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The Water Crisis with Nile Basin Countries and its Impact on the Water Security of Egypt

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Abstract: Water security is as important as the national security, as the Egyptian interpretation of the concept of national security is no longer based on the strategic side only, but it is extended to keep pace with water security and be compatible with it. With the great technological development witnessed by the world, especially in the decade of nineties, the rates of development have been increased. Thus, the demand for the resources has been increased, especially the natural resources. Water comes to the fore of the natural resources. It has become a strategic commodity due to the lack of alternatives. Egypt depends on water at a degree not reached to, before, by the dependence of peoples on water sources such as its dependence on the Nile River, and without it Egypt will become a barren desert. There are nine countries participate with Egypt in the River Nile, and these countries are “Sudan – Ethiopia – Uganda – Kenya – Tanzania – Rwanda – Burundi – Congo”. The total water Nile resources in the Nile Basin countries reach to about 1708.97 billion cubic meters and Egypt’s share of them reaches to about 55.5 billion cubic meters annually. However, the share of the Democratic Congo reaches to about 1282 billion cubic meters annually and Ethiopia’s share reaches to about 120 billion cubic meters. In addition, the average per capita of the available water of the Nile Basin countries reaches to about 33366.10 cubic meters, while the average per capita of the available water in Egypt reaches to about 710 cubic meters in 2014 and it is expected to reach to about 350 cubic meters by 2050. The value of the indicator of pressure on water has reached to about 117.15% and the value of the indicator of water dependence has reached to about 96.91%. Agriculture acquires the bulk of water, as it uses about 82.47% of the total water used. The difficulty of the current and future water situation of Egypt seems clearly which makes the decline in revenues, as a result of the projects of storage dams in upstream countries, a cause of various negative results on Egypt. The effect of the repercussions of Entebbe agreement would be dangerous on the water security of Egypt, as they are represented in the decline of Egypt’s share in the Nile water by about 11 billion cubic meters annually, if agricultural projects are established in Ethiopia or Sudan, in addition to the fears from the agricultural investments of the different countries in the Nile Basin countries to cultivate the befool crops. There are several repercussions as a result of the construction of the Renaissance Dam on Egypt and the study has recommended some recommendations to avoid those repercussions.

Keywords: the Egyptian water security, the average per capita of water, the indicator of pressure on water, the indicator of water dependency, the Renaissance Dam.

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