A Human Rights Perspective to the Blue Nile Challenge

Talk at the World Water Congress 2015 in Edinburgh

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A. Specifics of the Human Rights Approach

I. Human dignity as the starting point

II. Distinguishing between rights and needs

III. Strengthening the individual’s perspective

IV. Group or peoples’ rights as an addition in the African context

V. Human rights and the ecosystems approach
B. Relevant Human Rights Aspects to the GERD project

I. Potential human rights implications of hydro dams in general and the “Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)” in particular

II. A specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights
1. Right to an adequate standard of living (food/housing/water)
2. Right to health
3. Right to energy?
4. Other candidates?
B. Relevant Human Rights Aspects to the GERD project

III. Relevance of so-called “third generation“ rights
  1. Right to development?
  2. Right to environment?
  3. Right to disposal of natural resources?

IV. Human rights and extraterritorial obligations
C. Conclusions

I. Human rights and conflict resolution

II. The merits of distinguishing basic rights and basic needs

III. A plea for intra- and interdisciplinary work

IV. Perspectives