

# The Horn of Africa, Egypt's Strategic Calculations, and the Question of Ethiopian Sovereignty

## A Position Analysis Attributed to the Agaezi National Union (ANU)

The recent statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. Badr declaring that “Eritrea is a pillar of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa” should not be interpreted merely as a routine diplomatic compliment. Within the broader geopolitical context of the Nile Basin, Red Sea security, and regional power competition, such statements carry deeper strategic implications that deserve careful examination.



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ግብጻዊ ሚኒስትር - BBC News ቱግርኛ

From the perspective of the Agaezi National Union (ANU), the issue extends beyond bilateral relations between Egypt and Eritrea. Rather, it reflects a long-standing geopolitical contest over the future of Ethiopia as a civilizational state, the balance of power in the Horn of Africa, and the strategic control of the Red Sea corridor.

## **Ethiopia as a Historical Civilizational State**

Ethiopia is not merely a contemporary political entity established through recent colonial arrangements. It represents one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations — a historical center of African statehood, commerce, spirituality, diplomacy, and resistance to foreign domination.

For centuries, Ethiopia served as:

- a major political and military power in Northeast Africa,
- a gateway connecting Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean world,
- and a central actor in Red Sea geopolitics.

From the ancient Aksumite civilization to the modern Ethiopian state, access to maritime trade and strategic influence over Red Sea routes formed an essential part of Ethiopia's historical existence and national security architecture.

The forced geopolitical isolation of Ethiopia from direct Red Sea access fundamentally altered regional power relations and weakened Ethiopia's long-term strategic autonomy.

## **The Nile Question and Egypt's Strategic Doctrine**

According to this interpretation, Egypt's regional policy has historically been shaped by one overriding strategic concern: maintaining dominance over Nile water politics and preventing the emergence of a strong upstream regional competitor capable of independently utilizing the Nile's resources.

Within this framework, Ethiopia's demographic size, economic potential, hydroelectric development, and strategic geographic location are often viewed in Cairo as long-term strategic challenges.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) intensified these anxieties because it symbolizes:

- Ethiopian sovereignty over its natural resources,
- independent regional development,
- and the re-emergence of Ethiopia as a major geopolitical actor in Africa.



Consequently, some Ethiopian nationalist perspectives argue that Egypt's strategic objective has been to contain Ethiopia diplomatically, economically, and geopolitically whenever possible.

## **Eritrea's Geopolitical Role in Regional Power Competition**

The ANU perspective argues that Eritrea's current political structure under the Shaebia/PFDJ system has increasingly positioned itself as a strategic balancing instrument within broader regional rivalries.

From this viewpoint, Eritrea's political leadership has often leveraged:

- regional instability,
- proxy relationships,
- armed alliances,
- and strategic ambiguity

to maintain relevance within Horn of Africa politics.

Thus, Egyptian praise for Eritrea is interpreted not simply as recognition of peacebuilding efforts, but as part of a broader strategic alignment aimed at influencing regional power balances unfavorable to Ethiopia.

According to this analysis, the language of “peace and stability” functions as diplomatic signaling — affirming strategic cooperation between Cairo and Asmara at a time when Ethiopia seeks greater regional integration, economic transformation, and eventual restoration of secure maritime access.

## **Ethiopia and the Red Sea Question**

For ANU, the Red Sea is not merely an economic issue but a civilizational and strategic necessity.

A nation of Ethiopia’s size, historical depth, and economic trajectory cannot permanently remain detached from direct maritime access without significant long-term vulnerabilities. Dependence on external transit corridors creates:

- economic dependency,
- security risks,
- strategic exposure,
- and geopolitical manipulation.

The organization therefore argues that Ethiopia’s long-term stability and prosperity require:

- peaceful regional integration,
- negotiated maritime ownership arrangements,
- regional economic interdependence,
- and a stable Red Sea security framework.

At the same time, ANU emphasizes that such objectives must be pursued through lawful diplomacy, regional cooperation, and mutually beneficial political settlements rather than militarized confrontation.

## **Internal Political Alliances and National Sovereignty**

Within this ideological framework, ANU strongly criticizes Ethiopian political actors — whether armed or civilian — who seek tactical alliances with external powers perceived to operate against Ethiopia’s long-term national interests.

The organization argues that short-term political calculations should never supersede:

- national sovereignty,
- territorial integrity,
- civilizational continuity,

- and strategic independence.

According to this perspective, any political movement that enables foreign geopolitical agendas aimed at weakening Ethiopia risks contributing to national fragmentation and long-term instability.

ANU therefore frames the preservation of Ethiopian sovereignty as both:

- a political responsibility,
- and a historical obligation inherited from previous generations that defended Ethiopia's independence against external domination.

## **Toward a New Regional Vision**

Despite its criticism of current geopolitical alignments, ANU maintains that the peoples of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt, and the wider Horn of Africa are historically interconnected civilizations whose futures ultimately depend on cooperation rather than perpetual confrontation.

The organization advocates:

- regional economic integration,
- peaceful diplomatic engagement,
- collective Red Sea security frameworks,
- equitable Nile cooperation,
- and the construction of a stable Horn of Africa order based on mutual respect and sovereignty.

However, it insists that durable peace can only emerge when regional states abandon proxy politics, destabilization strategies, and zero-sum geopolitical calculations.

## **Conclusion**

From the ANU perspective, the Egyptian Foreign Minister's statement reflects broader geopolitical realities rather than a simple diplomatic courtesy. It symbolizes ongoing regional competition over:

- the Nile,
- Red Sea access,
- Ethiopian sovereignty,
- and the future balance of power in Northeast Africa.

The organization therefore calls upon Ethiopians to prioritize national unity, strategic awareness, and long-term civilizational interests above short-term political alignments.

For ANU, the survival and renewal of Ethiopia as a sovereign civilizational state — connected economically, strategically, and historically to the Red Sea — remains one of the defining political questions of the 21st century in the Horn of Africa.



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