

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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President El Sisi Presides-Over a Meeting of the National Defense Council

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi presided-over a meeting of the National Defense Council, on Sunday. The Council is composed of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defense and Military Production, the Armed Forces' Chief-of-Staff and the Director of the General Intelligence Directorate. It also includes the Foreign Minister and the Ministers of Finance and Interior as well as the Commander of the Naval Forces, the Commander of the Air Defense Forces and the Commander of the Air Forces. This is in addition to the Head of Armed Forces' Operations Authority, and the Director of the Military Intelligence and Reconnaissance Administration. Also attending was the Council's Secretary General.

The meeting focused on the overall political, security and military situations on all strategic directions of the state, in light of the various challenges at the regional and international arenas.

President El Sisi was updated on the latest developments in the Renaissance Dam dossier and the trajectory of the current trilateral negotiations. The President was also briefed on efforts exerted toward reaching a comprehensive agreement that fulfils the aspirations and demands of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia for development and for preserving water rights in a just and balanced manner.

The National Defense Council reiterated that Egypt will continue to work toward reaching a comprehensive agreement regarding the pending issues in the Renaissance Dam dossier, primarily the rules regulating the filling and operation of the dam, in a way that shall secure the three countries' water and developmental interests and maintain regional security and stability.

The Council also discussed developments in Libya at the western strategic direction, in light of Egypt's efforts to stabilize the current situation on the ground and not to transgress the declared lines, with the aim of bringing about peace among the Libyan parties. The National Defense Council underscored the robust relations that bind the two countries, stressing that Egypt will save no effort to support Libya and its people so as to safely navigate through the current critical crisis. This comes as the Libyan dossier is considered to be an utmost priority for Egypt's foreign policy, as Libya's security is an integral part of Egypt and Arab national security.

The National Defense Council emphasized commitment to a political solution as the way to end the Libyan crisis. This solution shall maintain the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of the Libyan state, restore the pillars of its national institutions, eliminate terrorism, and prevent the chaos of the spread of criminal groups and extremist armed militias. This solution shall also put an end to the illegal foreign

interference that contributes to exacerbating the security situation and threatens neighboring countries as well as international peace and security. It shall also ensure a fair and transparent distribution of the Libyan people's resources and prevent the control of any extremist group over these resources.