



NBD Network Statement

NILE DAY February 22nd 2020

Theme- Joint Investments on the Nile for Regional Transformation

Khartoum- Republic of The Sudan

Prof. Muawia SHADDAD

CHAIR, NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

- **The Guest of Honour,**
- **Honourable NILE COM Chair;**
- **Honourable Members of the Nile Council of Ministers;**
- **Honorable Ministers of the Republic of The Sudan;**
- **Nile-TAC Chair and members;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;**
- **Representatives of Development Partners;**
- **NBI Executive Director, and the NBI Staff;**
- **NBD Network Board and Members; and Sudan- NDF Members;**
- **All Stakeholders;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Dear stakeholders of the Nile, Greetings and Happy Nile Day 2020

On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse and on my own behalf, allow me to express our gratitude on being part of the celebration of the Nile Day of February 22nd 2020. I say thank you to the Republic of The Sudan and Nile Basin Initiative for hosting this historical day here in Khartoum. NBD considers this celebration of the Nile Day as the opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the achievements and transformations due to joint investments in the Nile and its sub-basins. Let us look at the trans-boundary waters of River Nile, a shared river, requiring our joint investment actions that we all have to put in place towards the sustainable transformative agenda.

Citizens of the Nile, The Nile Day of this year 2020 has an appropriate theme: “*Joint Investments on the Nile for Regional Transformation*”. This is pivotal to everyone here, to value the Nile water, complement efforts of state and non-state actors, to achieve development and co-operation as we share the opportunities provided by the River Nile. The theme fits quite well with NBD network’s strategic directions on nurturing Nile co-operation through outreach, capacity building awareness promotion consultations and communication towards empowerment at national and transnational levels with focus on joint investments.

One Nile , One family, allow me to look back at NBD’s engagements through co-operation ,shared vision, and the Subsidiary Action Programs. Through this partnership, we shall continue collaborating in strategic management of the shared water resources for sustainable lives and livelihoods of the people in the basin. The focus of NBD has been on integration and inclusion for trans boundary collaboration on the waters of the Nile . Currently, the main objective has been to enhance our joint responses on critical issues across riparian countries towards achievement of transformative agenda 2030 in development and co-operation. . NBD is a network of over 600 networks as a collective voice of grassroots people linking communities in the riparian countries of the Nile , connecting them with NBI, governments and other institutional partners ,enriching trans boundary projects policies and programs.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to look at NBD in 2020 and beyond in the implementation of our vision through developing strategies for empowerment and participation of stakeholders with support and guidance from the Cooperation in International Waters of Africa (CIWA)/ World Bank, a strategy has been developed that fits quite well with the theme of this Nile Day 2020 -“*Joint Investments on the Nile for Regional Transformation*”. This is the NBD Strategy 2018 – 2022 titled: “*Aquawareness and Empowerment*”.

Ladies and gentlemen, Allow me as I conclude my speech, to reiterate that the NBD network is ready and will continue to work closely with NBI centers and governments of the Nile Riparian States and to foster cooperation and supporting initiatives that lead to joint investments of the Nile Subsidiary Action Programs and welfare of the people. It is our hope that riparian governments will continue facilitating the enabling environment for inclusive approaches towards trans boundary investments that benefit communities.

As we celebrate this day reflecting on the shared Nile resources, as civil society, we assure you of our commitment to fostering and advocating for a common cause touching on grassroots communities. We in NBD , call upon governments , development partners and all other Nile stakeholder to work together for the benefit of all in the basin .

It is one Nile and we are One family.

Thank you all

“One-Nile One-Family”

Prof. Muawia SHADDAD

February 22nd 2020

Khartoum – Republic of The Sudan