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# AFRICAN UNION

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## PRESIDENT RESEARCH PACKET

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Fringe Committee



I'MUN '21

## President's Welcome

Hello to all delegates, my name is Wa'el Shanti and I have the pleasure of presiding over the African Union committee. We are excited to see you all in the conference and we can assure you that we have put in our utmost effort to deliver to you the best experience possible. I'MUN's staple Fringe committees are known to stimulate delegates and encourage tactical thinking. We are sure that every delegate will exceed expectations and provide us with completely unexpected outcomes. We look forward to seeing you all at I'MUN 21.

## Introduction

Since the colonial era, Egypt and Sudan were granted all rights to control the Nile - a decision made by the UK, a major power that dominated the area at the time. Egypt, a main stakeholder in the affairs of the Nile, has historically maintained power over the Nile and has used it to flourish and grow over the centuries. 90% of Egypt's population is reliant on the Nile for their freshwater needs, making the Nile an essential water source for a country with such a scarce water supply. Since 1979, Ethiopia has begun developing plans to build a dam located upstream of the Nile for various purposes - including supplying the country's energy and switching Ethiopia's agrarian economy to an industrial one. This plan would lead to significant growth for Ethiopia and hence, construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) began in 2011, disregarding threats from Egypt and causing tensions between the two countries to rise. Many other African countries have since become involved, leading to a continental crisis.

This committee will be solely composed of African states (mainly riparian states on the Nile) and will aim to create a solution to the numerous crises which will arise over the course of the conference. Centered around the Nile crisis between Ethiopia and Egypt, the committee will be shaped by the discussions and debates in which the delegates will engage. The objective of the committee is for the delegates to come to a consensus on whether or not the dam should be built. Although nearly all countries in the committee are LEDCs, they must attempt to use their limited resources in order to solve the crises and prevent disaster in Africa.