

GERD: new norms of cooperation in the Nile Basin?



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Ignite question

GERD: A catalyst of change?

or

GERD: An outcome of change?



GERD is an outcome of shifting and complex regional hydropolitical processes

Pre-GERD: Nile region in a state-of-flux

- Set of new and unprecedented economic, socio-political and hydropolitical dynamics in the Nile region
- Structural changes in the Political Economy at national, regional and global level
- Key structural changes in Ethiopia are a key driver to the GERD
- But internal changes in Sudan and Egypt as equally important factors



Pre-GERD cooperation norms and processes

Multilateral cooperation process(es) since mid-1990s

- NBI and Shared Vision
- ENTRO and investment projects
- JMP: investment plan to develop the untapped development potential
- CFA negotiations and agreement (1997-2007; 2010-...)



Multilateral cooperation 'norms and process' have contributed to changing *status quo* in the Nile Basin > Directly and indirectly contribute to the status of GERD as major new factor in the hydropolitical landscape



JMP (Joint Multipurpose Project) – Window of Opportunity

- Example of a new set of cooperation norms (NBI/ENTRO)
 - Long-term
 - Large-scale
 - Multipurpose
 - Regional benefits
 - All three countries pro-actively involved
- Goal: identifying major optimal development outcomes (eg Scoping Study)
- Political obstacles (2008 and 2010): Missed opportunity!

Discussion on the GERD as an outcome of change

GERD: An outcome of failed (or too much ambitious) expectations regarding the multilateral process

---> namely in the legal/institutional track (still an incomplete process)

GERD: An outcome of change in the regional balance of power (and decreasing power asymmetries in the Nile Basin)

---> an indirect (and perhaps unintended) consequence of 20 years of multilateral cooperation

---> Changes in 'bargaining power' are evident: upstreamers' increasing knowledge on development opportunities & improved capacity to influence dialogue, agenda-setting, negotiations and policy formulation



GERD-related norms and processes

New cooperation norms and processes

- Started as national/unilateral Ethiopian project
- Ad-hoc trilateral talks and technical/political negotiations
- A new agreed trilateral framework

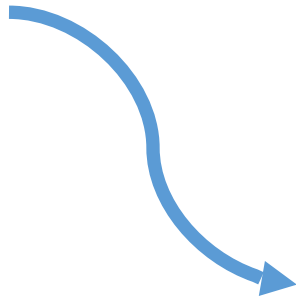
Shaper of future development and cooperation?

- Parallel process to multilateral cooperation
- Trilateral and multilateral processes can co-exist (*to an extent, at least*)



GERD: A shaper of future cooperation?

- Emerging different relationship between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan
- Increasing understanding of tangible economic benefits of cooperation
- Awareness of the need to comprehensive agreement(s) to minimise risks/impacts
- Cooperation is desirable and possible



- New 'regime' over shared water resources?
- New dynamics of water utilisation and management?
- New incentives for regional economic integration?
- New 'modus operandi' for transboundary cooperation?

GERD process: provides a strategic opportunity for countries to reflect on the pressing need for a new transboundary water regime in the Nile Basin

