THE AFRICAN UNION'S MEDIATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND EGYPT:

A CASE STUDY OF THE GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM (GERD) ON THE BLUE NILE

BY

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DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that this proposal entitled "**The African Union's Mediation of Diplomatic Relations Between Ethiopia and Egypt: A Case Study of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile**" is my original work and that it has never been submitted to any other University or institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signed ……. Date ……

APPROVAL

This proposal has been submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for examination with my approval as a University Supervisor.

Signed ……. Date ……

JIMMY ALEMIGA (PhD Candidate-UMI)

DEDICATION

To my late father for his unwavering support and belief in me throughout the completion of this course. He instilled in me the conviction that the power to change the world lies in education and that one is never too old to learn. His professionalism and dedication to international relations and domestic policies have been a profound inspiration, and his patience with me in all my endeavors is deeply appreciated. Thank you immensely.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION 2

APPROVAL 3

DEDICATION 4

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5

ABSTRACT 8

CHAPTER ONE 9

INTRODUCTION 9

1.1 Introduction 9

1.2 Background of the Study 11

1.3 Problem statement 13

1.4 General Objective 14

1.5 Specific Objectives 15

1.6 Research questions/for qualitative studies/questions 15

1.8 Theoretical Framework 16

1.9 Significance of the study 18

1.10 Scope of the Study 19

CHAPTER TWO 21

LITERATURE REVIEW 21

2.1 Introduction 21

2.2 Potential for War 23

2.3 Theories in Mediation 25

2.3.1 Conflict Resolution Theory 25

2.3.2 Game Theory 26

2.3.3 Interest-Based Mediation 27

2.4 Role of the African Union 27

2.5 Challenges in Mediation 31

CHAPTER THREE 33

METHODOLOGY 33

3.1 Introduction 33

3.2 Research Philosophy 34

3.3 Research Approach 35

3.4 Research Design 35
3.5 Justification for Choice of Methodology 36
3.6 Ethical Consideration 37
CHAPTER 4 38
MEDIATION EFFORTS OF THE AFRICAN UNION 38
4.1 African Union's Role 38
4.2 GERD Dispute 39
4.3 Mediation Strategies and Mechanisms 40
Dialogue 40
Committees 41
Diplomacy 41
Legal and Policy Frameworks 41
Global Partners 42
CHAPTER 5 44
IMPACT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS 44
5.1 Implications 44
5.2 Future Diplomacy 45
REFERENCES 47

ABSTRACT

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which is also referred to as GERD located on the Blue Nile has been an issue of conflict between Ethiopia and Egypt. The conflicting interests between these countries are based on water security and national sovereignty which are being mediated by the African Union. Some efforts have taken place to manage the diplomatic relations between the associated countries and propose solutions that can resolve the conflicts. There are critical aspects where the study explores the basis of the dispute and the historical conflicts that have expanded diplomacy. The broader consideration of geopolitical dynamics influences the negotiations and these assist in building up strategies that influence restitution. The policy implications are proposed that aim at finding areas that can be used for remedying the conflict and propose aspects that benefit all the countries associated with the GERD.

Keywords: African Union, Ethiopia, Egypt, GERD, Blue Nile, Mediation, Diplomacy, Water Security

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) holds a strategic position as it determines the ties between Ethiopia and Egypt. This region has been subject to many challenges in the past that have been dominated by old issues and recent geopolitical problems (Mohammed, 2021). This project has a huge infrastructure that boosts the Ethiopian economy by producing hydroelectric power. This increases worries in Egypt about water safety and accessibility to the Nile River (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). The dependence of Egypt on these water reserves is for water and farming. The converging objectives of both countries raise issues such as climate change, population growth, and rising resource needs. These issues raise the conflict between the two countries requiring the regional organizations to handle the diplomatic ties (Okech, 2023).

The African Union was launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity (1963-1999) and comprises 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. The objective of this organization was solidarity and brotherhood between the African countries that focused on resolving the larger problems of the region (Masipa, 2023). Pan Africanism was the concept behind this African socialism that contributed to unity and communal practices solidifying the foundational roots of the countries based on heritage. The major focus of the formation was to free the continents from colonialization and promote unity and solidarity amongst the African states (Okech & Wasonga, 2023). This intensified the development policies and provided territorial integrity of Member States that helped negotiate with the international bodies and gained cooperation supporting development.

A charter was signed between the member countries that guided them to promote unity and solidarity. The purpose of the organization was to make the lives of the people better and defend their sovereignty (Akamo, 2022). This eradicated all forms of colonialism and international cooperation with the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The African Union showed its involvement in the GERD and suggested solutions and treaties to resolve the peace amongst the member countries (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). The role of a mediator encouraged the discussion and provided strong support for sustainable development in the Nile River Basin. The resources were proposed to develop a framework that supported joint resource management (El-Zouka, 2022). The mediation efforts dealt with diplomatic relations and solved the governance-based challenges between Ethiopia and Egypt.

Dialogue sessions were intermediated to build trust amongst the parties and negotiate the deep power differences. There were conflicts between the countries over water rights and differing national goals that created challenges for the economies (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). The tension rose between the countries requiring the authorities to intervene and propose solutions that resolved the growing tension. The involvement of the African Union showcased mediation of the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Egypt that was instigated with the development of the GERD (Wolde & Habte, 2020). This dam is currently under construction and is a source of tension between the two countries. Egypt expressed concerns about water security and Ethiopia required the water reserves for the energy security and economic development of the region (Maru, 2020). This was a converging point between both countries and showed the limitation of resource availability.

1.2 Background of the Study

The research background shows the significance of the Nile River for the countries in the surrounding region. The initiatives that one country makes can damage the other countries' development (Messele, 2021). The analysis of the background from a historical context shows that the Nile River has been a factor of discontent between Egypt and Ethiopia. This conflict has continued for centuries which resulted in the formation of agreements and treaties (Makonye, 2021). In 1929 the Nile Water Agreement and in 1959 the Nile Water Treaty was signed between Egypt and Sudan. This allocated a huge portion of the water and left Ethiopia with a minimal share causing problems that have never been completely resolved. The dispute between these countries grew with time and showed that the colonial powers dominated the decision of Ethiopia (Mohammed, 2023). The region never got the equitable share that it deserved and left the government weak and vulnerable.

The theoretical foundations of this case show a connection with the realist and liberal theories. The Realist theory emphasizes the role of power and self-interest in shaping state behavior (Jungudo, 2023). Liberal theory highlights the importance of cooperation and institutions in promoting peace and stability. The assessment focuses on classifying the realist and liberal theories that focus on analyzing the basis of conflict and resolving the mediation efforts of the African Union. The technical, economic, political, and social factors have been identified to rectify the issues of power dynamics (Zeleke, 2021). The challenges that Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan have witnessed in the past and the claims made for the Nile River waters show that the right to equality must be executed. The neighboring countries must negotiate an agreement that is mutually beneficial on the historic waterways of sustainable management (Danburam & Briollais, 2022). The United Nations and its officials have highlighted this issue in

the meeting of the Security Council to make sure that a solution is developed for sharing the water reserves and make sure that the rights and responsibilities are met before reaching a common ground. There is room for moving forward in the spirit of cooperation aiming to solve the conflict and reach a conclusive solution that benefits the well-being of the countries (Taddele, 2020).

There have been many situations in the past where the proposition of negotiations has been made. The tension has escalated with each attempt made to remedy the conflict of GERD (Almesafri et al., 2024). The construction of the dam began in 2011 and is nearing completion but President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has stepped up his engagement on the issue in his capacity as Chair of the African Union. The League of Arab States contributes that the dispute in June which called upon Ethiopia to fill the dam's reservoir without reaching an agreement shows that the involvement of the Security Council is required to discuss the matter (Liyew, 2022). The African Union leadership shows that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been asked to provide technical advice on the matter aiming to help the three countries reach mutual understanding.

The initiatives of the United Nations show that Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP has noted that the Nile has delivered freshwater, fed agriculture, and supported livelihoods in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan for thousands of years. Many dams exist in these waters but the GERD will prove to be a huge source of hydropower for Ethiopia's Energy Supply (Donkor, 2022). The addition of this surplus power that is exported through the region will contribute to the acceleration of industrialization. The process of developing a well-planned hydraulic infrastructure on the shared river course will be a source of enhanced collaboration which is not a zero-sum game (Salman, 2018). The focus of the three states towards the sustained efforts to

enhance cooperation on the transboundary water resources can be recalled in 2015 by signing the Agreement on Declaration of Principles committing to cooperation, and equitable and reasonable water resource use. The countries have settled to resolve the dispute and peacefully work in allegiance with the decision of the African Union (Tayie & Rashidy, 2024). The issues that pertain to critical times such as droughts remain unresolved. The quest for the water reserves only arises in situations of distress and when the region faces droughts the challenges amplify.

The policies and the agreement fail to address this problem and leave the water as an apple of accord for all the countries. The initiatives of Cooperative water management are becoming important in the context of climate change where the Nile's flow requires exhibiting increasing variability in the coming years (Tawfik, 2023). All the countries must work hand in hand and come up with solutions that are mutually beneficial to resolving the rising bar of conflicts. The conflicts have been witnessed in the past and the issues have been highlighted to the African Union for the resolution considering the solutions to the problems under the principles of the "African Solutions to the African Problems." The management of the union has succeeded in resolving around 90% of the problems while cautioning that the final accord on all elements shows that the African Union has requested that all sides abstain from taking positions that have the potential of further complicating the negotiations (Ahmed, 2024).

1.3 Problem statement

Water and its related issues have been a concern for many countries in the past. The well-being of the people depends on the reserves that determine the vulnerability of the region and its sources (Oxford Analytica, 2019). The GERD has been a factor of conflict between Ethiopia and Egypt contributing to regional stability and security. Many efforts have been made by the African Union to resolve the conflict in the region and mediate the conflicts that have developed between

the two countries (Diatta et al., 2021). The water dispute started in the past and leveled up with time as the colonial influence on Ethiopia resulted in the uneven distribution of water resources. The right to use the water reserves and irrigate the reserves must be the same for everyone but the past challenges show that the conflict is increasing with time (Mulugeta, 2023). The inequality in the distribution phase shows that rights have been not awarded transparently in the past which has resulted in growing conflicts for both countries.

The conflict that arose on GERD has had a strong impact on the regional solidarity and management of the water reserves of the region. The analysis of the historical, cultural, and economic factors that prevailed within the countries shows that the parties need to work on the lack of progress and must develop initiatives that support sustainable development (Beyene, 2023). The signing of agreements and treaties that are intermediated by the African Union will result in solving the problems between the regions. The core determination is equality so that the rights of the countries over the water are restituted (Tsega, 2017). This can be done through making and enforcing policies that aim to solve the underlying problems. The analysis of the information shows that there is a lack of available resources that present a perspective that can be used for resolving the issues (Taye et al., 2022). The goal is to remedy the outcomes and propose a solution that solves the problems with equality for both countries.

1.4 General Objective

The general objective of this research is to assess the conflict situation between Ethiopia and Egypt and assess the African Union's mediation of diplomatic relations over the GERD on the Blue Nile. The role of the African Union as an intermediary is crucial for resolving these issues and requires dominant efforts to resolve the conflicts (Salman, 2018). This is mandatory for managing the specific outcomes and resolving the discontent that prevails within the region.

1.5 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives that prevail with the study in consideration of the analysis are the following:

- To investigate the effectiveness of AU's mediation strategy in the conflict over the GERD.
- To assess the role played by stakeholders, including the Ethiopian and Egyptian governments in the AU's mediation efforts.
- To examine the impact of other regional and international organizations AU's mediation efforts.

1.6 Research questions/for qualitative studies/questions

The research questions that will be addressed are the following:

- What are the key factors that have contributed to the conflict over the GERD between Ethiopia and Egypt?
- How has the AU mediated the dispute, and what have been the strengths and weaknesses of its approach?
- What can be done to improve the AU's mediation efforts and prevent conflict over the GERD?

The analysis of these questions shows the significance of the water reserves that aim towards the resolution of the problem. The economic disparities between Ethiopia and Egypt need to be remedied to find a sustainable solution that is not challenged (Bouks, 2022). The requirement of Ethiopia for water reserves for hydro-powered electricity solutions and the requirement of Egypt towards sustainable solutions of agriculture and irrigation are important. The proposed solutions and policies must be aimed at resolving the conflicts rather than creating

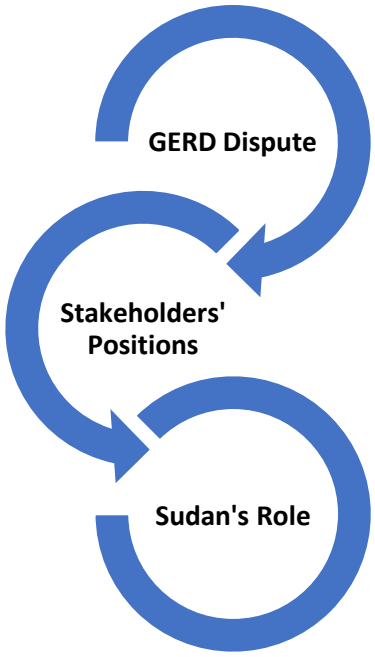
new ones. This can be done by offering solutions that benefit both countries (Salman, 2017). The role of the African Council is important to maintain this equality and propose solutions that are worthwhile for the development of the region.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The role of the African Union in resolving the issues between Ethiopia and Egypt is prominent as it acts as an intermediary and solves the conflicts between these countries. There are strategies such as conflict resolution theory, game theory, and interest-based mediation that are used to mitigate the conflict (Mohammed, 2021). The application of these mediation tactics has been made possible through the consistent efforts of the African Union. The assessment of the mandate that was used for the mediation efforts and the specific role of addressing the issues of GERD have been analyzed in this research (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). This shows the measures that could have been taken effectively and the lack of existing methods. It is exponential that GERD has economic and political consequences on regional development. The solidarity and foundations of Ethiopia and Egypt are both impacted by it. The power structure of Ethiopia relies on the development of this dam and the accessibility to water reserves for Egypt depends on these methods (Okech, 2023). The analysis of the situations facilitates the negotiations and provides a strong dominance on the development of the region.

Mediation and Diplomacy	Theories in Mediation	Role of the African Union
• **Mediation**: A form of third-party intervention in disputes. • **Diplomatic Relations**: The management of relationships between nations. • **Relevance to GERD Dispute**: The role of the African Union (AU) as a mediator.	• **Conflict Resolution Theory**: Focuses on resolving disputes through peaceful means. • **Game Theory**: Analyzes strategic interactions between nations. • **Interest-Based Mediation**: Emphasizes the underlying interests of conflicting parties.	• **Mandate and Structure**: Overview of the AU's capacity and mechanisms for mediation. • **Previous Mediation Efforts**: Examples of AU's involvement in other regional disputes. • **Specific Role in GERD**: The AU's strategy in facilitating negotiations between Ethiopia and Egypt.

The focal point that develops the issues emphasizes the formation basis on the GERD dispute, stakeholders positions, and Sudan's role as an intermediary. The formation of this dam on the Blue Nile and its impact on the associated projects that the countries want to undertake are the foundational causes of the conflicts (Masipa, 2023). Ethiopia will lose its infrastructure development and hydropower source if the development of the dam is stopped and Egypt will lose its accessibility to the water reserves making this place vulnerable. Understanding the stance of these countries and evaluating the initiatives that the governance is willing to take to resolve the issues are important to crafting a sustainable solution (Okech & Wasonga, 2023).



The aspects of resolution and the initiatives that are taken by the intermediaries coincide with the cause and effect. The research foundations are built based on findings and the actions that were imposed by the intermediaries for resolving the problems (Akamo, 2022).

1.9 Significance of the study

The dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia over the GERD has a strong geographical significance. The conflict has prevailed for more than a decade and attempts to negotiate have not been successful (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). The concerns of both countries are legitimate as in the past there was a situation where Ethiopia was sidelined by Egypt and Sudan to resolve the matters of water occupancy. The African Union is functioning for the mediation of this issue aiming to mediate the talks between the riparian states since 2020 (El-Zouka, 2022). The parties have failed to resolve the matter and reach a conclusive dominance requiring efforts for filling and operating the Ethiopian dam.

The African Union has a stern foundation and perspective on this conflict. They have made numerous efforts the resolve this problem by proposing peaceful remedies that are focused

on the settlement of the Nile crisis (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). These situations that consolidate with the consistent efforts of conflict resolution and yet fail to reach a conclusive solution require critical assessment. There is a need to assess the problem and evaluate the factors that are causing hurdles in the resolution of the problem (Wolde & Habte, 2020).

1.10 Scope of the Study

This research emphasizes assessing the mediation process, conflict analysis, and diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Egypt. The GERD is located in a complex location that coincides with the interests of three countries that are Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan (Maru, 2020). The research focuses on the mediation process, conflict analysis, and diplomatic relations that prevail in promoting cooperation and resolving the conflict. The countries that surround the Blue Nile River are targeted in this analysis where the role of the national and international organizations is evaluated aiming to understand the efforts to remedy the mediating conflicts (Messele, 2021).



(Economist, 2025)

The evaluation will be based on information accumulated over 10 years to avoid outdated information. The instances from the past that have led to the development of this conflict will be discussed (Makonye, 2021). The recent information and data will contribute to the findings and enable aligning the theoretical information accurately.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The construction of GERD started in the year 2011 and was backed by many political and regional conflicts. The reason behind the conflict was the historical tension between Egypt Sudan with Ethiopia (Mohammed, 2023). The fate of this dam is being negotiated by Ethiopia aiming to find a beneficial resolution. The economic benefits are the major source of conflict where Egypt is off the view that the construction of the dam will hinder its accessibility to the water reserves. The use of water and the political dynamics of the region point to conflicts with water reserves (Jungudo, 2023). In the past during the colonial era, Ethiopia was isolated for its decision, and water reserves of the Nile were distributed between Sudan and Egypt unequally. There have been many attempts to intermediate the attempts of resolution which remain unresolved (Zeleke, 2021). Nile is strategically important for these countries and none of the members are willing to let down their guards to defend the national security based on negotiations.

The hydroelectric dam is measured at 145 meters high having a potential to generate more than 6000 megawatts of power. The development of the dam would amplify the production of electricity for Ethiopia (Danburam & Briollais, 2022). The recent production parameters are way beyond the regional requirement serving only half of the country's 120 million population. The design of the dam is suitable to serve all the surrounding countries including Sudan and Egypt. The conflict arises when Egypt thinks that the development of the dam will compromise the water supply on which 90 percent of the Egyptians rely and depend (Taddele, 2020). The international nature of the river basin means that the extraction and retention of water affects its use in another.

The overview of the existing situation shows that the ambition that is being portrayed is nowhere near matching the reality. The grid stations of Ethiopia are not developed enough to absorb the extra capacity (Almesafri et al., 2024). Transmission and distribution networks are non-existent in most of the country as there is a lack of adequate high-voltage links to its neighbors that are incapable of supporting electricity exports. The technical requirements of this project are insufficient and require cooperation from the neighboring economies (Liyew, 2022). The assessment of the recent situation shows that the measures are not cooperative and this strains the overall development interface. There are significant disputes over the GERD that outline the history of tension and leave the matter unresolved (Donkor, 2022). Ethiopia and Egypt's conflict on the facts and the availability of resources resulted in a diplomatic campaign. The challenges associated with this project show that Ethiopia has distrusted the Egyptian hegemony over the Nile which was established through the colonial treaties aiming to monopolize the river flow in the past (Salman, 2018).

The development of the GERD started this conflict and the discord between these countries caught fire based on this dam. The funds for building the dam were generated through local taxes, donations, and government bonds as the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia asked for support from six Nile states through the Nile Basin Initiative in 1999 (Tayie & Rashidy, 2024). This formed an institution basin-wide and ended the hegemony of Egypt. This was a historical turning point as it remedied the conflicts and gave scope of development for Ethiopia (Tawfik, 2023). The structural proposition of the dam was proposed in 1964 when the US Bureau of Reclamation completed the feasibility of the proposed dams. None of the dams from the four proposals were built until 2011 (Ahmed, 2024). The development of GERD started when Egypt was in conflict with the Arab Spring and formed the basis of a conflict. The governance of

Ethiopia was certain that war would cause collateral damage but consideration of economic flourishing made them stay intact on their perspective of building the dam (Oxford Analytica, 2019). The GERD was treated as a symbol of nationalism in Ethiopia with strong consideration of this movement as a portrayal of economic development.

2.2 Potential for War

Egypt is a developed economy with resources that amplify from those of Ethiopia. The neighboring countries are participating to support Egypt such as Somalia which offered a military base (Diatta et al., 2021). Ethiopia on the other hand has concluded a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland seeking access to port and naval access in the Gulf of Aden. This violates the African Charter of 1964 which sanctifies the colonial boundaries (Mulugeta, 2023). This has plunged this region into a diplomatic crisis where the regions are presenting support to each other based on their interests. Ethiopia reached an agreement with Somaliland based on an understanding of recognition in exchange for a lease over 20 kilometers (Beyene, 2023). The scope of development of new land is increasing the tension for the region as the acclamation of a regional player will add fuel to the conflicts that prevail within the region. The civil war prevails in all the regions and this is weakening the solidarity of the countries making them vulnerable (Tsega, 2017).

In this case, Egypt is seeking Arab support where lobbying has taken place throughout the Arab League. In this initiative, a statement is sought from Ethiopia to delay the process of filling the reservoir created by the GERD (Taye et al., 2022). Ethiopia has ignored this delay in filling the reservoir created by the GERD. Ethiopia has avoided regional and international pressure and is constructing the dam. This shows the initiative and the strength of the decision where the countries are not willing to compromise on their stance (Salman, 2018). Ethiopia is of

the view that the filling of the dam is in a phase where any attempt made to damage the dam will result in flooding of Sudan. The initial stance of exporting electricity to the region may have been impractical but the recent development has led all the regions on a cornerstone and made it impossible for the growing deterioration of security (Bouks, 2022). The GERD is classified as a Green Elephant project but the development of the dam on such a massive scale is hazardous for the watersheds like the Nile which is fragile. This is also in congruence with the climate change factors that raise the bar of the hazards (Salman, 2017).

There is a huge scope for international mediation as all the players connected with the GERD are unable to reach an outcome. The stance of all the parties varies as none of the individuals agree on a method of mediation as proposed by the African Union (Mohammed, 2021). The stance of Egypt and Sudan are consistent with having a legally binding agreement that impacts the methods that Ethiopia will apply to filling the dams. The times of drought are critical for Egypt and Sudan but the terms that are being imposed are unacceptable for Ethiopia (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). The development has halted based on this stance and shows that the proposal is unacceptable because with the initiatives of conserving water the production capacity of the dam will be impaired. The lack of clarity in the decision is hindering the development of the region and is making the application of policies impossible for the intermediaries (Okech, 2023). As the project of GERD will become fully operational and the Nile waters become more susceptible to climate change the dispute and its terms will become difficult. The strategic location of the Nile and the connected countries make them vulnerable and so no one is willing to compromise or accept the terms that may have an impact on the future sustainability of the countries (Masipa, 2023). Any mistake in the decision-making process will leave the people of the country in danger and hinder the sustainability of the land.

2.3 Theories in Mediation

The application of theories that focused on resolving the conflict by including mediatory like the African Union helped simplify the issue. The interests and concerns of all the countries were put in focus to showcase the challenges and problems that can arise in the future (Mohammed, 2021). The position of Ethiopia and Egypt strategically shows deep dependence on the Nile. The development in both countries revolves around the methods that are adopted for solving the issues. The waters are important for trade and economic development. The policies that are made by the authorities focus on their concerns rather than their collaborative growth and development (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). Ethiopia can progressively transform its economy once the dam is made by generating electricity and using it for trade. Egypt on the other hand is focusing only on its agricultural dominance and the constraints that it may face in the future regarding the water (Okech, 2023). The element of trust between all the players is weak and this showcases the weaknesses of the stance of the countries at looking towards larger benefits of the economy.

The policymakers view development as a progressive strategy and classify the development based on different theories. The conflict resolution theory, game theory, and interest-based mediation. The application of these theories focuses on resolving disputes through peaceful means by focusing on strategic interaction between the countries (Masipa, 2023). The interest of all the countries is a priority for them but none of the countries are willing to look at the larger benefits of the economy.

2.3.1 Conflict Resolution Theory

The application of the conflict resolution theory revolves around the process that the parties use to reach a peaceful solution to the dispute. The disputes are resolved through non-

violent means such as dialogue, negotiation, and mediation (Okech & Wasonga, 2023). African Council played the role of this mediation as it emphasized communication and provided the parties with a stance to ignite trust building and mutual understanding. The scenario of this region is complex as all three countries have witnessed disturbance in the past and had conflicts over water reserves (Akamo, 2022). The actions of Ethiopia reflect revenge for the past whereas Egypt and Sudan are more inclined to gain territorial control over the waters so that in the future Ethiopia does not deprive them of accessibility to water. The season of droughts is integral for all countries as in this case having reserves of water as a backup can protect agriculture (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). GERD is highly disputed due to this factor and the diplomatic negotiations by the African Union have not reached a conclusive stance due to this dispute.

2.3.2 Game Theory

Game theory is all about strategic interactions where the strategies of the countries are assessed and each player depends on the choices of others. The dispute that stood over GERD between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan connects with the past conflicts (El-Zouka, 2022). The strategic decision-making is not reaching a conclusive stance as these countries don't trust each other. The risks and stakes are high for all the countries as this dam connects with the economic development of Ethiopia and the agricultural development of Egypt (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). These countries understand the strategic significance of the GERD and worry that access to the GERD can give Ethiopia an edge over Egypt. In case there is a conflict between these countries in the future then Ethiopia can use GERD as leverage and dominate Egypt (Wolde & Habte, 2020). The control over water reserves in the farming season or during the drought can have adverse consequences on the land and its sustenance.

2.3.3 Interest-Based Mediation

This approach gives priority to the interest and dispute of the parties and neglects the position of the parties. The assessment of the GERD negotiations shows that Ethiopia's interest lies in economic development and energy security whereas Egypt is prioritizing its strategy on water security (Maru, 2020). The concerns of both countries are legitimate from their perspectives as any change in the scenario can give leverage to the other country. The interest-based mediation as prescribed by the African Union aims to identify the common ground and develop solutions that meet the needs of both nations (Messele, 2021).

The assessment of these mediations shows that initiatives need to be structured to remedy the problems and conflicts between these countries. The lack of trust and past conflicts are raising the bar of challenges and making the stakeholders consider whether this strategy should or should not be implemented (Makonye, 2021). The role of the mediator in this case is insufficient as the players of the negotiation are insecure about future conflicts and don't want the other party to have leverage on the other.

2.4 Role of the African Union

The role of the African Union as an intermediary is important and challenging as it represents all the countries of the continent of Africa. The development of the African Union was an initiative to replace the Organization of African Unity (Mohammed, 2023). The decisions that are laid in the hands of the African Union are made by the Assembly of the African Union. The meeting to discuss the issues is conducted semi-annually by the heads of the states and the government of its member states (Jungudo, 2023). The secretariat is based in Addis Ababa which is the largest city of Lagos situated in Nigeria. The African region has control over two most interesting and historically significant landmarks which are the Sahara and the Nile. The official

bodies that are part of the African Union are the Peace and Security Council and the Pan-African Parliament (Zeleke, 2021). The African Union is also a part of the G20 like the European Union.

The major objectives of the African Union are to make strategies that contribute to greater unity, cohesion, and solidarity amongst the African countries and the African Nations. The objective is to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of the member states that help with the implementation process (Danburam & Briollais, 2022). The global goals and concerns that are addressed by the authorities are related to the control of the political and socioeconomic integration of the continent. The authorities are focusing on promoting and defending the African common positions that aim to solve the issues of interest to the continent and its people (Taddele, 2020). These initiatives work to encourage international cooperation and take account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The goal is to promote peace, security, and stability in the continent and make sure that there is no injustice to any of the countries (Almesafri et al., 2024). Safeguarding the rights of all the countries without any kind of bias in the decisions is the role of the African Union. The governance aspect and control are imposed on the authorities to make sure that democracy prevails and focus is laid on popular participation and good governance (Liyew, 2022). Human rights are safeguarded to protect human and people's rights by the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.

The African Union is responsible for forming the conditions that keep all the countries within the continent bonded and focused on the development of the economies from a global aspect. These are also crucial for international negotiations that help promote sustainable development and collaborate with the stakeholders (Donkor, 2022). The economic, social, and cultural development are all built with the integration of African economies focused on

promoting cooperation in the field of human activity to raise the living standards of the people. The focus is mainly on harmonizing the Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union (Salman, 2018). The goal is to advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, particularly in science and technology. The objective is to work with relevant international partners to help eradicate preventable diseases and emphasize on development of facilities that promote good health of the continent (Tayie & Rashidy, 2024).

The African Union is built as a combination of both the political and administrative bodies where the highest decision-making authority is the Assembly of the African Union. This is made up of all the heads of the states and governments of member states of the African Union (Tawfik, 2023). The Pan-African Parliament is the representative body that consists of 265 members elected by the national legislatures of the member states whose president is Roger Nkodo Dang. The political institution of the African Union includes the Executive Council which comprises the foreign ministers that prepare the decisions for the Assembly (Ahmed, 2024). The other political institutions are the Permanent Representative Committee made up of the ambassadors of Addis Ababa and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) which is a civil society consultative body (Oxford Analytica, 2019).

The first military intervention of the AU was in May 2003 initiated by the deployment of a peacemaking force of soldiers from South Africa, Ethiopia, and Mozambique. These are responsible for overseeing the implementation of various agreements in Burundi where the troops of the African Union were deployed in Sudan (Diatta et al., 2021). The objective of these bodies was the peacekeeping of the Darfur Conflict before the mission was handed over to the United Nations in January 2008 through the UNAMID. The African Union has a peacekeeping

mission in Somalia that consists of troops from Uganda and Burundi. The policies proposed by the African Union are establishing the norms at the continental level to supplement those in force when it was created (Mulugeta, 2023). These include the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption 2003 and the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance 2007. The scope of these norms is critically important for the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and its associate declaration on democracy, political, economic, and corporate governance (Beyene, 2023).

The role of the African Union is integral as through its Peace and Security Council they take care of issues and problems that prevail in the region. Conflict prevention, management, and resolution across Africa are done through the initiatives of this body (Tsega, 2017). The goal is to employ diplomatic tools as a source of resolution of mediation, negotiation, and legal arbitration to address the disputes. The ability to mediate conflicts is supported by the institutions that work with the council and comprises the Panel of the Wise and the African Peace and Security Architecture (Taye et al., 2022). The authority of the African Union shows that it has resolved many regional disputes in the past which include issues and conflicts between Sudan and South Sudan. The issues were raised over the oil revenue sharing and border demarcation which requires involvement in the Central African Republic and Libya (Salman, 2018). The initiatives of these bodies address the political and territorial conflicts in Africa.

The role of the African Union in mediation towards the issue of GERD involves facilitating trilateral negotiations between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan. The objective is to create a dialogue, reduce tensions, and encourage technical and legal compromises on the filling and operations of the dam (Bouks, 2022). The success has been constrained by external influences and the national interest of the parties that are involved in the resolution of the conflicts.

2.5 Challenges in Mediation

The role of the mediator is complex as they have to consider solving issues that are prevailing between the countries. The major challenges and basis of conflict are the issues of power imbalance, historical tensions, and domestic politics (Salman, 2017). The dynamics of Ethiopia and Egypt show that all these issues are being faced by these countries. The conquest of the power imbalance between Egypt and Ethiopia is at a different level. The major governance issues lie in the regional issues and the economic issues of power that are underlying in the region (Mohammed, 2021). The negotiation dynamics are impacted on the region based on the dynamics of the countries that are struggling to set ties and resolve the past issues. The strategic allocation of the countries makes the resolution process difficult as all the countries consider future challenges that may arise with time (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). The signing of deals that are weak or are not honored by the countries creates difficulties for the authorities in the long run.

Any clause that makes the position of a country weak can dominate the resilience with time and create weakness in policies creating vulnerabilities for the region (Okech, 2023). In the case of the GERD conflict Egypt is backed by the international allies and seeks to maintain control over the Nile. They have concerns about their agriculture and the shortage of water in times of drought (Masipa, 2023). The water dispute was raised in the colonial era when treaties were signed that favored Egypt and Sudan. The agreements are now rejected by Ethiopia as it received a share that was not based on equality (Okech & Wasonga, 2023). These historical grievances complicate the mediation efforts of the African Council and make it challenging for them to propose a solution that benefits all the countries.

The domestic policies that prevail in the region based on political pressures within Ethiopia and Egypt are influenced by negotiation stances (Akamo, 2022). The Ethiopian leadership faces domestic expectations regarding the completion of GERD and similarly, the Ethiopian authorities are focused on addressing the national concerns about water security. These factors limit diplomatic flexibility as internal conflicts continue to prevail in all situations (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). These are subjective to the economic and political ties and conflicts that have shaped the historical foundations of the regions.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The research methodology shapes the research and presents an understanding of the sources that have been used for the analysis. Qualitative data and information have been used for the study to align the contextual information about the research and develop findings based on the gathered materials (Hennink et al., 2020). The tools and techniques that are used for the research allocation are aligned to understand the dynamics of evidence and responses. The thematic approach of the methodology allows assessment of the information and extracting the facts that are suitable to align with the research dynamics. The critical goal of the research is built based on the application of the theoretical model that helps craft the strategies and categorize information relevant to the study (Busetto et al., 2020). Crafting the research methods using qualitative techniques allows for gathering primary and secondary information in connection with the research and aligning it with the research dynamics.

The methods that are applied to the research are based on the expected outcomes from the research. The goal of thematic analysis is to evaluate the information and categorize it in terms of relevance to allocate with the research foundations (Byrd, 2020). The research design aligns with the philosophy and connects the methodologies with the ideological perspectives of the research. The use of qualitative data and information is structured to connect with the research outputs. The analysis conducted in this research is done to evaluate the role of the African Union and assess its impact on the dynamics of Egypt and Ethiopia. The GERD has significant importance in the African region based on its location which coincides with the interest of three countries (Taylor et al., 2015). These countries are Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Years have lapsed but a

stern decision is not yet acknowledged by any of the countries as the position of this dam has farfetched concerns in terms of water reserves and hydroelectric power.

3.2 Research Philosophy

The constructivist approach will be used for the analysis that is structured using the qualitative philosophy of the study. The subjective data will be used for the analysis that comprises social, political, cultural, and historical information about the research (Tracy, 2024). This philosophy is adequate to the research and its findings as the material information about the historical significance of GERD and the stance of Ethiopia and Egypt need to be discussed. The strategic location of the Nile and the interests of the connecting countries that are impacted by the GERD are important (Truman, 2023). The information can be extracted from the articles and research that have contributed to these issues. The scripture information of the African Union will also provide information on the stance of the countries and the initiatives that have been taken over time (Brennen, 2021). The goal is to develop a perspective on the issue and suggest a solution that can be accomplished in consideration of the existing problems in this region.

The application of qualitative research requires accumulating the information and consolidating the findings for crafting the research outcomes. The factual information that is used in the research will be applied to the studies to resonate with the issue and the solution that can be suggested for resolving the problem (Frost, 2021). The conflict that is analyzed on the agenda of GERD has conflicting objectives of the countries. Egypt aims for a structured approach aiming to remedy the droughts and shortage of water in the land. Ethiopia on the other hand requires economic sustainability and for that purpose, it is aiming to develop dam-based electricity generation (Butcher, 2022). The methods that have been applied in the past have resulted in never-ending conflicts that are hindering the way of the GERD. Solutions need to be

proposed to resolve the historical conflicts and suggest the development of strategies that resolve the basis of conflict between both countries.

3.3 Research Approach

The inductive approach will be used for the analysis where the theoretical findings and implementation are exercised. The analysis must be based on the general findings but the research should not deviate from its topic (Hennink, Hutter, & Bailey, 2020). The information shall be directed from a general to a specific approach where all the information is categorized. This approach is classified as the bottom-up approach. The data is gathered in the participant's situation and data is examined inductively. The report has a flexible construction approach that is built on flexibility and findings (Busetto, Wick, & Gumbinger, 2020). The use of a qualitative approach is beneficial in the case where the importance of the variables cannot be categorized. The entire scenario of this research revolves around the GERD but many factors have a critical role in the outcomes of this situation. The authorities are of the view that measures need to be applied to remedy the challenges and develop strategies that benefit all countries (Byrd, 2020). The historical aspect of the research suggests alternate where past impacts have aggravated the conflicts and these are not allowing the authorities to reach a conclusive understanding.

3.4 Research Design

The research design used for the analysis will be based on descriptive analysis. The theoretical data and findings will be analyzed and observations will be developed based on the analyzed information (Taylor, Bogdan, & DeVault, 2015). The goal is to extract the findings and structure the data to shape answers to the research question. The cross-sectional analysis will be applied to the information aiming to structure the research and its findings. The observational data will be used for composing information from the figures and developing results based on the

information that spans over some time (Tracy, 2024). The information suitable for this research will be based on the span of the issue of the GERD. The development of the conflict issues and the role of the mediator which in this case is the African Union will be evaluated (Truman, 2023). The assessment is required to be built in a research setting where subjects are evaluated and cost-effective outcomes are evaluated. The information that connects with the research and allocates the data related to the GERD will be evaluated (Brennen, 2021). The findings will be drawn based on research information that is specific to the goals and findings.

3.5 Justification for Choice of Methodology

This methodology that applies the qualitative data and findings to structure the outcomes of the research is efficient. This is because the information covers the entire issue of GERD and the challenges that the surrounding countries are facing with the development of the dam (Frost, 2021). The perspective and approach of the surrounding countries are assessed to draw the outcomes of the research. The role of the African Union in mediating the conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia is the most essential consideration (Butcher, 2022). The research is developed to understand the agendas of the countries and the factors that are being considered for the discord. The perspectives of both countries are legitimate and the imposition of any policy can strategically harm the country's integrity significantly (Hennink, Hutter, & Bailey, 2020). The connection between Egypt and Ethiopia is also weak as there have been conflicts over the water reserves and their allocation in the past. Egypt and Sudan unfairly allocated the water reserves and did not give Ethiopia a fair share of water reserves. This caused problems in Ethiopia over the years which established a lack of trust with the surrounding countries (Busetto, Wick, & Gumbinger, 2020). This basis of the conflict has never been resolved and the countries are constantly fighting for their solidarity.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

The ethical considerations for the research will be crafted to ensure that the information that is gathered through subjective analysis is not misused (Byrd, 2020). The information that is extracted from the research articles and journals will be accurately shared with the people. The information will not be disclosed and findings will be developed to shape the outcomes of the analysis (Taylor, Bogdan, & DeVault, 2015). The political conflict of the region or the issues that are not relevant to the issue of GERD will not be discussed in this research.

CHAPTER 4

MEDIATION EFFORTS OF THE AFRICAN UNION

4.1 African Union's Role

Mediators are formed to solve the conflict-based issues of the region. The objectives of the mediators are to understand the dynamics of the countries and establish policies that solve the conflicts (Mohammed, 2021). The policies and propositions need to be very solid so that the rights of one country are not violated in comparison to the rights of the other. The history of Ethiopia shows that the earlier policies of Sudan and Egypt violated its rights to the waters (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). The internal conflicts within the country were used as a motive to unevenly distribute the water supplies. The regional development of the continent that aims to bring peace and stability can only be done with the cooperation of the member states (Okech, 2023). The development of the African Union in 2002 was done to act as a successor to the Organization of African Unity. The factors behind the formation of the African Union were to maintain peace and propose policies that solved the problems of the countries. The decisions that are made come from the Peace and Security Council which looks into the matter and solves the underlying issues (Masipa, 2023). The diplomatic interventions, mediation panels, and peace support operations contributed to resolving the issues in Sudan.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and other parts of Africa need a mediator to resolve the challenges of the high-profile figures. The former heads of state and the respected diplomats sit together to arbitrate on the issue and come up with resolutions (Okech & Wasonga, 2023). The AU employs mechanisms that include preventive diplomacy, shuttle diplomacy, arbitration, and fact-finding missions. The organizations collaborate with regional economic communities and international partners like the United Nations and the European Union to

enhance their efforts (Akamo, 2022). Regional ownership of the peace process solves the problems but the areas where the regions have historical conflicts and injustice hidden in the agendas lead to negativity. The history of GERD is similar to this scenario where injustice prevailed and led to conflicts that have extended for decades. Ethiopia was deprived of its rights when it was weak and unjustly distributed the portions of the Nile (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). The water distribution left the country with future water shortages and economic issues. The droughts in the region are a contribution of these factors.

4.2 GERD Dispute

The Nile Basin is subject to the issues of water security and geopolitical stability. There have been conflicts between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan that have extended beyond negotiation (El-Zouka, 2022). The mediatory role that lies within the dispute was developed to create venues for diplomatic negotiations. These require encouraging a cooperative solution among the involved parties and coming up with solutions to certain situations (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). The actions of Ethiopia when it moved forward with the dam's filling required the involvement of the African Union to prompt Egypt and Sudan to call for international intervention. The negotiations of that time were initiated by the actions of the former South African President Cyril Ramaphosa who was at that time the then-chairperson of the Union (Wolde & Habte, 2020). He was responsible for facilitating the tripartite negotiations under the AU's mediation framework. A neutral platform was formed for dialogue to enable the three nations to express their concerns and explore compromises. The mediation process focused on the technical aspects of the dam so that the aspects of the water distribution and the hurdles that it may bring to other countries could be evaluated (Maru, 2020). The areas that were focused on

were the water flow regulations, environmental impact assessments, and legal agreements regarding future water usage.

The intervention efforts of the African Union were not very effective due to the historical problems that prevailed between these countries. The perspective of Ethiopia to exercise its sovereign rights for developing its resources is directed to a valid point (Messele, 2021). The reservations of Sudan and Egypt regarding the danger to their water reserve causing issues of drought was another aspect. The position of Ethiopia could strengthen with this action and at the same time it could lead Egypt and Sudan into severe and extensive droughts (Makonye, 2021). As a mediator, the role of the African Union was failing to be realized due to regional limitations. The concerns of economic development and drought were both very intense factors. The development within Ethiopia relied on this project and the damage to agriculture and droughts was a crucial consideration for Egypt (Mohammed, 2023). The policymakers in this situation were unable to propose a solid resolution due to the trust issues between the countries. Any policies that were proposed triggered historical conflicts and ended up in past conflict situations (Jungudo, 2023).

4.3 Mediation Strategies and Mechanisms

The strategies and the mechanisms that can be applied for resolving the GERD dispute are the following:

Dialogue

The efforts of the African Union will provide a neutral platform for Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan that will link with the negotiations. The virtual meetings can be hosted with the participants and dignitaries from these countries to voice their concerns (Zeleke, 2021). The

issues can be listed down and new propositions can be stipulated to resolve the conflicts of the past.

Committees

The formation of technical committees that are aware of the conflict position and experts from all the associated countries will get on the same page with the independent specialists. The goal is to invite these individuals to assess the feasibility of the GERD and propose solutions that resolve the conflict of water sharing (Danburam & Briollais, 2022). The depoliticizing will focus on the empirical data to form effective solutions that are backed by strong policies that will provide equality to the countries.

Diplomacy

The mediators who are engaged in the discussion process with the authorities will attempt to bridge the differences and encourage constructive negotiations. The objective of this diplomatic strategy is to reduce the tension and develop aspects of compromise between the associated countries (Taddele, 2020). The clarification of the situation that happened in the past and the development of strong strategies to abstain from such happening again are the initiatives that will ensure that the rights of all the countries and resources remain protected.

Legal and Policy Frameworks

The legal framework that is adopted by the associated countries can be regulated. The regional and international laws will solidify the structure of the Nile Basin Initiative and the 2015 Declaration of Principles (Almesafri et al., 2024). These initiatives will guide the discussions and develop agreements that are supported through control and development.

Global Partners

The African Union led the mediation and sought support from the UN. The involvement of the UN in this matter also staked the interest of the Arab League. The international organizations strengthened the efforts and enhanced the credibility of the partners associated with the GERD (Liyew, 2022). The development will become progressive once the stakes of the global partners are raised to form an assessment of the outcomes related to the entire project.

The collaborative efforts of the Union and the development of the GERD are linked with technical issues. These issues coincide with the geopolitical concerns and the economic developments of the associated countries. The breakdown of the process and establishing the negotiations between the parties will link up with the enforcement capacities and the present and unwillingness of the disputing parties (Donkor, 2022). These initiatives will strengthen the agendas of the countries and make sure that the core interest of the regions is not compromised.

The objective of the African Union is to make sure that the escalation of the matter and the conflict is resolved. The goal is to create a diplomatic engagement and stop the direct military confrontation between the countries (Salman, 2018). These will reduce the likelihood of conflict over the dam and encourage regional ownership. The mediation focuses on making sure that the countries associated take ownership of the region. The goal is to reinforce the solutions and give the propositions that resolve the instigated disputes (Tayie & Rashidy, 2024). The international crisis can be stopped from occurring through these policies and practices making certain that the rights are awarded to the countries. This can be done by keeping the dialogues open and resolving the issues of disagreement (Tawfik, 2023). The efforts of the African Union maintained a communication channel between the parties and ensured that the negotiations continued and a solid outcome was generated.

The challenges that come in the way of problem resolution are political resistance and binding enforcement. The external influences that are hidden within the process tamper with the definitive outcomes (Ahmed, 2024). The efforts of the African Union were mostly left unresolved because the interests of the regional conflict remained unhindered. The involvement of the European Union and China was complicating the mediating efforts. Different stakeholders had competing interests that challenged the objective of the GERD and its developing process (Oxford Analytica, 2019). The institutional limitations that are connected with this conflict are the problems of getting the desired resources, funding, and technical expertise. These can limit the disputes and mediate with solving the problems. The mediating parties made sure that the dialogue remained open and a definitive solution was achieved (Diatta et al., 2021). The lack of a legally binding agreement and the connection with the geopolitical disputes led to the aggravation of the growing issues within the country.

CHAPTER 5

IMPACT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

5.1 Implications

The GERD dispute is not the first major conflict in which the AU has played a mediatory role. The dispute in Sudan and South Sudan was solved with the independence of South Sudan in 2011 (Mulugeta, 2023). The High-Level Implementation Panel facilitated negotiations on oil revenue sharing, border disputes, and security arrangements. In this case, the African Union managed to role of a broker agreement that was respected by both countries (Beyene, 2023). The African Union Mission in Somalia was another dispute where the objective was to focus on peacekeeping rather than direct mediation. The intervention in Somalia was stabilized in conflict zones through coordinated diplomatic and military efforts. The Libya crisis was followed by the 2011 NATO intervention which was less successful (Tsega, 2017). The competing international influences and internal divisions limited the effectiveness of the mediation and weakened the stance of the African Council. Some similarities are associated with the case but the restitution of the issue lies in the background of historical conflict where the trust between the associated countries was badly hampered and sacrificed (Taye et al., 2022). The distribution of the Nile waters unevenly in the past challenged the solidarity of Ethiopia and pushed it into territorial problems that remain unresolved to this date.

The outcomes of the African Union mediation clearly show that the efforts in the GERD have not been resolved. There exists a confrontation between the authorities which is engaging the military outcomes (Salman, 2018). The mediation has not been able to solve the problems but the major issues and military conflicts are not being aggravated. The legally binding agreements are keeping the conflict between the three countries in a cool situation and they are solving the

problems slowly and gradually (Bouks, 2022). These efforts were linked with the dialogues that kept on attempting to resolve the conflicts. Ethiopia and Egypt remain diplomatically engaged and the tension keeps on lingering but Sudan is shifting its position in the dispute based on the efforts from the mediation. Khartoum initially supported Ethiopian efforts but later with the changes in the political stance and policies resorted to aligning with Egypt (Salman, 2017). The objective of this connection was the hidden conflicts of the past and the benefits associated with establishing control over the waters of the Nile.

The problems that have been witnessed in the GERD can be resolved through the initiatives of proposing a legally binding framework. The main challenges with the GERD mediation can be remedied through legal propositions (Mohammed, 2021). The early engagement with the treaties and escalation of the tension can resolve the problems that exist among the countries. The awareness of technical expertise and balancing the national interests will resolve the associated challenges of environmental science (Kasimbazi & Bamwine, 2021). All these aspects result in regional stability and solve the problems that exist within the civil society groups. The broader stance of the public input on the issue can help come up with remedial solutions that can solve the associated long-run challenges (Okech, 2023).

5.2 Future Diplomacy

The future analysis shows that in the coming time, the conflicts between the nations will increase substantially. The climate change and economic development issues will aggravate the GERD as water diplomacy will prevail in the region (Masipa, 2023). The proposed frameworks need to be improved so that a water diplomacy mechanism can be put in place. The water diplomacy unit could provide expertise and facilitate ongoing discussions on transboundary water management. This will ensure that disputes do not escalate into full-blown crises (Okech &

Wasonga, 2023). The African Union should invest in hydrological research, satellite monitoring, and water management expertise to better inform mediation efforts. Having a specialized team within the Peace and Security Council could improve the quality of negotiations (Akamo, 2022). Working closely with regional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Nile Basin Initiative will enhance coordination and ensure that local actors have a central role in water diplomacy. The policies that are associated with the mediation and are in sync with the GERD can be established (Prantner & Al-Naggar, 2022). This requires developing a binding mediation protocol and improving the early warning systems. This will increase the funding for the mediation efforts and improve the challenges associated with the stakeholder's inclusion (El-Zouka, 2022). These encourage the hybrid mediation approaches and shall provide grounds for resolving the issues associated with the development of the GERD.

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