

**An Agreement Between
The Syria Arab Republic
and The Lebanese Republic
For
The Sharing of
the Great Southern River Basin Waters
and The Building of
Joint Dam on it**

As a substantiation of the joint relations and the Arabic brotherhood, and starting from the sincere cooperation between them in the joint international waters scope, and leading on the regulations of the international law especially the regulations of the convention on the law of the non - navigational uses of international watercourses in the year 1997, which was ratified by the two governments and which constitutes the solid base of a reasonable and equitable sharing of joint international rivers water.

After being informed about the results of the negotiations that was held between the delegations of the two countries, and in appreciation of the common advantage for both countries through sharing the Great Southern River Basin water in a reasonable and equitable and the building of a common dam on the main course of the river on Edlin - Nora Tahta Site.

So the government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the government of the Lebanese Republic have decided to conclude this agreement to deputize Messrs :

H.E. Eng. Muhammad Redwan Martini Minister of irrigation as a representative of the Syrian Arab Republic government.

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Abdual Al- Hamed Baidoun Minister of Energy and water as a representation of the Lebanese Republic Government

THE FIRST ARTICLE

Here in after we mention and clarify the meaning of the word and statements used in this agreement :

Syria: The Syrian Arab Republic

Lebanon: The Lebanese Republic

The state (side) country : Syria or Lebanon due to meaning requirements.

The competent Minister: The minister of irrigation in Syria, and the minister of energy and water in Lebanon.

The Great Southern River: it is the borderline river situated on the north of Lebanon and South the Syrian coast.

The Dam and reservoir Edlin - Nora Tahta: it is a dam for storing water on the Great Southern River, established in the Syrian and Lebanese Lands near Edlin - Nora Tahta site.

Joint committee: the Syrian Lebanese committee for shared water.

The Average Annual water resources: which is estimated to be 150 m.m3 (million cubic meters).

THE SECOND ARTICLE

The introduction of this agreement and the annexes number /1/ and number /2/ are considered to be inseparable part of the agreement.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

Basing on what was mentioned in the introduction of this agreement and taking into consideration all the related factors Laid down in the sixth article of the convention on the law of the non - navigational uses of international watercourses, and for natural and legal reasons:

The two countries has decided to share the water of the Great Southern River in a rate (60%) sixty percent for Syria of all the annual water resources and (40%) forty percent for Lebanon of all the annual water resources.

THE FOURTH ARTICLE

The percentage state in article 3 of this agreement applies to sharing the water resources of river basin in all circumstances whether the year was wet, normal or dry.

THE FIFTH ARTICLE

Both the states have the right to make use of their shares determined in article 3 of this agreement according to the suitable time and place during the water year for each of these two states, maintaining the environment system according to the criteria adopted by the main Syrian Lebanese committee for joint water must be taken into consideration.

THE SIXTH ARTICLE

In view of the volume of annual water resources of the river water basin and the water needs for the different purposes (drinking, irrigation, industry) in both countries. the two states decided to establish a joint dam at the site of Idleen

Nura Al - Tahta with a total storage of about 70 m.m3 (70 million m3) according to the technical and economical feasibility studies.

THE SEVENTH ARTICLE

The main Syrian Lebanese committee for joint water which formed earlier is charged with implementing the rules of this agreement and laying out the internal regime which organizes its work and to be endorsed by the minister of irrigation in Syria and the minister of energy and water in Lebanon.

The committee undertakes all the mission entrusted to it according to the rules of this agreement, and it also practices all the rights and obligation and considering all cases resulting from applying it.

THE EIGHTIETH ARTICLE

The main Syrian Lebanese committee for joint water form a committee or subcommittee from both sides working under its supervision according to need. In case of any disagreement between the member of the joint committee and being not able to reach a decisive result the committee should present an immediate report thereby to the two concerned ministers to settle the disagreement by contacting each other directly and finding objective solution that guarantee the rights of the two countries according to the rules of this agreement.

THE NINTH ARTICLE

The above mentioned joint committee is charged in article 8 of this agreement with taking all the measures necessary to study and construct the joint dam at the site of Idleen - Nura Al- Tahta according to what is stated in annex No. /1 enclosed with agreement.

THE TENTH ARTICLE

Both Syria and Lebanon bear the all costs necessary to study and construct the joint dam in half provided that the two sides try to get the necessary financing from self or external sources.

THE ELEVENTH ARTICLE

The international borders existing currently between the two states remain as they are considered drawn on water surface whatsoever the water volume in the reservoir might be and which will result from constructing the joint dam.

If Syria or Lebanon desired to use quantities from the water upstream of the dam especially in dry seasons within their shares (60%, 40% respectively) provided that they maintain the environment system as stated in the above mentioned article 5, that would discount from their shares in the dam stock. The state that does not use its share of the stored water in the dam at the end of the water year according to the program of taking water stated in annex No ./2/ in this agreement can not use this share in the next years.

THE THIRTEENTH ARTICLE

The members of the joint committee, members of the sub - committee and workers in the project benefit from the facilities necessary to study, implement and exploit in the lands of the two states and they have the freedom to move without any restrictions or fees.

THE FOURTEENTH ARTICLE

This agreement is to be endorsed according to the constitutional procedures followed in both countries and it will become valid starting from the date of exchanging the concluding documents.

It is permitted to amend this agreement by annexes to be endorsed and to exchange the concluding documents according to the procedures of endorsing and concluding this agreement.

THE FIFTEENTH ARTICLE

This agreement was signed in Beirut on 20/4/2002 in Arabic in two original copies that have the same force and sent to both states.

Behave the Lebanese Republic
Minister of Energy and water
: Mohammed Abdul Al Hammed Baidoun

Behave the Syria Arab Republic
Minister of Irrigation
Eng. Mohammed Redwan martini