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| pressr1 | **NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  *To achieve sustainable socio-economic development*  *through the equitable utilization of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources*  **Contacts:** P.O Box 192**,** Entebbe- Uganda**; Tel**+256 (414) 321 424**/**+256 (414)321 329  **Email**: [nbisec@nilebasin.org](mailto:nbisec@nilebasin.org)  **Website**: [www.nilebasin.org](http://www.nilebasin.org) |

## PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 30th October, 2013

**A call for a renewed commitment to invest in an all-inclusive Nile cooperation**

**KIGALI, Rwanda –** The 8th Strategic Dialogue between the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and its primary donors ended yesterday with a call from participants for a renewed commitment to invest in an all-inclusive Nile cooperation and to sustain the gains so far.

The Chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers who is also South Sudan’s Minister of Electricity, Water and Irrigation, Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba noted that while NBI has achieved a lot in the last 14 years, more still needs to be done to realize the Shared Vision.

Member States re-affirmed their commitment to and ownership of the Nile cooperative process and the sustainability of the NBI institutions. They called on Development partners to continue their unwavering support towards achieving the Member States’ development agenda.

Development partners pledged to work with NBI to enhance the institutional and financial mechanisms necessary to deepen the Nile cooperative process.

Participants underscored the importance of realizing benefits of Nile cooperation including investment projects.

This year’s annual event held from 28th to 29th October, 2013 was attended by members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) representing the ten NBI Member States, representatives of NBI’s Development Partners, the Nile Basin Discourse, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa as well as Management of NBI.

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The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a transitional, 10-Member intergovernmental partnership institution guided by a **Shared Vision objective: ‘***To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources’*. **NBI Member States are: Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.** Eritrea participates as an observer. Launched on 22nd February, 1999 NBI provides the only all- inclusive regional platform for multi stakeholder dialogue, for sharing information, joint planning and management of water and related resources in the Nile Basin.

NBI is governed by a Council of 10 Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States (Nile-COM), which is the highest decision and policy-making body. The Nile-COM is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), comprised **of 20 senior government officials from the partner states.**

**Professional day to day management of NBI is from three centers – a** basin-wide Secretariat, the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC) located in Entebbe, Uganda responsible for overall corporate direction. The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia executes the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) - comprising Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda executes the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)- comprising Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In each Member State there is an NBI office, the Focal Point, which coordinates and links trans-boundary NBI, and national plans and activities. At national level, the Ministries in Charge of Water Affairs are the NBI focal point in each Member State.

**NBI core functions:**

**Basin Cooperation -**To facilitate, support and nurture cooperation amongst the Nile Basin countries so as to promote timely and efficient joint actions required for securing benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources

**Water Resource Management -** To assess, manage and safeguard the water resource base that supports the peoples of the Nile Basin through applying the principles of knowledge-based integrated water resources management to water development planning and assessment

**Water Resource Development -** To identify, prepare and facilitate investment in Regional/trans-boundary water development projects and programs whilst avoiding negative impacts on the health of the Nile Basin’s resources through applying the principles of integrated water resources management