

## **Egypt and Ethiopia**

The history of Egyptian-Ethiopian relations dates back to the Ancient Egypt eras, which were not only political but religious and cultural relations as well.

The Religious relations between the two countries began in the 4th century AD since the Ethiopian Church was associated with the Egyptian Church, while the signs of concord were the affiliation of the Ethiopian Church to one faith and one Bishop, who is Egyptian, where all Ethiopian clerics are attached to him functionally and ideologically. There was mutual respect between the Emperor and the Egyptian Bishop.

The current distinguished cooperation between Egypt and Ethiopia in the water issue, which is considered a national security issue, proved to the whole world that Cairo and Addis Ababa are brothers and the positive cooperation in this issue will be based on this historical depth in the relations between the two countries.

This comes in the framework of the development and change taking place in Ethiopia, which necessitates the continuation of channels of communication and open dialogue between the two countries to facilitate the common vision of bilateral relations, as well as the issues related to the management of the Renaissance Dam file, the full implementation of the agreements concluded and strengthening the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations in all fields to meet the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries..

We review in the following lines two sections; the first section dealing with the central aspects of the relations between the two countries, while the second one monitors their development in the political, economic, religious and educational aspects.

### **First Section: Factors and aspects of the rapprochement between the two countries**

#### **First: Pharaonic Civilization and Abyssinia Civilization**

The history of the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations includes many common and different factors within the geographical factor of the two countries and the development of local and regional political reality. These factors are driven by certain balances to converge and diverge, along with the heritage of human co-existence rooted in the history of the Pharaonic and Abyssinia civilizations.

Ethiopia is an old country in its international and regional interaction, where it has a humanitarian orientation that seeks peace and stability, has its civilizational role in human and religious history and played a major role in interacting with the last of those religions Islam, which is still its effects talking about Al-Najashi, for example.

### **Second: Joint religious culture**

The interreligious relationship between the Church of Alexandria and the Ethiopian Church and those between Al-Azhar and the Ethiopian Muslims confirm the depth of the religious relations between the two great peoples. The Egyptian and Ethiopian history share in the Orthodox Christian religion, where the Ethiopian Church derived its Orthodox faith and culture from the Egyptian Coptic Church. The Church of Alexandria remained the mother of the Church of Ethiopia since its inception in the beginning of the fourth century AD until its independence in 1958.

Egypt has also played a civilized cultural role within different periods of history on the path of the Islamic religion. In the Ottoman era, for example, there were deep interferences in the family ties between the Ethiopian and Egyptian peoples, which are evident in the lineages and names of some large Ethiopian families in Harar in eastern Ethiopia that still inherited Turkish and Arabic names.

As well as the close scientific ties that have been linking the Ethiopian students with Al-Azhar Mosque, where the Al-Jabarti Hall for Ethiopian students, who graduated from them scholars such as the Islamic historian Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti (of Ethiopian origin), the author of the book (The Marvelous Compositions of Biographies and Events) known as “history of al-Jabarti”.

### **Third: Water diplomacy between the two countries**

Until recently, the evidences indicates that at present or in the near future there are no potential conflicts of interest between Egypt and the Upper Nile Basin countries, especially Ethiopia, since they are not in a dire need of water because of the availability of water sources from the one hand and its economic activity dependence on grazing beside agriculture with the weakness of economic resources for the greater exploitation of water from the other hand.

At the beginning of 2009, the activity of the Ethiopian water diplomacy has been intensified by the adoption of a new agreement on water sharing. This activity was followed by several meetings of Nile Basin Water ministers, all of which failed due to the adherence of Egypt and Sudan's historic rights to the 1929 Nile Water Agreement and the dispute over the article on water security.

In the midst of that, Nile Basin countries resorted to the establishment of the so-called Nile Initiative (Cooperative Framework Agreement), which held in Entebbe, Uganda, and was signed by four of upstream countries in May, 2010 are Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania then Kenya and Burundi are followed them in February 2011 to be under a legal framework with the signature of six Nile Basin Member States.

The Ethiopian Government, which is the leader of the upstream countries group, has found the opportunity, in the circumstances of the Arab Spring events in the Arab countries, to obtain the approval of the Nile Basin countries on their investment projects.

After the election of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the political situations in Egypt stabilized and the new Egyptian policy succeeded in transforming the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations into cooperation relations after being frozen for years in the framework of the conflict. In this framework, President Sisi laid new foundations for the Egyptian orientations in Africa on the basis of Egypt's restoration of its African leadership in all political, economic, health and military fields.

These Egyptian orientations were translated during Sisi's meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the African Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, where the meeting resulted in a statement of a joint cooperation

between the two countries that included a set of pledges guaranteeing the Egyptian water rights.

#### **Fourth: Positive vision of relations between the two countries**

Supporting the relations between the Nile Basin countries in general and between Egypt and Ethiopia in particular at the governmental, parliamentary and institutions of civil society levels, is necessary. So, some experts suggested forming a joint political committee at the level of heads of government to establish bridges of continuous dialogue, exchange of views and negotiation on potential crises proactively, which allows overcoming everything that hinders the march of the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations.

This vision has been put forward to become the terms of cooperation are prevailed between the Nile Basin countries, sustainable development and mutual understanding among the Nile Basin countries.

Some of evidence supporting the need for a positive view of the political relations between the two countries can be presented:

1. The political leadership of both countries is keen to avoid conflicts and clashes between the two countries, so as not to lead to chaos and internal instability, especially as the two countries are in transition and seek full stability.
2. Opening a new phase of relations between the two countries on the basis of understanding, through the meetings between the officials and leaders of the two countries, opening up a larger field for trade and economic relations and also for investments between the two countries, and not to reduce relations in the water file only or Renaissance Dam.

#### **Fifth: Economy in serve of policy**

The economy is a reflection of politics, where every economic development witnessed by the relations of the two countries must affect the reality of the political relations, while each of them serving the other negatively and positively.

At the economic relations level, the study of the needs of the two countries and ways to maximize trade exchange among them makes the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations profitable for the two parties and their peoples. For example, some economists suggest the possibility of granting Egypt facilities to Ethiopia in one of the Egyptian Ports on the Mediterranean for export to Europe to create an atmosphere of consensus and to restore the confidence in the relations between the two countries.

On the other hand, there is a bilateral benefit for both Egypt and Ethiopia to strengthen the economic relations, especially in the agricultural field, but the continued differences over the construction of Renaissance Dam and its impact on Egypt could destroy any businessman endeavor towards strengthening the relations.

## **Second Section: Development of relations between Egypt and Ethiopia**

### **First: Development of political relations**

In 1930, the diplomatic relations between the two countries began. In December, 2004, Egypt announced its support to the Ethiopian government in its efforts to resolve the border dispute with Eritrea peacefully. In April, 2005, the talks between the two countries began to promote the bilateral relations in the fields of economic, trade, development of water resources and encouragement of joint investment projects.

In July, 2006, agreements and protocols were signed between the two countries in the fields of investment protection, social affairs, media and tourism.

We cannot forget the distinguished relationship between President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Emperor Haile Selassie I. In the following presentation we clarify the axes of these relations:

#### **1. In Abdel Nasser's Era**

After late President Abdel Nasser took office, the Eritrean liberation movement called for independence from Ethiopia, where Egypt's position during that period

was to respect and supports the United Nations resolution of December, 1950 on the annexation of Eritrea to Ethiopia in a federal union.

Abdel Nasser was well aware of the importance of Africa, where the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations at the top in the era of President Abdel Nasser and the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I. Abdel Nasser was aware of the importance of the sources of the Nile water to Egypt.

Through diplomatic tools, aid and a focus on the religious side, Abdel Nasser dealt with Ethiopia, when Abdel Nasser expressed the friendly relations between Egypt and Abyssinia in the introduction of "highlights on Abyssinia" (Adwaa Ala Al-Habasha) book "We are two neighboring countries in a colonial continent to be without its people like the dairy cow. We are partners in this eternal river, which flows the good and blessing on its shores from Abyssinia to Muqrin in Sudan to the downstream in the Mediterranean Sea.

He concluded by saying "Today, our own things become in our hands, so we should to shed light on Abyssinia and to strengthen the brotherly relations between the two peoples with whom we have the closest ties since the deepest of history".

## **2. In Sadat's Era**

Egyptian-Ethiopian relations have been tensed because of Eritrea after Khartoum's support for the Eritrean Liberation Movement and Ethiopia's support for the South Sudan Movement (Anyanya), which had a negative impact on the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations, after the late President Mohammed Anwar Sadat announced his support to Sudan.

In this period, the water file began to enter the tension between Egypt and Ethiopia after the declaration of the Sadat project in 1979 to convert part of the Nile water to irrigate 35 thousand feddans in Sinai. Ethiopia declared that this project is against its interests and submitted a complaint to the Organisation of African Unity at the time, which accused Egypt of abusing the Nile water.

The situations has escalated by threatening of Ethiopian President "Mengistu" by transforming the Nile River, for his part, President Sadat addressed a sharp

statement to Ethiopia, which declared that the Nile water is a red line related to the Egyptian national security.

### **3. In Mubarak's Era**

The era of former President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak came to witness the beginning of a new phase of the relations, where the political discourse between the two countries has been alleviated and a breakthrough began in the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations in the form of cooperation and understanding in the various fields.

At the 20th African Summit held in Addis Ababa, former Foreign Minister Asmat Abdel-Meguid announced that Egypt's keenness not to interfere in the internal affairs of Ethiopia and to respect its political choice.

In 1984, Egyptian diplomacy exerted intensive efforts and continued contacts with Sudan and Ethiopia to end the differences related the Eritrean problem, where Egypt followed the neutrality policy until 1995 regarding to the differences between Ethiopia and Somalia due to the conflict over "Ogaden "region.

In 1995, Mubarak's failed assassination attempt in Addis Ababa by Islamists fleeing from Egypt caused the transformation of the relationship between the two countries, where the Egyptian-Ethiopian Council was suspended for 17 years.

### **4. After January 25<sup>th</sup> Revolution**

After the Revolution, there were Ethiopian promises not to harm Egypt's share of the Nile water, where there was a relative rapprochement between Egypt, Ethiopia and a number of Nile Basin countries through Egyptian popular diplomatic visits to Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan during April and May, 2011, as well as the official visits by former Prime Minister Essam Sharaf in March and May, 2011.

On May 3, 2011, the results of these visits appeared, when late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi postponed the presentation of the framework agreement on cooperation among the Nile Basin countries to the Ethiopian Parliament until the election of a new President of Egypt and forming a new government capable of taking the appropriate decision in this regard, adding that he agreed to set up an

Egyptian-Ethiopian Expert Committee to make sure that Renaissance Dam does not affect Egypt's share in the Nile water and if proven its harm, we will change the design.

Some of stopped activities have also begun to return, the most important of which is the fourth session of the Egyptian-Ethiopian Joint Committee held in Cairo on 14-15 September, 2011, followed by the visit of Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to Egypt on 17-18 September, 2011 to reopen the closed doors, a visit that was described as positive.

The talks focused on boosting the bilateral relations between Egypt and Ethiopia to agree on offering a package of facilities to increase Egyptian investments in Ethiopia, especially after reaching 2 billion dollars in the fields of electrical cables industry, power generation, meat export, production factories and manufacturing of irrigation and agriculture equipment.

A number of important activities followed that, most notable the visit of the former Irrigation Minister Hisham Qandil to some of the Nile Basin countries, including Ethiopia, as well as his participation in the meeting of States of the Great Lakes Region on 15-16 December, 2011.

In the era of former President Mohamed Morsi, Egypt and Ethiopia celebrated 100 anniversary of Egyptian-Ethiopian relations between the two countries, where Morsi held a meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister several times, on the sidelines of the African summit.

## **5. In Sisi's Era**

Under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the new Egyptian policy succeeded in transforming the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations into cooperative and useful relations after being frozen for years in the conflict framework on the background of the construction of Renaissance Dam in a series of dams are being built now on the Ethiopian territories.



In this context, President Sisi laid new foundations for the Egyptian orientations in Africa on the basis of Egypt's restoration of its African leadership in all political, economic, health and military fields.

On the sidelines of the African Summit held in Malabo, the meeting between President Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn resulted in a statement of joint cooperation between the two countries, including a series of commitments, notably:

- Respecting the principles of dialogue and cooperation as a basis for achieving common gains and avoiding harm to each other.
- Prioritizing the establishment of regional projects to develop financial resources to meet the increasing demand for water and to face water shortages.
- Respecting the principles of international law.
- Immediately resuming the Tripartite Commission on Renaissance Dam to implement the recommendations of the International Committee of Experts and respecting the results of the studies to be carried out during the various phases of the dam project.
- Commitment of the Ethiopian Government to avoid any possible damage from Renaissance Dam to Egypt's water use.
- Commitment of the Egyptian Government to constructive dialogue with Ethiopia, which takes into account its development needs and the aspirations of the Ethiopian people.
- Commitment of the two countries to work within the Tripartite Commission in good faith and within the framework of consensus.
- The two sides agreed to immediately start in implementing this statement in a spirit of cooperation and sincere intentions.

## **6. Important meetings and visits to consolidate the political relations**

**On March 23, 2015**, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi visited Ethiopia and held a meeting with a number of Egyptian and Ethiopian businessmen, in the presence of Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. The President announced the establishment of a high-level Egyptian-Ethiopian joint committee headed by the

political leadership of the two countries to support the interaction and activate the cooperation between the two countries in various fields. Both Egypt and Ethiopia should take measures to overcome the "uncomfortable situation" in relations between the two countries.

**On December 7, 2015**, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi received representatives of the Ethiopian People's Diplomatic delegation, in the presence of Ethiopian Ambassador in Cairo, praising their role in promoting popular relations between the two countries. The President also welcomed the start of activating the work of the Coordination of Egyptian-Ethiopian Relations Office and the imminent formation of its structure on both sides, which came as one of the results of the President's visit to Ethiopia in March 2015.

**On July 18, 2016**, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi conferred with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn on the sidelines of African Summit meetings held in Kigali. The two sides stressed the importance of building the positive spirit and mutual trust prevailing since the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement in Khartoum.

**On June 22, 2017**, the Nile Basin Summit was held in the presence of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and African leaders, where the President held a joint press conference in the presence of the leaders of the Nile Basin countries following the first summit of the Nile Basin countries in Entebbe, Uganda. President Sisi stressed that the common interest requires intensifying cooperation and integration in various fields, such as economy, trade and investment, and in many sectors such as mining, agricultural development, agro-industrialization, energy, water resources management, health care, training and building cadres.

**On September 22, 2017**, on the sideline of his participation in UNGA meetings, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry discussed with Ethiopian Foreign Minister the bilateral relations and the technical talks on the Renaissance Dam. Shoukry expressed Egypt's deep concern at the stalemate of the Tripartite Technical Committee as a result of not resolving some aspects of the consultative office introductory report, which leads to delay the starting in the studies of the possible effects of Renaissance Dam on the downstream countries, stressing that the need to

hold an urgent meeting of the Tripartite Technical Committee at the ministerial level to resolve those points and launch studies as soon as possible in accordance with the time frame set by the Declaration of Principles agreement.

**On January 18, 2018,** President Abdel Fattah El Sisi received the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn at the Ittihadiya presidential palace in Cairo at the head of a high-level delegation in support of relations between the two countries. President Sisi praised "deeply-rooted" relations between Egypt and Ethiopia. Sisi voiced hope that the memorandums of understanding (MoU) signed with the Ethiopian side would be an important tool to activate and follow up the implementation of various aspects of cooperation between the two countries. President Sisi said he had discussed with the Ethiopian Prime Minister the establishment of an Egyptian industrial zone in Ethiopia as well as supporting Egypt's private sector's investments in the country. The Egyptian investments in Ethiopia have totaled about \$750 million; Sisi revealed that Cairo is working to foster trade exchange with Addis Ababa. In the meeting, they discussed ways of enhancing joint efforts to combat terrorism and extremism.

**On September 25, 2018,** Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Ati visited Ethiopia to participate in a the tripartite meeting with his Sudanese and Ethiopian counterparts, where they resumed negotiations on the technical issues related to the construction of the Grand Renaissance Ethiopian Dam (GERD).

**On September 10, 2018,** Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited Ethiopia to attend meetings for the African Union (AU) Commission. Also, Shoukry participated in a ministerial retreat during the period 12 - 13 September in Addis Ababa , where the participating members discussed the monetary and administrative review processes of the commission for 2016 and 2017. He held bilateral meetings with his African counterparts on the fringe of the meetings.

**On June 11, 2018,** President Abdel Fattah El Sisi held talks with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali on the latest developments to push forward bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields. Talks also covered a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

**On May 25, 2018**, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited Ethiopia to participate in the AU Institutional Reform meetings.

**On May 15, 2018**, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and General Abbas Kamel, head of the Egyptian General Intelligence, visited Ethiopia to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine-way meeting on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) The meeting comprises the ministers of Foreign Affairs and Irrigation in addition to the heads of intelligence services in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. They were received by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

**On January 27, 2018**, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi visited Ethiopia to participate in the 30th African Union (AU) Summit under the theme “WINING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION: a sustainable approach to Africa's transformation”. Egypt was elected to head the AU Summit's upcoming round in 2019 in recognition of Egypt's leading role in the African continent. President Sisi chaired the AU Peace and Security Council meeting. The meeting's agenda tackled a comprehensive approach to combating cross-border security threat in Africa. He also attended a three-way meeting with Sudan and Ethiopia to discuss the developments of the GERD negotiations as well as the bilateral relations and the issues of cooperation among the three countries.

**On December 26, 2017**, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry paid a visit to Ethiopia. He was received by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. The two sides discussed the bilateral relations and the negotiations regarding the Renaissance Dam and prepared for Ethiopian Prime minister's visit to Egypt in January. He also met Ethiopian Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu to follow up the bilateral cooperation and the outcome of the recent round of meetings of the Tripartite Technical Committee.

**On October 16, 2017**, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Ati visited Ethiopia to participate in the ministerial meeting of the Tripartite Technical Committee to follow up the preparation of studies on the possible effects of the Renaissance Dam on the two downstream countries (Egypt and Sudan). Abdel Ati headed the technical delegation of ministers of water resources and

irrigation of the Nile Basin States visiting to the location of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam's construction to check the technical construction details.

**On July 2, 2017**, Assistant to the President of the Republic for National and Strategic Projects Ibrahim Mahlab visited Ethiopia to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit.

**On June 30, 2017**, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry paid a visit to Ethiopia to participate in the meetings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, being held at the ministerial level. On the sidelines of the Executive Council meetings, he was received by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu as the two sides discussed the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations in all its aspects, in addition to the three-way cooperation among Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, the developments related to Renaissance Dam and the Tripartite Technical Committee's follow-up studies on the effect of the Dam on the downstream countries. The two sides agreed on the importance of starting to prepare for the meeting of the Higher Joint Committee at the level of political leadership, as well as agreeing with Sudan on how to expedite the start of the Tripartite Investment Fund to implement projects benefiting the three countries.

**On April 19, 2017**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Ouargaina Dbayeh, visited Egypt. He was received by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi. The two sides discussed the enhancement of various aspects of the bilateral relations, the developments related to Renaissance Dam and a number of issues of mutual concern. They emphasized the importance of enhancing coordination and consultation between the two countries in order to advance peace and security on the African Continent either within the framework of the African Union or within the current membership of the two countries in the United Nations Security Council.

**On October 12, 2017**, the Egyptian Orthodox Church in coordination with the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa organized a medical convoy specializing in spine surgery to Ethiopia headed by Dr. Kamal Ibrahim, a professor of spine surgery at the University of Lowell, Chicago, USA, and a team of 14 doctors. The

convoy comes within the framework of strengthening the Egyptian-Ethiopian popular relations and the ties of friendship between the two brotherly peoples.

**On August 7, 2018**, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and General Abbas Kamel, head of Egyptian General Intelligence, headed to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa to convey an oral message from President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The visit aimed at following up the course of the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations and ways of supporting them, the developments related to Renaissance Dam negotiations as part of the efforts to implement the 2015 Declaration of Principles and the outcome of the last nine-way meeting held in Addis Ababa in May 2018. They also discussed the developments of the establishment of an infrastructure fund between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to contribute in activating the joint cooperation in the field of development projects, as well as the regional developments in the Horn of Africa and ways to support peace and stability in this vital and important region to Egypt.

**On November 6, 2018**, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met representatives of the foreign media in Egypt on the sidelines of the World Youth Forum, hosted by Sharm el-Sheikh. President Sisi said that Ethiopia has seen positive changes with its new leaders, adding that all the African countries agreed, generally, to support development projects, but not at the expense of the Egyptians, who depend entirely on the Nile waters. He said "We want to turn Ethiopia's good intentions into concrete agreements. We need to take into consideration that the process of filling the Dam will not affect Egypt's water quota, from a technical perspective". "The technical committees have not yet reached an agreement. We need to be sure that the Dam will not be used for political purposes, but there are positive signs from the new Ethiopian leadership."

## **Second: Development of economic relations**

The relations between the two countries have improved since President Sisi came to office as the two countries seek to invest in the development of the bilateral economic relations, especially after the signing of the Declaration of Principles of the Renaissance Dam in Khartoum the Sudanese capital. The economic relations between the two countries have been affected by political relations, which we will illustrate in the following points:

## **1. Egyptian investments**

The total number of Egyptian projects that have received government permits in Ethiopia since 1992 has so far reached about 58 projects with investments amounting to about \$ 35 billion. The most prominent Egyptian projects in Ethiopia are projects for the manufacture of electricity cables, the manufacture of irrigation motors and water pipes.

## **2. Trade exchange**

The volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Ethiopia is about \$ 1 billion annually on average.

## **3. Ethiopian exports**

Ethiopia's exports to Egypt rose to about \$ 400 million, according to the 2017 estimates. Ethiopia's main export to Egypt is Ethiopian chilled meat, as well as the importation of live cattle.

## **4. Egyptian exports**

Ethiopia's imports from the Egyptian markets reach \$ 200 million. During the recent meetings of the Egyptian-Ethiopian Business Council, the two countries announced the development of their relationship to reach \$ 500 million over the next three years.

## **5. Establishment of an Egyptian industrial zone in Ethiopia**

The Ethiopian Prime Minister has approved the allocation of an Egyptian industrial zone in Ethiopia, in Oromia Region. The expected investments for this zone are \$ 155 million. The zone is planned to accommodate about 100 factories for Ready-made garments, food processing and engineering industries, electrical appliances, chemicals, packaging and other important sectors needed by the Ethiopian market. Factory usufruct system in this zone is to be implemented according to the Ethiopian laws, which allow for a usufruct from 20 years to 99 years. The industrial zone is expected to be completed within three to five years.

## **6. Attracting Ethiopian Investment to Egypt**

- The Egyptian market is one of the largest consumer markets in Africa and the Middle East with about 90 million consumers, thus there is a growing demand for agricultural production.
- Agriculture and agro-industrialization in Egypt is at the forefront of global trends to meet local needs as well as export demands.
- Egypt is ranked among the top five exporters of fruit and vegetable juices in the Mediterranean basin, so these products are considered a continuous opportunity to invest in and enhance the return on exports.
- The geographical proximity to export markets in Europe, Africa and the Middle East has made it an ideal destination for the export of agricultural products to about 1.6 billion consumers, which account for 65% of the consumption of imports of fresh produce in the world.
- The vast local manpower base provides ready-made employment for labor-intensive industries such as rice, and Egypt is therefore a preferred destination for multinational companies looking to create cost-effective production processes.
- The agricultural sector in Egypt is also characterized by the granting of many tax exemptions on the profits of a number of agricultural activities, including agricultural rehabilitation projects, fish farming, livestock and poultry breeding and beekeeping projects.

### **Third: Development of cultural and educational relations**

At the beginning of this report, we referred to the history of cultural relations between the two countries. The bilateral relations date back to the ancient Egyptian era and are not limited to political relations only, but included the cultural and religious ones.

#### **1. The Egyptian and Ethiopian Churches: Bound by history**

The story goes back in time to the 4th century. The Ethiopian Church was under the administration of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Bishop, Salama II, played a major role in the transfer of the Egyptian religious revival to the Ethiopian Church and translated many books from Arabic into the Ethiopian language.



After the end of the Italian occupation in 1941, Negotiations for full independence started in 1941 and, in 1950 the Ethiopian Church was granted independence. Abune Basilios was enthroned the first Patriarch of Ethiopian the basis of an agreement between the two churches to make the Ethiopian Church independent but spiritually and ideologically affiliated to the Egyptian Church.

Although the Ethiopian Church became independent, relations remained unbroken. The Churches and their people continued to function as one church despite the independence.

In the 1970s, the new Marxist government nationalized all lands; including those of the Church. The Ethiopian government had the Church elect a new patriarch. The new patriarch, however, resisted the dictates of the government, and relations between Church and government became strained.

In 2007, the Patriarch of the Armenian Church in Lebanon succeeded in mediating the restoration of relations between the two Churches. A joint declaration was signed on the return of relations in Cairo followed by Pope Shenouda's visit to Ethiopia in 2008. Since then, the relations between the two Churches have been stable.

The visit of Archbishop Matias I of Ethiopia to Egypt in January 2015 is the first visit by the Patriarch of Ethiopia outside his country since he took up the Church in March 2013. This visit is one of the most important steps in strengthening relations between the Egyptian and Ethiopian Churches.

In October 2017, the Egyptian Orthodox Church in coordination with the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa organized a medical convoy specializing in spine surgery to Ethiopia with a medical team of 14 doctors. The convoy comes within the framework of strengthening the Egyptian-Ethiopian popular relations and the ties of friendship between the two brotherly peoples.

## **2. Educational relations**

When Emperor Menelik II started the establishment of schools in Ethiopia according to the modern system, including the Menelik II School in 1907, he asked Egypt to send teachers to work in the School. Six professors, headed by Professor Hanna Salib who served as the Emperor's adviser on educational affairs, were sent.

The School was divided into two sections, English and French. Teaching remains in the hands of the Egyptians until the Italian occupation in 1936. Most of the statesmen received their education from Egyptian teachers, including the Minister of Education in 1934.

Ethiopia continued to recall the Patriarchate of Alexandria to choose the teachers of the Menelik II School until 1926, when it applied to the Ministry of Education after the establishment of the Egyptian Consulate in Addis Ababa in 1927. Four professors, headed by Professor Masih Abdel-Sayed, were sent in 1928 to the Menelik II School. The Egyptian Consulate sought to recruit two teachers at the Islamic school in Addis Ababa who were receiving their salary from Al-Azhar Mosque.

The Egyptian teachers were sent to Ethiopia, including George Abdel Malik, who was appointed director of Menelik II School and Zaher Reyad, who arrived in Addis Ababa in 1934.

When Emperor Haile Selassie returned to his country in 1941, he asked Egypt for an educational mission to help in rebuilding the national education in Ethiopia, which was destroyed by the Italian occupation. Egypt sent an educational mission of ten of the most efficient teachers and their families in April 1943. The Ethiopian government used their wives to teach in girls' schools and they accepted immediately despite the low salaries and performed their educational and cultural duties well.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Education has appointed the head of the mission, Dr. Murad Kamel, to supervise all its projects. In turn, he contributed to the promotion of the cultural movement in Ethiopia and translated some European books on the history of Ethiopia.

The Egyptian role extended to the field of fine arts. The famous artist Muhammad Naji was sent on a mission to Ethiopia from 1928 to 1933 to contribute to the artistic renaissance, where he photographed the nature with its vibrant colors. He also photographed the emperor, the clerics and many prominent figures in the court Haile Selassie.

The Minister of Education Tanjita Sehal Sidalu pay attention of the theater in 1933 and established a theater in the Courtyard of Menelik II School.

Currently, there is Gabarta hall for the Ethiopian students in Al-Azhar, among whom scholars graduated as the Islamic historian Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti(Ethiopian origin), author of the Marvelous Compositions of Biographies and Events, known in Arabic as Aja'ib al-athar fi al-tarajimwal-akhbaror simply known as Al-Jabarti's History.

#### **Fourth: Technical cooperation and medical aid**

- Egypt provides through the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development several courses and scholarships to Ethiopia in various fields, as well as a number of other grants provided by the ministries and various Egyptian authorities in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the ministries of Electricity and Water Resources and Irrigation.

- The Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development sends medical convoys to Ethiopia on a regular basis. An Egyptian-Ethiopian unit for gastrointestinal and liver diseases has been inaugurated in Addis Ababa and another unit in Bahr Dar city, as well as a new dialysis and urology unit in Addis Ababa.

- The Egyptian-Ethiopian Center for Nephrology and Dialysis was inaugurated in August 2013 with the participation of the Ethiopian Minister of Health and the President of Saint Paul University and Hospital. The unit includes six dialysis units and a water treatment unit.