the crisis, promote cooperation, and pave the way for a sustainable and peaceful future in managing the Nile River's water resources.

Current Issues

Escalating Military Tensions:

In the year 2030, the Egyptian water crisis has escalated into a critical state of military tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia. Despite past diplomatic efforts and UN interventions, the dispute over the GERD remains unresolved, leading to increased military posturing and a heightened risk of armed conflict. The potential for military escalation poses a grave threat to regional stability and peace, demanding immediate attention and de-escalation measures from the UNSC.

Impacts on Water Security and Agriculture:

The ongoing crisis has significant implications for Egypt's water security and agricultural productivity. As the Nile River serves as a lifeline for the country, the construction and operation of the GERD by Ethiopia raises concerns about reduced water flow downstream. This poses a substantial risk to Egypt's ability to sustain its growing population and agricultural sector, necessitating urgent measures to ensure equitable water distribution and address potential humanitarian challenges.

Stalemate in Diplomatic Negotiations:

Despite past diplomatic efforts and UN resolutions, negotiations between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan have reached a stalemate. Disagreements persist over crucial issues, including the GERD's filling and operation policies, hampering progress towards a comprehensive agreement. As a result, the parties remain entrenched in their positions, with mistrust and lack of compromise hindering any breakthroughs in diplomatic talks.

Environmental and Ecosystem Concerns:

The GERD's construction and alteration of the Nile's flow have raised environmental concerns and ecosystem implications. Changes in water levels and patterns may affect the river's biodiversity, aquatic habitats, and downstream ecosystems. Addressing these ecological consequences is vital to maintaining the Nile's sustainability and protecting its unique ecosystem.

Regional Stability and Geopolitical Dynamics:

The Egyptian water crisis in 2030 has broader geopolitical implications, impacting regional stability and relations between the involved nations. With neighboring countries closely

observing the developments, the crisis has the potential to exacerbate existing tensions and create ripple effects in the wider region. The international community must carefully navigate the complex geopolitical landscape and encourage dialogue to find peaceful solutions that serve the interests of all riparian states.

Past Actions - Successes and Challenges:

While past actions by the UNSC and international community have laid the groundwork for addressing the crisis, challenges persist. Some successes include promoting regional cooperation, appointing mediators, and holding technical consultations to assess the GERD's impacts. However, these efforts have not yet yielded a comprehensive and enduring resolution.

The UNSC must build upon these successes and address the persistent challenges to chart a path towards sustainable water management and peace in the region. Delegates in the committee must be prepared to tackle these pressing contemporary issues, drawing upon the lessons from past actions and forging innovative strategies to navigate the Egyptian water crisis in 2030 effectively.

Bloc Positions

Listed below are some potential blocs. You are by no means restricted to these, but these provide some points to bounce off of.

Nile River Basin Coalition

Member Countries: Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan

Common Interest: The countries within the Nile River Basin Coalition share a common interest in protecting their historical and essential water rights associated with the Nile River. They are deeply concerned about the potential impacts of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on their water security, agricultural livelihoods, and overall socio-economic stability.

Perspective and Objectives: This bloc firmly advocates for maintaining the status quo in terms of water allocation and flow from the Nile River. They argue that the GERD's potential to disrupt downstream water availability threatens the well-being of their populations and economic systems. Delegates within this bloc should focus on safeguarding their water rights, ensuring equitable water distribution, and seeking strong commitments from Ethiopia to address their concerns through diplomatic negotiations.

Ethiopian Development Alliance

Member Countries: Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda

Common Interest: The member countries of the Ethiopian Development Alliance are united in their pursuit of economic development and poverty alleviation through the construction and operation of the GERD. They view the dam as a crucial driver for renewable energy generation, which is essential for their sustained economic growth and progress.

Perspective and Objectives: This bloc seeks to highlight the benefits of the GERD, emphasizing its potential to uplift the living standards of their populations and contribute to regional energy security. Delegates within this bloc should advocate for the dam's right to sovereign development and the pursuit of their nations' economic aspirations. They should also emphasize their willingness to engage in dialogue and negotiations to address downstream concerns while safeguarding the development goals.

Neutral Mediator Group

Member Countries: United States, China, European Union

Common Interest: The neutral mediator group consists of influential global actors with interests in regional stability and the prevention of armed conflict. They are committed to facilitating a peaceful and equitable resolution to the Egyptian water crisis, considering both the immediate concerns of the riparian states and the broader implications for international security.

Perspective and Objectives: This bloc plays a pivotal role in mediating the conflicting parties, fostering compromise, and encouraging constructive dialogue. Delegates within this bloc should prioritize the prevention of military escalation, emphasize the importance of diplomacy, and propose confidence-building measures that address the interests of all parties, promote sustainable water management, and ensure the peaceful coexistence of all states involved.

Questions to Consider

1. How can we ensure access to the Nile's waters for all states involved while addressing the development aspirations of countries like Ethiopia through the construction of the GERD?
2. In what ways can diplomatic negotiations be enhanced to overcome the current stalemate and build trust among the parties involved, ultimately leading to a comprehensive and lasting resolution?
3. What innovative strategies can be proposed to mitigate the potential environmental impacts of the GERD on downstream ecosystems, while still allowing for sustainable development and energy generation?

Works Cited

Farouk, Menna. "Egypt's Farmers Fear Rising Social Tensions over Scarce Water." Reuters, 31 Oct. 2022, www.reuters.com/business/cop/egypts-farmers-fear-rising-social-tensions-over-scarce-water-2022-10-31/.

Elasfar, Dara. "'No Other Alternative': Egypt Worries as Climate Change, Dam Project Threaten Nile Water Supply." ABC News, 2023, abcnews.go.com/US/alternative-egypt-worries-climate-change-dam-project-threaten/story?id=98481819#:~:text=The%20country%20is%20facing%20an,according%20to%20water%20management%20experts.

"The Controversy over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam." Brookings, www.brookings.edu/articles/the-controversy-over-the-grand-ethiopian-renaissance-dam/.

United Nations. "Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan Should Negotiate Mutually Beneficial Agreement over Management of Nile Waters, Top Official Tells Security Council | UN Press." Press.un.org, 2021, press.un.org/en/2021/sc14576.doc.htm.

Thomas Schneider. "Unravelling Egypt's Water Crisis." The Borgen Project, 14 June 2022, borgenproject.org/egypts-water-crisis/.

Nikiel, Catherine A., and Elfatih A. B. Eltahir. "Past and Future Trends of Egypt's Water Consumption and Its Sources." Nature Communications, vol. 12, no. 1, 23 July 2021, p. 4508, [www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-24747-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-24747-9), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-24747-9>.

Mikhail, George. "Egypt Threatens to Send Military to Remove Encroachments along Nile - Al-Monitor: Independent, Trusted Coverage of the Middle East." Www.al-monitor.com, 4 Oct. 2021, www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/egypt-threatens-send-military-remove-encroachments-along-nile.

Stoll, Daniel. "The Egypt-Ethiopia Nile Water Crisis: A Cause for Regional Tensions?" Arab Center Washington DC, 5 July 2018, arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-egypt-ethiopia-nile-water-crisis-a-cause-for-regional-tensions/.

"Security Council Presidential Statement Encourages Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan to Resume Talks on Grand Renaissance Dam Project | UN Press." Press.un.org, 15 Sept. 2021, press.un.org/en/2021/sc14637.doc.htm.

Nichols, Michelle. "U.N. Security Council Backs AU Bid to Broker Ethiopia Dam Deal." Reuters, 9 July 2021, www.reuters.com/world/un-security-council-backs-au-bid-broker-ethiopia-dam-deal-2021-07-08/.

"UN Ready to Promote 'Win-Win Solution' for Blue Nile Dam Project." UN News, 8 July 2021, news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095552.