



THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

NBD Network Statement

NILE DAY February 22nd 2021

Theme - **RETHINKING REGIONAL INVESTMENTS IN THE NILE BASIN**

ENTEBBE- UGANDA

Donald Kasongi

Secretary General: NBD Executive Board

On Behalf:

Prof. Hamid Muawia Shaddad

Board Chairperson: NBD Executive Board

- Honorable NILE COM Chair;
- Honorable Members of the Nile Council of Ministers;
- Honorable Minister and NILE COM Chair from the Republic of Rwanda;
- Nile-TAC Chair and members;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;
- Representatives of Development Partners;
- NBI Executive Director, and the NBI Staff;
- NBD Network Members; and Uganda NDF members;
- All Stakeholders;
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Dear citizens of the Nile,

Greetings and Happy Nile Day 2021

On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse and on my own behalf, allow me to express my deep pleasure of being part of the celebrations of the regional Nile Day of February 22nd 2021. I say thank you to NBI and to the Republic of Uganda for hosting this historical virtual regional day. I say thank you to the Governments of the Nile Riparian States and Non State Actors

Allow me to take this opportunity, also, to thank different Development partners for their support namely the WB, /CIWA, EU, GIZ, SIWI Coca Cola Foundation, to mention a few, for their support that has added and continue to add value to our success in empowering together, the Nile Basin citizens through development.

During the period between 1999 and 2021, the journey has been long and continues to ensure that the reason of NBI's establishment achieves its envisaged goals. Hence, the Nile Basin Discourse considers this Nile Day as a great opportunity and an outreach to all stakeholders, to be informed of benefits of co-operation and of development to reduce poverty through investments. Citizens can reflect on the achievements from the Nile, to the Nile and beyond the Nile. The beyond Nile reflection is in line with today's theme: **“Rethinking Regional Investment in the Nile Basin.”**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We celebrate this Nile Day 2021 amid COVID-19 Pandemic which has greatly impacted our stakeholders in the Nile Riparian states. The current situation draws lessons for the Nile Subsidiary Action Programs and all development actors on how to re-think innovative ways of planning for and implementing investment programs. Hence today's theme comes at the right time as it links with the desire to reshape the way regional investments are planned and implemented for sustainable impact.

The Nile Basin Discourse has been playing and continues to play a vital role in bringing together grassroots communities across the basin, to play their role and participate actively in regional and trans-boundary programs and especially investments projects and policies that enhance cooperation on the shared waters of the Nile. The theme reminds us that investments ought to fit in and respond to community's needs and priorities in order to gain buy-in on programs and projects.

Distinguished Guests, ladies and Gentlemen,

Civil society fosters grassroots voice and remains the key drive of change in ensuring that investments inclusively reach and benefit all through participatory, constructive and reflexive stakeholder dialogue platforms. Therefore, the objectives of today's Nile Day celebrations, is in line with the current five-year NBD's Strategy (2018-2022) which has the theme as "Inclusive Aquawawness and Empowerment"

Ladies and gentlemen,

In recognition of the benefits to be gained through a cooperative agenda that promotes sustainable development interventions in the Nile Basin region, the Nile Basin Initiative and the Nile Basin Discourse are renewing and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). That is effective for five (5) years (2021-2025). The stipulated Understanding intends to stimulate and facilitate the active partnership. It also reaffirms the collective responsibility and common goal of both parties to work towards improving the livelihoods of the peoples of the River Nile Basin;

I would like to emphasize that NBD is committed to the partnership and to continue working hand in hand with NBI as it has been, and I reiterate that this will continue to ensure that the current strategic partnership yields benefit to Nile Basin citizens. Bearing in mind that citizens have to play their role that enhances ownership.

Therefore, as I conclude my speech, I wish to reiterate that the NBD Network is ready and will continue to work closely with NBI Centers, Governments of the Nile Basin and other development partners to foster cooperation and support investment initiatives that lead to inclusive and sustainable development of citizens of the Nile.

Thank you all

"One-Nile One-Family"

Donald Kasongi Secretary General: THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

On Behalf:

Prof. Hamid Muawia Shaddad: Chair: THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

February 22nd 2021