



Sudan's Geopolitical Weight: A pillar of Peace in a Volatile Region

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The Chargé d’Affaires Blog



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Sudan is endowed with a strategic location, long coastal shores on the Red Sea, vast areas of fertile land, unyielding water resources, a variety of natural resources, and a highly qualified human cadre. All these comparative advantages make Sudan an ally that has its own weight.

Sudan holds a pivotal position in shaping the policies of Red Sea coastal nations, with its strategic geographical location and its extensive coastline along this critical maritime corridor. Sudan plays a crucial role in ensuring the security and stability of this sensitive region, particularly in combating piracy, human trafficking, and the illicit trade of arms and narcotics. Moreover, Sudan actively fosters regional cooperation among Red Sea nations, coordinating efforts to address security challenges and enhance maritime commerce, just to mention:

1- Combating Piracy and Smuggling: Sudan is a key player in regional and international efforts to combat piracy and illegal smuggling, including human, arms, and drug trafficking. Through close coordination with neighboring states and global powers with vested maritime interests in the Red Sea, Sudan contributes to neutralizing these threats, safeguarding the security of maritime navigation.

2- Regional Military Cooperation:

Sudan participates in various regional security initiatives aimed at bolstering Red Sea security. This includes maritime alliances with countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as contributing to joint military operations designed to protect navigation routes and address maritime threats.

3- Protecting Ports and Maritime Trade: As the Red Sea is a vital global maritime artery connecting Europe and Asia via the Suez Canal, Sudan is committed to protecting its ports and enhancing their infrastructure. These efforts are crucial in facilitating maritime trade and ensuring the safe passage of vessels.

4-Coordination with International Organizations: Sudan collaborates with international bodies, including the United Nations, the European Union, and the International Maritime Organization, to strengthen security measures in the Red Sea. These partnerships enhance Sudan's capacity to confront security challenges and ensure regional stability.

Nevertheless, coastal countries endure persistent challenges such as:

1- Regional Powers' Interests: Strategic interests in the Red Sea, such as controlling maritime routes and securing resources, contribute to persistent conflicts in the Horn of Africa. Some regional actors seek to influence, sometimes exacerbating instability by backing different factions in local conflicts.

2- Global Powers' Involvement: Military and economic investments by global powers increase both competition and tension, impacting regional stability. Their strategic bases and trade interests can fuel rivalries.

3- Competition over Resources: Rivalries over resources, such as oil, gas, and fish stocks, along with control of strategic maritime routes, escalate tensions in the Horn of Africa. Diplomatic efforts, resource-sharing agreements, and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms can mitigate these conflicts.

Sudan as a member of Red Sea littoral states, is capable of playing a vital role in enhancing cooperation through joint security frameworks, regional agreements, and multilateral platforms focused on maritime security, counter-piracy, and addressing transnational threats like terrorism.

To conclude, the stability of Sudan is positively impacting the security of the Red Sea, to the contrary, instability in Sudan would jeopardize the regional stability and security of the Red Sea and its coastal countries. Falling of the Nation State in Sudan at the hands of militias and terrorist groups like RSF would wreak havoc on the whole region causing grave irreversible damage to the security of the Red Sea and the horn of Africa. A scenario that reminds us of how (Al-Shabaab Movement) threatened trade corridors and waterways in the Red Sea.

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