



EGYPTIAN COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Relations between Egypt and Ethiopia after the Inauguration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

On the 4th of July 2018, a panel discussion was held at the headquarters of the council on “Developments of the situation in Ethiopia ... and the prospects for Egyptian Ethiopian relations after the inauguration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed”, with the participation of Their Excellencies Ambassadors Ezzat Saad Director of ECFA; Marwan Badr; Salah Halima; Ali Al-Hefiny Member of ECFA; Dr.Amany Al-Taweel, Director of African Studies Unit at Al-Ahram Center for Political & Strategic Studies; and Ambassador Abdel-Hamid Nasser Mouhamed Hamzawy, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Nile Basin Countries Affairs.

The panel discussion aimed at conducting consultative discussions on the implications of what happened in Ethiopia since last March after resignation of the former Prime Minister Desalegn and election of Abiy Ahmed as Prime Minister, and the implications of this has over Ethiopia's overall foreign policy, especially relations with neighboring regional countries and with Egypt in particular, in the light of the step taken by Ethiopia towards recognition of the verdict of the Arbitration Commission on the Ethiopian- Eritrean border dispute, and Ahmed's tours in a number of Countries in the Region including Egypt, as well as the actions he took at the domestic level and his talks about a comprehensive economic reform process.



Ethiopian Prime Minister

The participants agreed upon a number of points including:

- 1- The new Prime minister adopted a conciliatory approach aiming at settling all key disputes between Ethiopia and the other parties, seeking a “Zero Enemies” policy. He had paid official visits to all neighboring countries and to countries that are pivotal to Ethiopia where he visited Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE. His tours to neighboring countries also included both of Somalia and Sudan. One of the axes of his strategic policies was to seek providing his landlocked Country with sea outlets. Under his reign, Ethiopia is planning to build a navy. All of which – in their entirety– are issues that have profound significance and clear indications in connection with Egyptian National Security in the Horn of Africa and in the Red Sea Regions which may contribute in enhancement of the relations between Egypt and Ethiopia within the framework of common interests and mutual security.
- 2- It is important for Egypt to coordinate with Saudi Arabia and UAE regarding its relations with the region as well as with Ethiopia particularly in light of the huge investments they have in the region, and Egypt should work for building its own mechanisms through intensifying direct investments of the Egyptian private sector in Ethiopia, and the possibility of considering establishment of partnerships between the private sector and the government in selected fields to serve the Egyptian strategic interests.
- 3- As regards the Renaissance Dam, the participants pointed out that during his visit to Egypt on the 12th and 13th of last June the Ethiopian prime Minister pledged not to effect on Egypt's share of the Nile waters, and he swore that he would strive to increase it. This statement represents, if adhered to, an implicit recognition of the 1959 Convention. This also differs from the previous statements made by his predecessors as he follows a more flexible policy in responding to Egypt's demands. This should be taken seriously for being a source of optimism in the possibility of détente in the Ethiopian attitude towards the Renaissance Dam.

Recommendations made by the participants included:

- 1- The significance of enhancing Egyptian-Ethiopian relations, and though the development of investment and economic relations has particular importance, adopting a comprehensive strategic vision for the development of political relations between both countries implies special significance.
- 2- It has been emphasized that any Egyptian strategy for the development of relations with Ethiopia necessitates the adoption of a wider strategy that includes the development of the relations with neighboring Countries in various fields, and that speaking about Egyptian-Ethiopian relations in absence of a clear Egyptian agenda in the Horn of Africa region would be a waste of time. And that the more our relations develop with East African Countries and with the Countries of the Horn of Africa to the best, is meaning more positive impact on the relations with the Ethiopians.
- 3- Adopting the idea of establishing an economic community that includes Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea. In this context, Ethiopia can be included in a system on security and cooperation in the red sea region.

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Editorial

Egypt and Ethiopia within a strategic vision framework for Egypt in Africa

Perhaps one of the most prominent features of the political approach of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is openness, towards neighboring States as well as towards States sharing common interests with his State, based on a restorative vision to end any existing disagreements.

In this regard, Egypt's attention towards Its relations with Ethiopia increases and Its vision regarding Renaissance Dam Issue within a framework which is not isolated from the wider vision of Relations between both Countries for the benefit of both of them and for aiding establishment of a base on which Ethiopia would feel with it the mutuality of interests, and the need for Each Other, so that what benefits one Country must return with benefit to the Other. This finally serves Prosperity, Development, and National Security of both Countries.

Within this framework, Egypt could participate with its available capabilities that are needed by Ethiopia industrially, agriculturally, in Fields of Energy and other fields, as well as Contribution in construction and building operation, and participation in humanitarian operations through health missions of specialized physicians for treatment of cases in need for Egyptian expertise.

The Promise of Abiy ahmed to keep on the Egypt Right in Nile Water during his visit to Egypt in June 2018 is important sign because this issue is related with Egyptians' life and and it has a priority that precedes any other priorities, Egypt put a huge dreams related with this development especially it became after freezing period in Nile Water issue and Renaissance dam.

This approach imparts a link to what has become clear to the Egyptian vision that moves practically towards giving a strong impetus to the more comprehensive framework of Relations with Nile Basin States, and to African Issues in general. And that necessarily includes the view on Renaissance Dam Issue. Its course serves Demands of Egypt in absentia as well as Interests of Ethiopia at the same time, as part of a strategy for a better future for Africa in general.

Egypt's Presidency of the next session of African Union gives a strong impetus to the Egyptian role in Africa, with the plans and ideas it contained for the sake of emergence of African States as a whole, Protection of its interests and security, as well as occupying the status it deserves on the International Sphere whether through the United Nations (UN) or at the level of International relations in general. This is what gives a broader opportunity for a developing Egyptian role for the sake of the common interests of African Nations and their aspirations to development and prosperity. Furthermore the meetings that have been occurring continuously between President Abdel Fattah el- Sisi and a large number of African States Leaders during which discussions and agreements on enhanced cooperation and opening up new horizons for joint efforts between Egypt and African States are carried out.

Perhaps one of the features of Egyptian Vision for rapprochement between People was the interest which was shown by the Egyptian side for stimulating soft power movement, with its African characteristics, and its influence on the sphere of intellectual cohesion among Peoples of the Continent. Among the activities that emerged out of this interest were those cultural and art festivals during which Egypt was keen that Delegates from several African States meet together. As an example of such festivals was The African Cinema Festival which was held in Aswan, along with other events that bring Africans together and strengthen their bonds via dialogues and cultural participations during which African Identity becomes illustrated clearly to All.

No doubt these events are merely the beginning of a wider range vision and various activities for developing relations among African States, which is a characteristic feature of Egyptian Strategy practically and clearly.

(The Editor)

Developments in the State of South Sudan and its Relations with Egypt



President of the State of South of Sudan Salva Kiir

On the 11th of July 2018, the Council organized around table discussion on developments in The State of South Sudan and its relations with Egypt. Their Excellencies Ambassadors; Ezzat saad Director of ECFA; Marwan Badr; Salah Halima ECFA Member; and Minister Plenipotentiary Mouhamed Hegazy, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Sudanese Affairs, participated in this discussion.

- The discussion dealt with Egypt's Foreign policy towards the situations in The State of South Sudan which is based on the following principles;

- The need for cessation of all forms of violence by all parties.

- The significance of the 2015 Agreement that was signed in Addis Ababa for resolving the conflict in this country.

- Supporting President Salva Kiir's initiative to establish the National Dialogue.

- Coordinating regional efforts concerned with settling the conflict which includes "IJAD", The African Union, and the other international efforts and endeavours.

- Achieving peace and stability in South Sudan need to support of State Institutions.

- Egypt, Shall coordinate with Uganda, to follow up the implementation of Cairo Declaration to unify the factions of The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) [which became a political party] in pursuance of The Arusha Agreement on the reunification of The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) [The National Dialogue Initiative, The Egyptian-Ugandan initiative, and the (IJAD) Initiative are three initiatives for the reunification of the factions].

- Egypt is keen to enhance political relations with the state of South Sudan. In this context, His Excellency The Foreign Minister visited Juba twice this year, the first one was on the 12th of last March and the second one was on the 3rd of last May for participating in the opening session of the SPLM National Liberation Council.

- Egypt strongly supported President Salva Kiir's initiative on the National Dialogue for restoring stability in The State of South Sudan.

The Participants agreed on that, Egypt's foreign policy strategy towards South Sudan shall include the following Points in particular;

- Seeking openness to all mechanisms that aim to achieve stability in the State of South Sudan and others.

- Strengthening Egypt's bilateral relations with influential countries in the region, of which Uganda is a model in this respect.

Syria...The Post-Settlement Scenarios



On the 26th of September 2018, The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, in coordinate with The Egyptian Center for Kurdish Studies, held a Seminar entitled “Syria... The Post-Settlement Scenarios”. This Seminar was attended by an Elite of Ambassadors, Academics and Researchers on the Syrian and Arabian affairs, and opened by Ambassador Dr.Mounir Zahran the Chairman of the Council. During its four sessions, the speakers spoke in the following order:

- 1- Ambassador Hazem Khairat, 'Member of the Council and former Ambassador of Egypt to Syria , spoke on “The internal situation...after the ending of the war” .
- 2- Dr.Mohamed Badr El-Din Zayed, member of the Council, spoke on “Syria in Its Arabic area”.
- 3- Dr.Rajaei Fayed, member of the Council and Chair of The Egyptian Center for Kurdish Studies, spoke on “Syria in its regional area... Turkey/ Iran/ Israel”.
- 4- Professor Dr.Gamal Abdel Gawad, Professor of Political Sciences in The American University and the Advisor of Al-Ahram Center for Political studies, spoke on “The Attitudes of International Parties: Russia/ USA/ The European Union”.

In conclusion, Mrs. Elham Ahmed, Co-Chair of the Syrian Democratic Council, and The Chairman of the Negotiating Committee with the Syrian Government on the Future of Syria in general and the Northern District in particular (The Kurds' Districts or the so-called “North Syrian Federation” or “Rojava” in Kurdish language), commented via Skype followed by the commentary of Ambassador Sayed Abo Zayed, Member of the Council, then the discussion was held.

Through the submitted documents, all issues currently related to the Syrian affair have been reviewed. These issues included the internal situations, the role of Regional and International Powers in the Syrian crisis, as well as attempting to predict the future of the crisis and providing several scenarios relevant to this respect. In general, there was an agreement in the view points of the participating parties over several points, including:

- The Syrian crisis is one of the most complex crisis that currently the Arab Region suffered from it. And that the Post-Settlement Period shall have a large effect on the future of The Middle East Region, due to the relative weight that Syria has in one form or another at the regional level.
- The Developing of situation in Syria related with the weakness of agents, who work for the competing powers involved in the crisis (Except in the case of the Syrian Kurdish faction who still has clear targets and visions). The conflict has currently become direct between these powers, in other words between The USA, Russia, Turkey and Iran. And that is fraught with the current complexities of the crisis as each party attempts achieving its own Agenda that contradicts those of the rest. Those Agendas are, of course, contrast with the interest of Syrian People and their suffering.

The Way to Syrian settlement away from foreign interference



- Under these current complex situations, it seems difficult to reach a conclusive and satisfactory settlement of the Syrian Crisis in the short run or even over the medium term. It should also be emphasized that while settlement is unlikely, escalation is unlikely as well, as it would be very costly. In this context, status quo in Syria may be imagined as an in-between stage (neither settlement nor escalation).

- The international Community has double standards in dealing with the situation in Afrin compared to its dealing with the one in Idlib, as it

is refraining from taking any action against Turkey in Afrin which is witnessing several massacres over its land, while pointing out to the Turkish Russian Agreement on Idlib. The explanation raised to justify this is: "It is not possible to strike it due to the humanitarian status over there".

- The Syrian democratic Forces are innocent of the charges accusing them of threatening the unity of Syrian Lands and the safety of Syrian People, and was it not for the role it played in partnership with The Popular Mobilization Forces Al-Asad Regime would not have been able to regain its influence and authority over several Syrian territories, and those areas would have completely become a hotbed for terrorist factions that would be manipulated by Regional Countries, and especially by the Turkish State, and those areas would have also been under the influence of Turkey which is imposing its authority over Afrin as a De Facto.

- Within that same context, Mrs. Elham affirmed that Syrian Forces believe the solution returns to the Syrian Regime and to the extent of its will to perform a real Democratic process in the Country, and she is ready for that since the beginning of the crisis and till now. She is as well for the Syrian-Syrian dialogue, the Syrian solution, and against external intervention, and for Syria to be decentralized, with the consideration that the Nomination- whether it be a Federation or others- does not matter, and this matter is subject to the negotiations in case it has been resorted to the dialogue within the framework of the settlement process.

- Finally, and originating from the Principles of the clear Egyptian Foreign Policy concerned with preserving the unity and safety of The Syrian Territories, as well as originating from the Cultural and Historical bonds that bring both Countries together; the participants agreed on the pivotal and significant role Egypt can play in the attempts to settle the Syrian crisis. The participants had the consensus that there is a Regional, International and even a local Syrian will at both the official and popular levels for Egypt to play its role therein.

Iraq after the Parliamentary Elections

On the 12th of July 2018, The Council organized a closed panel discussion on the developments in Iraq after the Parliamentary Elections , under the theme “Iraq after the parliamentary Elections... between external pressures and internal data” with the participation of Ambassadors Dr.Ezzat Saad, Director of the council; Sayed Abu Zaid; Mohammed Badreldeen Zayed; Dr.Rajaei Fayed, Member of the Council and Director of The Egyptian center for Kurdish Studies; Dr.Gamal Abdel Gawad, Senior Advisor at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies; a number of Iraqi Experts, Analysts, and politicians who are: Dr.Salah Nasrawy, Iraqi Political Writer and Analyst; Dr.Yassin Raouf Rasoul, Kurdish Iraqi; Dr.Mohammed Turkey Abu Kalal, Director of the Office of Mr.Ammar el Hakim in Cairo; Dr.Mohamed Arslan, Kurdish Journalist; and Dr.Abdel Rahman Jaddoua Saad Al-Tamimi, The Iraqi Academic.

Participants agreed that the situation in Iraq showed the following points:

- The results of the elections have shown indicators related to the mood of the Iraqi electorate who is looking forwards to having new blood and Unfamiliar alliances in the Post-ISIS- stage, as well as the fragmentation of the political powers as none of them obtained the majority that allows for constitution of the Government, and therefore this depended upon difficult negotiations and mutual concessions and this was regardless of questioning the election results by several coalitions.
- Recent Iraqi public objections have imposed itself over the negotiations for the constitution of the Government where the political powers have conducted a series of intensified contact for starting serious and different negotiations for constituting the new Government to reduce public anger and pressure as a result of the lack of essential services and corruption.
- The internal situation in Iraq suffers a state of liquidity for several reasons varying from the state of incoherence and the chronic problems related to political, economic and security situations, in addition to the political situation of the Kurds following the referendum over the separation and the issue of not reaching a solution or political settlement with the Iraqi Government. This is in addition being influenced by the external situations and the several interventions by the neighboring regional powers and the foreign powers.
- The Kurds must learn the lesson and the harms that followed the referendum process over the political practice by the Kurds and over the formation of alliances, and that is what have been reflected in the results they obtained in the elections. In fact, a political process must be launched to exit the state of chaos and for some of the political leaders to comprehend the result and the defeat, who despite the dictatorial system they faced, but they caused a lot of harms and risks to the Iraqi State and widespread corruption, unemployment and terrorism. In spite of all, this they are insisting to hold onto the leadership of the country.
- What the Iraqi political process has reached to; indicates positive results represented in the break of Shiite alliances and the trend to form varying political alliances, this supports the view point of the Stream of wisdom that the minority shall take over the power and the opposition is to be formed by the majority.
- The results broke sectarian alliances and forced big leaders, who were the cause of the deterioration of political, economic and social crises within the Iraqi State, out of the political process. In addition to refusal of current leaders to any agendas imposed from outside.
- The failure of these forces to formulate a national vision resulted in failing to determine the future of Iraq and in formulating a “Sumerian Iraq” combining East and West and becoming a bridge that links Iran “as a representative of the East” to the USA “as a representative of the West”, or will Iraq remain an area of conflicts and waging wars by proxy and the victims are the Iraqi people.

The European Union Delegation seeks the opinion of the council regarding a number of Regional issues



The Current Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt,
Ambassador/Ivan Surkoš

On the 5th of August 2018, Ambassador Dr.Ezzat Saad ECFA Director and Ambassador Dr.Mohammed Badr Eldeen Zayed Membwe of ECFA received Mrs.Carole Demol, the political adviser to the EU delegation to Egypt at the Council's Headquarters. Upon the request of the guest, the meeting dealt with a brief presentation of the Council's mission, activities, partnerships, and the nature of the issues addressed in the conferences, workshops, and round tables organized by the council.

The Director of the Council, Ambassador Ezzat Saad, pointed out that the Council retains good working relationship with the European delegation to Cairo, as Mr.James Moran, the Former Head of the delegation, has more than once called for speaking with the members of the Council on developments of Egypt's relations with the European Union, whether on the aspects addressed in the Egyptian European partnership agreement or those which are out of the scope of this agreement, indicating the particular importance that Egypt attaches to its relations with the European Union for being Egypt's biggest economic and trade partner.

Mrs.Demol was interested in seeking Council's views on the following issues in particular:

- Developments in Syria, Egyptian vision on these developments, and recently concluded agreements between Syrian opposition groups under Egyptian auspices and Russian support.
- Egypt's vision on developments in Ethiopia, and the implications of these developments on the Egyptian Ethiopian bilateral relations particularly those concerned with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam issue.
- Recent developments in the State of South Sudan, and the last agreement between President Salva Kiir and the opposition leader Machar Sidoum.

Ambassador Saad and Ambassador Zayed clarified Egypt's position toward the above mentioned issues, in addition to answering some of the questions related to Egypt's African relations, and the security situations in the Middle East in general.

Participation of the Council in a Seminar on ... The Belt and Road Initiative

On the 23rd of September, the Council, in cooperation with the Institute of National Planning, organized a seminar on “ Egypt and The Belt and Road Initiative ... political and economic reflections, and the positive interaction roadmap”. The Council’s delegation included each of their excellencies, Ambassadors: Dr.Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; Dr.Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council; and members of the council, their excellencies, Ambassadors: Gamal Bayoumi, Mahmoud Allam, Ali elhefny, and Magdy Amer.

The proceedings of the seminar that opened by Ambassador Dr.Mounir Zahran Chairman of the Council beside Professor Dr. Alaa zahran Head of the Institute were conducted over 2 sessions. The first session was entitled, “ Strategic readings of the Belt and Road initiative” and moderated by Ambassador Gamal Bayoumi and commented by Ambassador Mahmoud Allam. The second session was entitled “ The political and economic dimensions and spillover of the initiative and the positive interaction roadmap” and moderated by Ambassador Ali elhefny. Ambassador Magdy Amer participated during this session to speak on “ Basic platforms for positive strategic engagement with The Belt and Road Initiative” and Ambassador Dr.Ezzat Saad commented on this Session.

It was emphasized during the seminar that the initiative has two perspectives one of them is internal and is concerned with china’s desire to develop the poor Western Regions and connect them to neighboring countries.

As for the international perspective, launching of the initiative is directly associated with several factors which are: World Economy and trying to avoid any economic and financial crisis, narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries in an attempt to manage the faults that were precipitated by Globalization, and formulation and reinforcement of a rational and responsible system for Global Governance.

The initiative also has six fields that have been identified by the Chinese president and through it, the goals of the initiative may be enhanced, and these fields include: policy coordination, economic road corridors development, construction of multi-ports harbours, expanding the work area of Chinese companies globally, provision of the means of financial support through Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and other banks alongside The Silk Road Fund, and comprehensive cooperation in all fields.

In conclusion; The significance of Egypt taking advantage of its unique geographic location to achieve the maximum possible benefits has been emphasized; to work towards making Egypt virtually a maritime gateway to Africa, Asia, and Europe; to use the mechanisms provided by the initiative in order to become a manufacturing centre within the continent; and developing both industrial and export sectors with China to become a manufacturing centre with the help of Chinese investments.

Egypt and Tajikistan in confrontation of Terrorism

The Egyptian Council For Foreign Affairs (ECFA) hosted joint Conference “Egypt and Tajikistan in confrontation of Terrorist Organizations: Studying the case of Muslims Brotherhood Group and The Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan” on Wednesday the 1st of August 2018. The conference was held with the participated of The Egyptian Council for foreign affairs, The Egyptian Media forum, The Egyptian Maritime Saloon and The Dialogue center for Political and Media Studies. The Conference was attended by a number of Egyptian and Foreign Intellectuals, Officials and academics, as well as the presence of a number of Media to cover the Conference.

The agenda of the Conference was subdivided into two sessions, the first which was an opening session, was headed by Ambassador Dr.Ezzat Saad, Director of The Egyptian Council for foreign affairs; Engineer Abdel Salam ElKhadrawy, Member of The Parliament and Director of The Dialogue Center for Political and Media studies; and Staff



Major General Tarek Al-Mahdi, Director of The Egyptian Media Forum, who delivered the speech of the Forum and The Egyptian Maritime Saloon.

The second session, which was the main session, it had included valuable and profound contributions from a number of academics and researchers concerned with terrorism and security. While the session was moderated by Dr. Mohammed Talaat, Assistant Editor in Chief of Al-Goumhouriya news Paper, the list of speakers included a number of participants interested in the



subject of the Conference. And from the other side the Members of the Embassy of Tajikistan in Cairo attended the Conference and a number of Diplomats of the Central Asian states accredited to Cairo.

The Joint conference “Egypt and Tajikistan in confrontation of Terrorism” has ended with a concluding statement that included a number of important recommendations:

1- The emphasis on the role of all the political bringing up, and at their heads come the School and the Mosque to play their roles in collaboration and coordination with the rest of the Country's Establishments and State Organs in confronting the ideology of those Organizations and their risks.

2- Emphasizing the role of the media to refute all the faulty information which provided by these terrorist organizations (The Brotherhood and The Renaissance Party) to their followers, along with working to develop the content of the media discourse both on the level of quality and form of



Joint Seminar on “Egypt and Tajikistan in confrontation of Terrorist Organizations: Studying the case of Muslims Brotherhood Group and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan”, 1st of august 2018

the media messages addressed to the public so as to represent a buffer wall against the ideologies and directions of those organizations.

3- Exchange of expertise between both Countries and that would be through the organization of numerous mutual visits for Experts, Specialists and researchers in the various fields related to combating terrorism.

4- Organizing several joint events that include (Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Panel Discussions, Round Tables). These joint events shall aim at discussing various issues of mutual interest between both countries in general, and the matter of terrorism and how to confront it, in particular.

5- Joint action between the institutions which is concerned with the issues of terrorism in both countries, to work for the sake of enlisting the Muslim Brotherhood Organization and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan as terrorist organizations in various Arab and Islamic Countries, as well as in the Arab, Islamic and World organizations.

6- Organizing an extended Conference at the level of Arab and Islamic States for confronting the risk of terrorist organizations, and in this respect it is suggested to have an extended Conference organized during this year and to include Central Asian States and some Arab countries that consider the Muslim Brotherhood group a terrorist group in order to develop a road map on how to work on the inclusion of these organizations within the terrorist lists.

7- Refusal of Iran's interference in the internal affairs of other countries and condemning its continuous and persistent support to terrorist organizations in various Arab and Islamic States and to demand Iran respect the sovereignty and independence of states.

8- Emphasizing the enhancement of security cooperation between Egypt and Tajikistan to strengthen their bilateral efforts for confronting Terrorist Organizations.



Joint Seminar on “Egypt and Tajikistan in confrontation of Terrorist Organizations: Studying the case of Muslims Brotherhood Group and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan”, 1st of august 2018