



NBD NETWORK STATEMENT

NILE DAY February 22nd 2018

Theme - THE NILE: SHARED RIVER, COLLECTIVE ACTION

Addis Ababa - Federal Democratic Republic of ETHIOPIA

Prof. Muawia SHADDAD

Board CHAIR, NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

Dear citizens of the Nile,

- **The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**
- **Honourable NILE COM Chair;**
- **Honourable Members of the Nile Council of Ministers;**
- **Honourable Ministers of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;**
- **Nile-TAC Chair and members;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;**
- **Representatives of Development Partners;**
- **NBI Executive Director, and the NBI Staff;**
- **NBD Board Members; Secretariat and Ethiopia - NDFs Members;**
- **All Stakeholders;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Greetings and Happy Nile Day 2018

On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse, allow me to express my deep pleasure on being part of the celebration of the 12th regional Nile Day of February 22nd 2018. I say thank you to NBI and to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this historical Day here in Addis Ababa - Ethiopia. NBD considers this commemoration as the opportunity to all stakeholders, governments and communities to reflect on the role of the river Nile, a shared River, requiring our collective action.

Distinguished guests, the theme of this year: *The Nile: Shared River, Collective Action*, is pivotal to everyone here, to think about joining efforts of the state and non-state actors, to collectively Sustain as we share in the opportunities the Nile River provides.

- the theme fits quite well with NBD Network's strategic directions, on Nurturing Nile cooperation through outreach platform events both upstream and downstream, at national and trans-national level with focus on multi-sector inclusivity.

Citizens of the Nile, the NBD Network is pleased to celebrate this Nile day 2018 which is an indication of possible achievements related to potentials of shared benefits and cooperation.

Allow me to look back a little: The 2017 1st Nile Basin Discourse Summit had the Theme: *"Integration and Inclusion: New Ideas for collaboration in River Basins"*

Management Policies and Practices” The No.1 sub-theme opened dialogue on enhancement of the all-level, all-inclusive, *hands-on* trans-boundary cooperation, collaborative assessment of solutions, experiences and practices; and tracking of actions towards the transformative agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in shared water resources. The complete report is ready and can be shared by partners and beyond. However, let me highlight herein two issues that emerged out of the summit:

- As we share the potential benefits, let us share the responsibility of sustaining the Nile.
- Let us discourse to further cooperation and to optimize the sharing of resources of the Nile.

Distinguished guests, Since the NBD Network supports inclusive and participatory stakeholder engagement processes in development investments and Nile cooperation, it is currently partnering with the three centres of NBI and the Governments of the Nile Basin countries, to bring to the fore front the engagement of citizens especially the communities, in the agendas.

- based on the grassroots consultations, the NBD Network firmly believes that successful development investment and cooperation on the Nile will lead to undisputable success of this year’s theme. In this year 2018, the Nile Basin Discourse has planned face-to-face citizen engagement with focus on Women and Youth of the Nile, in ten (10) Nile Riparian States. This is to build their capacity on enhancing livelihoods from the subtly shared resources of the Nile. This is to contribute to agendas of partners and Governments, towards achieving the SDGs related to women and Youth, and poverty reduction.

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 Centres and Governments of the Nile Basin to foster cooperation and support initiatives that lead to enhanced optimal and collective sharing of the resources of the Nile. Subsequently

- the NBD Network is finalizing its five year Strategy 2018 – 2022 titled “*Inclusive Aqua-awareness and empowerment*” with Strategic Directions that are to complement the ten year NBI Strategic Plan.

As we celebrate this historic day reflecting on the shared Nile resources, as civil society, we assure you that our focus is in fostering and advocating for two emerging issues touching on grassroots communities, thus:

- that Governments make effort in providing the enabling environment by discoursing on how to further cooperation, for trans-boundary development benefits to reach communities; and
- that development agendas be implemented, to maximize benefits.

Thank you all for your attention

“One-Nile One-Family”

Prof. Muawia SHADDAD

February 22nd 2018

Addis Ababa – Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia